



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEACONS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 6th, 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.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation (Katie D.)

Katie shared a short piece on social justice action written by Jane Addams.

Process Time- Prompting question “What have people been noticing at Plymouth?”

- Gratitude to clergy for shaping the conversation around the embroidery this past Sunday
- How do we as Deacons speak during the embroidery conversation- are we speaking as individuals? Yes, and we can explicitly say we are speaking from our own individual perspective
- The new governance is working for us in regards to the solar panels; additional panels are going to be installed and it can run through the governance process (ex/ going to Building and Grounds Committee and then to Board of Finance and Administration).

Reports

Ministers:

Paula spent last Sunday night and into Monday morning with Downtown ministers /interfaith leaders at a retreat- they were focused on cohesion and looking toward 2020. Paula met with the group looking at where we take first service; the service has been averaging about 100, when it gets higher it gets very crowded in the chapel so this group will be looking at options for where that service happens. Paula is considering hiring a 10-hour-a-week Outreach Manager that would primarily be attending meetings that Paula is unable to get to. The first conversation around the embroidery was this past Sunday, it went well; one of the main goals was to be kinder in working through conflict. Some people are anxious about the time this process is taking, but Paula noted it is important to take the time and she is seeing this as a 3-phase process, which would include listening, education, then action. Paula shared a document outlining potential ministry models and timelines prior to the meeting via email; this document was meant to capture some of the big tasks that clergy is responsible for and what a team model could look like including a Lead Minister among the team.

Beth expressed appreciation for those involved in her installation. Beth shared it was a joy to welcome 5 new members 2 Sundays ago; they were welcomed in the first service and that was a first. We may continue to have more new members since a number of people were interested but could not attend the October new member classes. One new member mentioned at the welcome brunch that he has not felt such a tremendous welcome in having joined other churches in the past. Post-election prayer gathering will happen Wed. night in the chapel to center ourselves in hope. Beth started a book group on The Sunflower, about 25 people in the class. Pastoral care for Beth right now is focused on meeting one-on-one with Befrienders to talk about how that ministry could change or expand. Beth is mindful about being able to do home visits for some of our homebound members. The clergy team has been developing upcoming themes for worship, the Board of Worship will consider using the Purposes of the Church as the theme for the Spring; worship themes have been well received so far this fall.

Dan sent a written report via email prior to the meeting.

Seth was unable to attend.

Moderator (Brian):

Brian talked about Deacons role in development of the big-picture vision for the church and the process for engaging the congregation on the vision; he asked for some Deacons to be involved in that work with him as part of a small group. This will be to help move our work of visioning into action.

Treasurer (Claire C.):

Claire shared first quarter statements and explained details of the balance sheet (dated September 2018) and operating fund results (dated 9/30/18). Claire shared a document that was put together by herself, Ray Martin, Paula and Annette that pulls together a holistic picture of what we as a church spend on outreach operations, which includes Drop In Center and Third Sunday Meal; total expenditures related to outreach averaged \$287,000 per year over the last 4 years. There is a small group that will be looking at this as it relates to the Community Fund.

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. 3.1 through 3.7 (Deacons-Senior Minister Relationship)

The group discussed how we have been doing on these policies. Overall, the Deacons feel that we are doing well on these. One of the things that would be useful to do a better job of is tying work back to the Purposes of the Church, particularly in minister reports (per policy related to monitoring).

Other Matters

Executive Session to conduct the review of the Senior Minister, which included reviewing the Acting Senior Minister's self-review and the feedback collected by the moderator through a 360 review process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm

Next Meeting Preview

Congregational Dialogue

Next Meeting

December 4th, 2018

*Respectfully submitted,
Katie Dillon, Clerk*