



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEACONS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 4th, 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: Allison Campbell Jensen

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Motion to approve June 9th, 2019 as the date for the 2019 annual congregational meeting was passed.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation (Paula)

Paula led the group in a group prayer

Process Time

No thoughts were offered during this time

Reports

Ministers:

Paula has been working on completing annual reviews for all staff, these are close to being complete. The personnel committee is working on creating a personnel manual. There has been much turnover in maintenance staff and staff are working to find the right people and support the maintenance staff we have. Ministerial team has been doing some work around discernment, working with Dan and Brian. The Stewardship Committee is thinking about the annual pledge campaign and also want to propose to raise additional money in celebration of Philip's 50th anniversary for potential uses such as beautifying sanctuary and enhancing the worship experience; this will go to the Board of Finance and Administration for a recommendation. Paula also shared a short paper around the theology of tithing and giving for the Deacons to read to inform future discussions on this topic. Paula has been working with Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) on the personnel committee. Beacon has been gearing up to engaging more congregations and getting congregations involved in future projects. The spirit is good in the office and everyone is excited for Rally Sunday.

Seth shared that the Board of Spiritual Formation is working on the new 10am education time (beginning Sept. 16th); all are 'drop-in' style (i.e. don't need to be there every week). There is excitement about the time changes as well as some sense of the unknown. Rally Sunday there will be a celebration and information about education during the

10am hour. Wednesday nights will start on the 12th and will include confirmation (Seth teaching) and 100 hands (service projects). Seth is also working on the theater as a part of Plymouth and our ministry and as a vehicle for spiritual exploration.

Dan shared a written report prior to the meeting. Dan shared that Labor Day Sunday was very well attended for a typically low-turnout Sunday; the energy was good and enthusiasm was palpable. He shared that his sense is that the church seems to be working towards a spirit of 'yes' and moving forward without being afraid to explore and try new things. He sees a possibility for integration and a holistic way of doing what we want to do within the governance structure without getting mired in the details of every task that must be done.

Beth was not in attendance

Property manager (Ed):

Ed shared about some leaking and settling issues within the church that are being dealt with by himself and Annette Abel.

Moderator (Brian):

Brian passed sign-up sheets for each Deacon to write a Flame article (one per month) and do meditation for each of our meetings. He shared a preview of the agenda for Leadership Day (Sept. 29th) and the Deacons' Retreat (Oct. 13th). The Transition Planning Task Force is wondering if they should continue to meet and doing work going forward, this is something the Leadership Council could provide direction on based on the charter of the group; Deacons will request a closing summary of the work of the group.

Treasurer (Claire C.):

The audit happened in August and went routinely, it will be presented to the Board of Finance and Administration in Sept. and will be shared it with Deacons in Oct. Claire spoke with the Board of Finance & Administration regarding the Community Fund and it will be a joint project between the Board of Finance & Administration and Board of Outreach to work on this topic; Paula's piece on the theology of tithing will inform the work and the history of the Community Fund will be a part of the work as well. The group discussed how best to review financials, reviewing financial statement quarterly seems to be appropriate, and Claire will continue to provide other topics for discussion around relevant financial issues.

Annual Governance Agenda- this process of reviewing is meant to be a step back to check in on how well we are doing on our policies

Review G.P. 2.1-2.2, 2.5-2.8 (Governance Process: Moral Ownership, Governing Style, Officer Roles, Code of Conduct, Deacons' Covenant, Deacons' Committees):

The group discussed that we are unsure of how well we have been able to live into these policies because we have been managing some crises in the past; we are feeling better now than we have been about being able to move forward in a positive way. Now that we have a chance to be more future-vision oriented we will be able to work together on that. It is important that these policies cycle back and support achieving the Purposes of the Church. What does big-picture future visioning look like in our work? The group discussed that this work goes beyond the operational but should include things like budget and growth. How do we appropriately self-evaluate? The group discussed that we should take into account general feedback of the congregation. For listening sessions and other engagement with congregation in the future, a code of conduct would be appropriate. We want to continue enhancing communication and interaction between operational/boards/task forces and Deacons to inform one another about the direction and vision.

Other Matters

Set date for annual meeting:

Motion to approve June 9th, 2019 as the date for the 2019 annual congregational meeting was made by Peg B., seconded by Claire K., motion passed

Deacons Retreat and Leadership Day:

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

Communication:

Flame articles and attending Leadership Council meetings are happening. A number of ideas were discussed including: leverage 10am education hour to host conversations (talking/listening) possibly starting in October (like coffee with a Deacon or two in the parlor), and have sessions on Wednesday nights during programming like participating in 100 hands; we would use these opportunities to ask the questions such as "what are you noticing at church?". The group also noted that showing up at events is also important.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

Next Meeting Preview

Review G.P. 2.9-2.12

Joint meeting with Leadership Council (October 24, 2018)

Preparation for evaluation of Senior Minister

Next Meeting

October 2nd, 2018

*Respectfully submitted,
Katie Dillon, Clerk*