

## BOARD OF WORSHIP

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 11, 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)
■		Andrea Bubula (2021)	■		Jasper Jonson (2019)
	x	Rossi Clem (2019)	■		Penelope Needham (2020)
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	■		Maureen Tanis (2021)

**GUESTS:**

### ***Actions Taken:***

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Moved & seconded and approved unanimously that the Board of Worship adopt the Racial Justice Covenant (with modifications) and commit ourselves to implement it in the work of this board. (Full text is in the minutes)

### **Opening thought – Penny**

“The Lord be with you and with your spirit”

### ***Ambassador stories***

How we’ve made new connections with members or visitors (5 min)

Someone who started coming to First Service Rally Sunday has decided to join Plymouth. Nancy was invited by a Chorister to join the children for fruit salad. One of the people in the New Member class has been coming to Plymouth for 5 years but Beth hadn’t met her

### ***Blessing of the Animals Service***

Debrief (5 min)

The music was great. There were 12 dogs, only dogs showed up. In the future when planning special services, need to be clear about expectations for Board members. It was too cold for many animals. Beth also blessed a hamster on Sunday. That might make a fun First Service because there are some pets that can’t be outside – birds, gerbils, and “pocket pets”. Recommend that the banner not be on the playground fence. In future, maybe invite a rescue to be involved. Possibly blanket the neighborhood with flyers.

### **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.

## ***Service times***

---

Any concerns or feedback? (5 min)

There has been growth in First Service, but not clear if it is people moving from Second Service or people new to Plymouth. Second Service is running 350 – 380 per Sunday. Often have lower attendance when have guest preachers. Have another guest preacher coming November 11 on Immigration Sunday. Are we marketing guest preachers outside Plymouth, not just to Plymouth members?? Suggestion made that members of Board of Worship individually spread information beyond Plymouth members.

## ***New space arrangement at First Service (5 min)***

---

Recommend consult with First Service committee before making changes such as the change in seating. Jasper followed up with Seth. We need to be clear that the Board of Worship needs to be involved in changes to either service. In the past, so much has been staff-driven so good to remember to involve the Board of Worship.

## ***Greeters for First Service (5 min)***

---

In the first week, noticed some people appearing unsure of where to go. Andrea placed herself at ‘point of confluence’ near Guild Hall, library, Nicollet entrance. Jasper had noticed a key position is in the Narthex of the Chapel, especially for families who are frequently late and need help finding a space to sit. It helps for worship leader to invite people to move forward so there is room for late arrivers.

## ***Communion at Second Service on October 7 (10 min)***

---

- Number of servers
  - Decided to have 2 fewer ushers, which meant there were extra trays left on the Communion table
  - No longer need to have “replenishers” because attendance is down
- Perennial conflict with Twin Cities Marathon. The Marathon is always the first Sunday of October and World Communion Sunday is always the first Sunday of October. Should we anticipate lower numbers?
- Amount of wasted bread and juice. We prepared elements according to the instructions, but those instructions don’t take into account lower attendance at Second Service.
- At future meeting, discuss distribution of communion – passing plates vs. intinction

## ***Beth’s installation on October 14 (5 min)***

---

Logistics

- Assisting guest clergy
  - All visiting clergy process in. They will be putting on robes in Parsons Room. Andrea will be at Parsons Room at 10:45 to welcome visiting clergy. Karl will email Emily to ask about the reserve signs for first few pews.

## ***Racial justice as it related to the Board of Worship (30 minutes)***

---

- Idea presented by Jasper (15 minutes)  
Jasper shared his experiences at Plymouth and presented the Board of Worship Racial Justice Covenant as a step in incorporating racial justice into the work of the board.  
Possibly the first step is to assess where we are.

Here is the Racial Justice Covenant as approved by the Board of Worship:

### **“Board of Worship Racial Justice Covenant**

Oh God, as people of faith, we as the Board of Worship covenant with you, with one another and to Plymouth Congregational Church to:

- Become better informed about people of other races and cultures, that we may overcome the fears and misconceptions that exist;

- Consider how issues of racial prejudice and privilege affect each person with whom we come in contact;
- Discover and acknowledge practices and structures that may be racist within Plymouth Congregational Church and our supporting faith community;
- Work to erase the sins of racism and injustice where they exist in Plymouth Congregational Church and within our faith community; and
- Prayerfully heed Your call to embrace people of all races.”

*Based on Dismantling Racism Task Force, St. Louis Association, Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ*

### ***Committee Updates (15 minutes)***

---

*Skipped because of time constraints*

- First Service Committee
- Second Service Committee
- Second Service Worship Hosts Committee
- Communion Committee
- Memorial Committee

### **Next Meeting**

- Thursday, November 8, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Opening thought: Jamie
- Closing thought: Karen

### **Closing thought – Jasper**

Quote from Alveda King – racism is still alive in our society, we have the responsibility to confront these issues (paraphrased)

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*