



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>	■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>
	X	Jamie Bonczyk (2019)		X	Karl Jones (2019)
■		Andrea Bubula (2021)	■		Jasper Jonson (2019)
■		Rossi Clem (2019)	■		Penelope Needham (2020)
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	X		Maureen Tanis (2021)

GUESTS:

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Motion made, seconded & approved to create a Second Service Committee. Members will include a couple of Board members, clergy, music staff & members at large. The committee will be limited to 8-10 members.

Opening Thought – Jasper

Jasper read from “Glorify” by Emily C. Heath

Ambassador Stories

- Several stories shared
- New Board of Worship members introduced: Andrea Bubula and Maureen Tanis. Board members responded to the question, “What was your first memory of church?”

Preparations for new schedule in the fall

Update from Beth

- Beth talked about Dan’s initial observations of Plymouth and feedback he has received. He has met with a lot of people and encourages feedback. Several Board members have met with him. The Board discussed ways to gather more feedback and how to engage people in conversation about worship from both services. While 600 people participated in the online survey, it did not reach all 1500 members, and the median age was “middle age” and older. How best to reach the non-responders to the survey or members who do not attend church?

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.

- Beth met with Philip. He began choosing hymns when Howard Conn deferred the task to him. Philip has changed words to update the language or printed out new hymns, but also tries to have one hymn during the service from the Pilgrim Hymnal. (There are services when the hymnal is not used.) Philip has wanted to match the message of the last hymn with the sermon. Philip does have some parameters about his view of music in the Second Service.
- Beth met with Laura Caviani. Laura is invested in the content of the service and how music fits into the service. Beth will approach her about joining the First Service committee.
- The Church School curriculum will use the same scriptures we have for each Sunday and be based on the themes for each Sunday.
- The 4 clergy will meet Monday July 23 to brainstorm themes & scriptures @ 11 am – 2 pm
- By August, we will have fuller picture for the fall schedule.
- The 10 am block is reserved for education & fellowship. Will discourage any board committees or meetings during that time. In spring schedule, artist receptions will occur during 10 am time block.
- In the future will need to decide if we continue to have 2 services during the summer.
- Dan presented his initial observations to the Deacons yesterday. These will be shared with the congregation, don't know the format yet.
- Dan is getting a lot of feedback.
- There are a lot of people who feel Second Service meets their needs.
- There are people whose worship needs aren't being met in Second Service but would miss the sermon if they only attend First Service.
- We need a broader conversation about what people want & need in worship experiences. We need to figure out ways to have these conversations. Part of the work of the Board of Worship is figuring out ways to have non-contentious conversations with members of congregation about worship experiences.
- Important to remember we didn't hear all voices in congregation-wide survey (600 out of 1500 members).
- Dan has met with all the members of Carla's Search Committee and with other groups.
- Starting in October, how about setting up 'focus tables' with Board of Worship members to solicit feedback about the change in schedule? There may be changes in opinions over time. We may capture opinions from people who wouldn't complete surveys.
- Might there be some easy non-threatening ways to get feedback?
- Possible ways to ask questions: What surprised you? What is something you will take with you during the coming week?
- Do the people who don't attend services have a way to provide feedback?
- The questions on the congregation-wide survey primarily pertained to Second Service
- There is some advantage to having demographic information on the survey. Would be helpful to do a survey early on & later in the year. Some people are more open to completing email survey, others would prefer to do it on paper. There is advantage to having multiple surveys.
- Dan wants to hear from a variety of people. He wants to foster more direct communication.

First Service planning

- Beth will ask Laura Caviani to be part of the planning for First Service
- Current members of the First Service committee are: Andy & Brittany Schou, Jasper & Rossi
- Charge to the committee – do we like the current flow of the service? Anything to change?
- If we are making the sermon 'meatier', are there other changes that need to be made?
- Beth – don't want to change the participatory, energetic, joyful spirit of the service. Currently, the preachers in First Service don't use a 'script'.

Second Service planning

- Need to form a committee to be ongoing.
- What does limit of 1 hour mean for Second Service? Is there anything that needs to change in the flow of the service?
- Maureen, Karen and Penny are interested in serving on this committee

- There might be people in the congregation who would be interested in serving on this committee. Possibly put a notice in the bulletin.
- This summer, clergy are experimenting with different wording of the Lord's Prayer. People seem to be resonating with silence during the service.

Motion made, seconded & approved to create a Second Service Committee. Members will include a couple of Board members, clergy, music staff & members at large. The committee will be limited to 8-10 members.

Any changes proposed for First or Second Service need to be discussed at August meeting.

Specific Sundays needing attention

- For specific Sundays we will have just 1 service: Youth Sunday & Confirmation Sunday. This year, perhaps due to encouragement for board members to attend, attendance at these two services was higher. There were also positive comments about attendees' experience on Youth Sunday.
- May also have only 1 service on low attendance Sundays – the Sunday after Christmas, Memorial Day Weekend, and Labor Day Weekend.

Important Dates

August 5: Summer Communion at Second Service – who can help with this?

This time Communion will be passed.

Volunteers for set-up: Nancy GL, Andrea, Penny

Karen will check with Nancy Gores about logistics of setting up on Saturday.

September 9: Rally Sunday

September 29: Leadership Day – all board members are invited

Closing thought – Penny

Shared a 1800's African-American hymn sung by a choir: "There is a balm in Gilead" – first sung by rote/oral tradition, then in early 1900's began to be published in hymnals (African America Heritage, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Quaker, Presbyterian, Bretheran, Seventh-Day Adventist, Moravian – 76 hymnals currently –

www.hymnary.org. The video example shared was sung by a choir:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fcMxl_6xsk.

African-American composer Melanie DeMore (who has a written solo version of this hymn) will be at Plymouth February 24, 2019.

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Fireside Room

By that meeting, there will be fleshing out of the fall themes and these will be discussed at the meeting. Will also discuss what is needed for Rally Day

Opening thought by: Nancy GL

Closing though by: Maureen

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*