



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	■		Jasper Jonson (2019)
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>		x	Jerry Jorgenson (2018)
	x	Rossi Clem (2019)	■		Penny Needham (2020)
■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>	■		Jamie Bonczyk (2019)
	x	Karl Jones (2019)	■		Vacant (2020)

GUESTS: Dan Wolpert

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Opening Thought: Karen shared a prayer about welcome from Women’s Uncommon Prayers

Ambassador Stories

How we’ve made new connections with members or visitors

- Karen had a meaningful experience at the vigil held for people being deported
- Beth led a funeral and appreciated the work of the Memorial Committee
- Penny last Sunday tried to practice welcome without talking in the Narthex. She will also volunteer this summer at the welcome desk.
- Jamie connected with people she didn’t know already during the Plymouth birthday weekend.
- Some new people have been trying out the choir this summer

Just a reminder – be aware of how we can be welcoming at Plymouth and be prepared to share stories at the next board meeting.

Preparations for new schedule in the Fall

Themes for the year as proposed by clergy

Church School curriculum will be built based on the themes for worship.

Minutes Procedure

Minute-taker submits draft to group within 10 days of meeting; members have 7 days to submit revisions (no response is treated as approval).

If any revisions, minute-taker forwards revised draft to group within 3 days for electronic approval; members have 2 days to respond (no response is treated as approval).

Minute-taker submits approved minutes in Microsoft Word format to the Ministry Assistant for Programs (Doug Freeman, dougf@plymouth.org) upon approval.

Themes for Fall:

9/9 – Rally Day, new schedule begins

9/16 – 9/30: Radical Hospitality – discussions have been happening about how Plymouth could be more welcoming

- Me
- Us
- Them

10/7: World Communion Sunday

10/14 – 10/28: Healing

- Reconciliation
- Conflict Resolution
- Forgiveness

11/4: All Saints Sunday

11/11 – 11/25: Giving

- Gratitude
- Extravagant Generosity
- Risk taking mission

12/2: Advent Begins

Witnessing – how do we witness these 4 things in the world?

- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love

These themes would carry through the morning – during First Service, some offerings during education time and during Second Service

How do these themes fit with the lectionary? Clergy have been following the lectionary very loosely. This spring, clergy have had topics in mind and preached on those instead of strictly following the lectionary.

Next step would be to choose scripture.

One possibility might be to try something like the Lenten meditation book. Possibly have a verse per week?

Ruth and Carole want to build their activity in line with the theme of the day.

Next step would be to bring Philip into the conversation. Philip announces the choral pieces for the year at the choir retreat.

Beth said these themes are rooted in progressive Christianity.

How about tying the theme into Wednesday night activities?

Radical Hospitality ties in with World Communion.

These themes are frequently found in sacred music and Psalms.

There is a very strong connection between spirituality and the arts. This could tie many things together that happen at Plymouth.

The document Beth shared at the meeting is an initial attempt. Clergy and board will meet to plan the spring themes in mid-fall.

These are themes of the human condition

Reminder: We should plan to include evaluation of some sort of the new schedule and the use of themes that continue throughout Sunday morning. At future meeting, we should plan to discuss how to collect information.

During the education time, people could reflect on what they heard in First Service or make prediction what they may experience during the Second Service.

Nancy will research Psalms that fit with fall themes.

Worship planners will work further with Philip and Beth will update board at July meeting.

Coordinating with Board of Spiritual Formation on offerings during the education/fellowship hour

- Movement with Carole Humphrey & Ruth Davini
- Dan's class based on his latest book: "The Collapse of the 3-Story Universe"
- "Connections" – designed to appeal to older teens and young adults; theme for the day, people would bring art, poems, stories, music that are related to the theme. This may eventually move to a Saturday evening
- Church School
- Meditation group – the group that already meets on Sundays, just at a different time
- Sunday Forum
- Walking the labyrinth – there could be a space issue with this activity. Could possibly be offered quarterly on the equinox & solstice.
- Class for parents and grandparents on the spirituality of the child. Would incorporate non-violent communication. Purpose is to foster supporting the spirituality of children.
- These are all intended to be "drop-in" classes – no need to register or commit to attending a complete series

What does progressive Christian worship look like?

Jeff presented these at a New Members gathering as hallmarks of progressive Christianity:

- Arts
- Intellect
- Diversity (of people and of thought)
- Justice
- Caring

How do these show up at Plymouth?

Review the Purposes of the Church (page 2) – document shared by Karen with the agenda.

Dan observes that there is a challenge: Plymouth's progressive theology isn't clearly defined. Plymouth's worship service is very traditional. There is tension between these two. The theme in and of itself isn't progressive, it is the content in these themes that distinguishes between progressive church and conservative church. There is opportunity for growth.

Refer back to 8 points from website about Progressive Christianity

Dan: How do we think about this theologically? Worship is expression of our theological understanding. If one part of progressive Christianity is radical inclusion, then if the only music is by "dead white guys" that isn't being inclusive. Our theology guides our expression. Maybe we could use a less patriarchal version of the Lord's Prayer. Are all these parts of worship expressions of progressive theology? Would someone new to Plymouth actually experience progressive theology? Language, format, flow – all will reveal your theology. If we don't have a deep spiritual connection ourselves, aspects of worship can become idols. The point is who we are and who we want to be as a community.

There are very initial discussions about taking advantage of the need to re-do the floors in the sanctuary. What are the options in this space? Work needed on the sanctuary floor may be an opportunity to make a change to the layout of the sanctuary.

Something to think about: Why is the First Service so popular?

This schedule change is prompting us to think about the structure of both services. First Service will be longer – how will that extra time be used? For Second Service – we have made a commitment to 60 minutes. What

changes might we want to make to bring it down to 60 minutes? We have lots of work to do! Should we have two working groups?

Could we come up with a structure, such as the theme, so there is some commonality between the First & Second Service?

There is work that needs to be done fairly quickly.

There is already a weekly template – the weekly bulletin.

ASSIGNMENT:

Before next meeting – look through a bulletin (for either service or for both services) and make some notes –

- What is reflective of who we are?
- What isn't?
- How do these aspects of worship speak to you?

Karen will share this assignment with the new members of the board.

Discussion Items for 2018 – 2019

No discussion of these during June meeting, we ran out of time.

- Liaisons for committees
 - Second Service Worship Hosts Committee
 - First Service Committee
 - Memorial Service Committee
 - Communion Committee
- Growth initiatives

Important Dates

- Annual Meeting is June 17
- August 5 – Summer Communion at Second Service
- September 9 – Rally Sunday
- September 29 – Leadership Day

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 12, 2018 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Fireside Room

Opening thought by: Jasper

Closing thought by: Penny

Closing thought – Jamie – “I’m Not a Scaredy Cat”, a prayer for when you wish you were brave.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, Secretary*