



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>	■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>
	x	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. The Board approved the motion made by Jasper regarding themes for the first months in 2019.

Focusing Ourselves

Opening Thought - Jamie

Jamie shared excerpts from an article by Dr. Heather Hackman: Addressing Shame As White Racial Justice Advocates, Dr. Hackman’s interpretation of Brene Brown’s book “Daring Greatly” (2012).

Recommitting to our Covenant

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.”

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.

Discussion Items

What does racial justice look like in worship? How do we begin to live into our covenant?

Wide-ranging discussion.

Jasper shared a section of Jim Gertmenian's sermon delivered at Plymouth Church 11/7/2004.

Services of repentance, reconciliation, and healing with focus on racial justice

- Format?
- Days/times/locations?

An important part of our work is to be more racially aware – how do we model the covenant the Board has adopted?

Beth envisions some additional services around these themes.

Worship themes for January through May 2019

Proposal is to take the 13 'purposes of the church' as our themes up until Easter (April 21). April 28 is Confirmation Sunday, so only 1 service. May 12 – celebration of Philip's 50 years. May 17 – Youth Sunday and only 1 service.

We don't need to go through the purposes in order. January 6 would be an introduction to the series. Suggestion made to incorporate Racial Justice into the series on Purposes of the Church. This would be a way to incorporate discussion on racial justice into Sunday mornings.

Sundays at 10 will include a class around the theology of the "purpose of the day".

There can be conversations at various different times and places. How can we bring these together? It is important that the Board of Worship not be operating in a vacuum. The Racial Justice Initiative is connected to the Leadership Council. Perhaps organize a joint meeting with clergy and representatives of Racial Justice Initiative.

The Racial Justice Initiative would like to see additional boards have conversations similar to the one we had on the Board of Worship.

Proposal: Themes for January – April 2019 is Racial Justice looked at through the lens of the 13 purposes of the church.

Need to have clergy, Philip, board members and representatives from Racial Justice Initiative to meet to plan more details for each Sunday.

Jasper moved that starting in January through Easter, Sunday morning worship would incorporate sermons about racial justice using the purposes of the church as the base ideology for worship.

Other Business

Committee concerns

Advent Communion for Second Service:

- Decided to have Second Service Advent Communion served by Intinction. Choir will receive Communion by passing the elements. Nancy & Beth will have a discussion about the logistics.

Karl asked for additional volunteer ushers this Sunday (November 11).

Jasper needs an additional person to help with First Service.

Next meeting

- Thursday, December 13, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Opening thought: Nancy Geertz-Larson
- Closing thought: Maureen Tanis

Going Forth from this Space

Closing thought - Karen

Karen read from a Daily Devotional that comes from the UCC.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*