

DEACONS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Peg Birk (2020)		■	Gloria Wallace (2019)
■		Claire Colliander (2021), <i>Treasurer</i>	■		Greg Zoidis (2019)
■		Ed Curtiss (2019)	■		Paula Northwood, <i>Acting Senior Minister</i>
■		Katie Dillon (2021), <i>Clerk</i>	■		Beth Faeth, <i>Minister for Congregational Care</i>
■		David Homans (2020)		■	Seth Patterson, <i>Director of Spiritual Formation and Theater</i>
	■	Claire Kolmodin (2020)	■		Dan Wolpert, <i>Interim Minister</i>
■		Brian Siska (2021), <i>Moderator</i>			

GUESTS: Lani Bennet

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Motion to approve the two candidates (nominated by the committee created by Beacon) to be granted the Gertmenian Award at the September Beacon convening was approved.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation (Beth)

Beth read an excerpt from "Something New Under the Sun"

Process Time

The group discussed that at times church culture is critical of imperfection, particularly as it relates to worship at the 10:30 service.

Reports

Ministers:

Paula is beginning the process of staff annual reviews. The growth task force had a good first meeting, it is a large group and energized to do the work; they will meet twice per month starting out. Paula sits on the state-wide Heading Home Together group representing faith-based groups. Clergy, along with Philip, have planned the fall church schedule thematically through end of the calendar year. Paula is spending time with the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness. She has also spent some time with certain members, including a golf group of members, as a type of pastoral care to check-in with members.

Beth has spent a lot of time doing pastoral care. She has been working on possibilities around working with people dealing with mental illness and how we can find ways to be supportive to them. The Mortality Project has a great year of programming planned and is working on getting groups together to talk about end-of-life. Beth is also doing a lot of worship planning for fall.

Dan shared that his column has been generating thoughtful responses (both verbal and written). He has also been writing on ordination and discernment process- topics related to the work of committees and boards. He feels that worship planning has been a good process with a sense of openness.

Moderator (Brian)

The Leadership Council and Brian will be meeting with clergy to plan for the upcoming church year, especially what the priorities are; they will also be planning for Leadership Day in September (Deacons will be participating). Brian will also be attending the Personnel committee (currently chaired by Lani Bennett, soon to be chaired by Sue Dosal); Brian would like their input on our (Deacon's) evaluation process of the Sr. Minister. That committee will also be looking at other personnel-related policies for the church. Communication/marketing committee will need some direction from growth task force to define some objectives for their work.

Treasurer (Claire C.)

The Community Fund topic that came up at the annual meeting (increasing the line item in the budget for Community Fund) is now being looked at by a small group, specifically around how a conversation could be started regarding this topic. This could be a topic for listening sessions that the Deacons have with the wider congregation, and could be a broader, deeper conversation about what outreach means for our church and what it means to be committed to our community. The group also discussed the practice of tithing to the church and its relevance to the community fund.

Annual Governance Agenda

The Purposes of the Church- Brian shared copies of The Purposes of the Church (part of the policy governance document) and opened the discussion asking if the Deacons feel that it is accurate and a good foundation for much of the activities of our church. The group noted that one of the items "nurture a welcoming culture" is something we as a church need to be working on and striving towards, it is so paramount for success of other initiatives. The Deacons noted this document is meant to be aspirational and should be a guide for the kind of church we want to be. The direction feels right and if we made progress as a church on the purposes that would be great. The Deacons asked for feedback in listening sessions a couple years ago and attendees of listening sessions gave very positive feedback. These items should be shared in communication including emails, bulletins and the Flame, and could serve as themes for worship. Brian intends to keep bringing up The Purposes throughout our work.

Other Matters

White Paper on Ordination

Dan provided a written white paper electronically prior to the meeting which explored the concept of ordination, including the history and modern practice, both at Plymouth and in the broader church context. The paper did not provide recommendations, but rather options for ways that Plymouth could approach ordination and ministry, whether by professional clergy or by lay members of the church. The group discussed sharing the white paper, along with context behind the paper, with the wider congregation to allow for conversation and exploration around the topic.

Gertmenian Award

Deacons approval of nominees is needed for Beacon to grant the award. There was a motion by Greg to approve the two candidates (nominated by the committee created by Beacon) to be granted the Gertmenian Award at the September Beacon convening. The motion was seconded by Ed, the motion passed.

Deacons Retreat and Leadership Day

Leadership Day is scheduled for September 29th, Deacon's retreat is scheduled for October 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Next Meeting Preview

Review G.P. 2.1-2.2, 2.5-2.8

Preparation for evaluation of Senior Minister

Change of location; Bovey Room

Next Meeting

September 4, 2018

*Respectfully submitted,
Katie Dillon, Clerk*