



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Attendance:

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

GUESTS: list

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. The Board decided to have two services on December 2.

Item 3. The Board decided to have Communion on December 9.

Opening Thought: Karen

“You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour, now you must go back and tell the people that this is the Hour. And there are things to be considered...

...The time for the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves! Banish the word struggle from your attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”

--attributed to an unnamed Hopi elder

Hopi Nation

Oraibi, Arizona

Ambassador stories – How we’ve made new connections with members or visitors (5 minutes)

Maureen had conversations with people who were positive about the new schedule. There are 4 new choir members.

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.

Upcoming worship services

Leadership Day Service (15 minutes)

- Length = 15 minutes
- Hymn (Penny will choose a hymn)
- Call to worship (written by Karen)
- Scripture reading (Nancy will find a scripture related to Radical Hospitality & will send to Jamie)
- Special reading (Jamie will find a special reading)
- Passing the peace or greeting each other
- Sing last verse of hymn to close the service

Recommended that the day include a worship service at the beginning. Karl is scheduled to work that day. Penny could play piano. Karen will talk with Deb Fowler and clarify agenda and where this worship service fits.

Blessing of the Animals (15 minutes)

- Time of day (“White Privilege: Let’s Talk” is from 9 – 11 am). The service will start at 11 am.
- Location: Theater lawn, on Nicollet side; under portico near Jones Commons if it rains
- Format (see below)
- Saturday, October 6 (St. Francis of Assisi birthday is October 4)

Karen has written an article to be put in the Flame. In the past, the blessing has been on the theater lawn. If it rains, would move it under the portico. A banner has been ordered inviting neighbors to the service. It will be placed on the playground fence. The animals will be blessed individually. There will be opportunity to mingle. Karen will write a bulletin announcement to appear on the two Sundays prior to this service.

First Sunday in Advent – December 2, 2018 (10 minutes)

- Christmas Festival
- Communion – move it to December 9?
- Have one service at 10:00?

There had been discussion about moving Christmas Festival to Saturday, but decided to keep on Sunday. One proposal is to have just 1 service at 10 am with the festival activities following the 10 am service. Another proposal is to have 2 service with crafts starting at 11 am after educational hour. Concern about switching between two services & one service when we are just starting the new schedule. Crafts would continue after the Second Service. This might reduce the opportunity for multi-generational interactions. How about having some special activities at 10 am. The Board of Spiritual Formation is recommending only 1 service. But, Sunday Forum speaker has already been scheduled.

Jasper moves we continue to have two services on Dec. 2, seconded by Maureen. Passed unanimously.

Communion: First Service will continue to have Communion the First Sunday of the month. We could move Communion to the Second Sunday of Advent, but the platforms for Welcome Christmas will be up both December 2 & 9. Board agreed that Communion will be Dec. 9

Committee Updates (15 minutes)

- First Service Committee
 - Count on Rally Sunday was 210. Will keep track of actual attendance to look at trends. Laura C. would like more conversations about the music. There is an insert with everything happening in the First Service specific for that Sunday – texts, reading, additional information. That insert will be on the website every week. Will continue to have a monthly bulletin. There has been discussion this week about the tight space. Not sure if this was unique or if this was a 1-time event. According to Jasper, the attendance has never been above 100. Usual attendance is 60-70. 120 people fits well

into the space – wouldn't have to use balcony with that size of group. This coming Sunday has no choir so there will be more space.
Will reassess after a few weeks.

- Second Service Committee
 - Committee met Monday: Martha Brown, Jan Rabbers, Philip, Dan Dressen, Don Doberstein, Karen Barstad, Don McKenzie, Penny Needham & Maureen Tanis
 - Had open discussion.
 - Clarified role of committee is to support Second Service
 - Move to two services was very deliberate to have two different styles of worship
 - Figure out what the role of children is in Second Service
 - Philip shared his very thoughtful approach to the music, including choice of hymns.
 - How can we make it more participatory?
 - How can it reflect progressive theology?
 - Important to educate congregation – explain why we do the things we do
 - Will meet again in November
 - Philip has an article for the Flame about how he selects music for the service; has offered to put some educational information in the bulletin
 - Philip pointed out that themes may be more challenging in the first part of the year because of special events such as Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week

- Second Service Worship Hosts Committee
 - Have a routine. Karl has talked to Seth about confirmands and parents being part of the team starting next month.
 - Previously had a meeting time at 9 am one Sunday a month, now looking at different day
 - Some friendship pads need to be restocked with name tags, pens. Some pads had 2016 pledge cards that had been left.
 - On Saturday, a team of 6 people went through all of the pads and restocked them.
 - There is a need for more Head Ushers. They come in even earlier than ushers. It would help to have at least 1 more person to be willing act as head usher on a rotating basis.

- Communion Committee
 - Worship Hosts will continue to serve Communion
 - How Communion is served will be decided by the Board and clergy
 - Nancy will circulate sign-up list for World Communion Sunday

- Memorial Committee
 - Committee members created a brochure about the work of the committee that is included in the packet that families receive when scheduling a memorial service

- Special Services – *ran out of time to discuss these*
 - Vespers
 - Service of Remembrance
 - Celtic Spirituality

Food for Thought

Exploring new hymns – *ran out of time to discuss*

- Article by Kristin E. Holmes, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/16/17: From shootings to hurricanes, pastor turns news into hymns
- Hymns by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Inviting guests to future meetings to share thoughts and ideas (10 minutes)

- Susan Stuart

- Susan has some ideas about worship. She will be invited to meet with Second Service Committee.
- Philip Brunelle
 - Plan to invite Philip to a future Board meeting

Next Meeting

- Thursday, October 11, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00, Fireside Room
- Opening thought by Penny
- Closing thought by Jasper

Closing thought – Karl

Karl read a vesper blessing from “To Bless the Space Between Us” by John O’Donohue

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*