



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## BOARD OF COMMUNITY LIFE

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No	
■		Emi Bennett Vo (2019), <i>Chair</i>
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
	■	Kelcie Hoes (2020), <i>Secretary</i>
	■	Lily Johnson (2020)
■		Heidi McCallister (2021)

Yes	No	
■		Fran Neir (2021)
■		Collin Smith (2019)
■		Remona Weaver (2021)
■		Matthew Wiandt (2020)
■		Brad Wieman (2019)

**GUESTS:** Mariana Shulstad from the Growth Task Force

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

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

### ***Next Steps***

- **All:** Offer suggestions for vacancies
- **Emi:** Follow-up on potential candidates
- **Remona** will look at previous attendees of the Reunion to identify potential committee members
- **Emi** will confirm May 18<sup>th</sup> for the Spring Fling

### ***Reflection***

Emi shared a reflection about a book called The Other Pond. How can we “have a place” for everyone?

### ***Board of Community Life Vacancies***

Lily Johnson and Kelcie Hoes have resigned their positions leaving us with 2 board vacancies. This also leaves us with an opening for the Secretary. We also need to identify new liaisons for the following:

Lily was the liaison for the Welcome Table and Snapshot Sunday.

Kelcie was the liaison for 100 Hands and the 50-year Reunion. There is a 100 Hands Committee.

#### **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.

Do we have to have a Community Life board member leading the 50-year Reunion? No, it does not. Could we find a candidate from last year's attendees?

We discussed potential board candidates.

## ***Growth Task Force***

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Mariana: the early work of the Growth Task Force includes:

- Looking at our history
- Considering how we define growth
- We haven't looked at numbers and members
- Purpose, duties and responsibilities, kinds of things we are doing around growth, what ideas and suggestions

The discussion around growth includes the following:

- Spiritual offerings
- Service models, music
- Getting to know our neighbors around Plymouth
- Conduct new kinds of outreach
- What mistakes have we made – are their gaps in the governance structure

We started in the middle of August. We've met every 2 weeks and now it is moving to every 3 weeks.

What is the most exciting work of the Community Life board?

Our purpose is to build community outside of the worship services.

What do we do around growth?

- We run the new member class. Our charge has not been to actively recruit new members.
- Growth of relationships; deepen relationships
- Recognize our senior most members; connect members; create fun times
- Have people find their niche
- We originated the Ambassadors program (an internal and an external program) -> encourage people to reach out to others. It came out of the Board of Membership. The concept is that we are all ambassadors of Plymouth. Build a few more connections. We have encouraged other boards to adopt this strategy. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are being trained as ambassadors (great, hospitality service). We trained in 2 classes in last year.

The challenge with Community Life is the large number of committees that the board is responsible for. Several boards merged in to form the Board of Community Life.

How can the Growth Taskforce help?

- The community's willingness to serve can be lacking. The church responds to service outside the church but it has been challenging over the last several years to find volunteers for internal work; it took 4 years to get a group of consistent hospitality volunteers.
- We have seen a shift toward being in community with others vs. simply completing a task
- Help all boards to have a common vision
- It has been encouraging that our leaders have become younger
- We could use a statement e.g. grow together, that everyone can know, say it and understand how it supports a goal
- Encourage spiritual growth -> have an intentional path or challenge; it defies definition, but we all want it; the number and monies come from other things
- Find ways that we can be a single community without all being in the same room at the same time

- We need to move forward -> I appreciate time and consideration but I would like answers and direction of where we are going; we need to figure out what we have and what direction do we want to go. We should acknowledge that mistakes will happen. We need to move forward.
- The history of the church shows a tendency to plan -> we are either planful or stuck in perpetual analysis
- I think we are moving now; we need to go along with it. I'm thrilled about what is going on. I think it is challenging rapidly.
- I would like for the Deacons to make a decision about the kind of leadership we want. We need to decide the model. Figure it out. Bring models to the congregation and make a decision.
- I think we are moving forward, but I don't think we are ready to make a decision. We are moving out of recovery mode. It would be too rushed to drive this to a decision now. I think there is momentum. I don't think now is the time to decide our model.
- The Transition Taskforce did consider a model – the conclusion was that this was too premature given the needed discernment work and this wasn't the group to do it
- The discernment that happened around the affiliation with the United Church of Christ had a lot of negative energy
- I have seen an analysis paralysis – it just gets wearing
- I see growth as a process of continually converging and diverging

## ***Scheduling***

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### **Member Reunion and Spring Fling**

We need to pick a date for the Member Reunion. Last Sunday in February is a good time for this event.

We discussed setting a date for the Reunion. Other events to consider:

February 10<sup>th</sup> – 50<sup>th</sup> year concert for Philip Brunelle

February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Super Bowl

Agreed on February 24<sup>th</sup> for the Member Reunion. Remona booked Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for the Spring Fling. It is the same weekend of Rally Sunday.

- Member Reunion (the "9s") - Sunday, February 24th, 5 pm in Jones Commons
- Spring Fling - Saturday, May 18th, 6 pm in Guild Hall

## ***50<sup>th</sup> Year Member Brunch Recap***

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- Ordered 65 meals and served 60 meals
- The snow caused a few people not to show
- A few people showed up without an RSVP
- We should expect that this will happen
- The Youth Ambassadors served the 50 year members -> they loved it! They really liked wearing the aprons. It was nice to see the interaction.
- Emi heard a number of positive comments about the Youth Ambassador participants
- We hit the budget exactly \$1,200 (\$900 for food and \$300 for flowers)
- Move the call time earlier -> ask people to arrive earlier (mobility is an issue)

## ***New Member Programs***

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We welcomed several new members at First Service. We had a nice breakfast with lively conversation.

Is there or should there be follow-up with new members? Previously, Sharing the Ministry would place a call to new members. Remona is the only person on the committee. Remona will welcome new members as a part of Sharing the Ministry.

The New Member Committee could use more members. The Committee should re-visit what should be covered.

The next one begins in January. There is a group of people who want to join but October didn't work.

The Second Service would like to receive new members. New members get to choose which service they would like to be received in.

## ***Idea for the 10 o'clock hour***

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Collin will look into inviting the authors of the Star Tribune cookie book to talk at 10 o'clock hour.

It would work for December 9th or 16<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Embroidery Discussion***

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We have struggled with conflict in the past. It will be good for us to work through this.

## ***Care Ministries***

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Remona has looked at some older documents for job descriptions. She couldn't find them. So, Remona is writing them up. She expects to have these completed by the end of the church year.

## ***Idea***

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Take a meal to a family when a baby is born.

### **Next Meeting**

December 12, 6:30p

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*Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Wiandt (substitute)*