



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Meeting Minutes

Nov 14, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
X		Lindsey Alexander (2021)	X		John Humphrey (2019)
X		Jeanne Schuler	X		Seth Patterson, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
	X	Henry Bubula (2019)	X		Josh Scharback (2019)
X		Corbin Dillon (2021)	X		Johanna Schussler (2021)
X		Becky Dougherty (2020), <i>Chair</i>	X		Stacy Yoakiem (2021)

GUESTS: list

Actions Taken:

- Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.
- Item 2. Approved the schedule of Sundays @10 Programs for Jan-May
- Item 3. Johanna Schussler, Corbin Dillon develop structure of Sundays@10 booklet-

Leadership Council notes –Seth

Recently held a joint meeting between leadership council and Deacons

- *Conversation around our building being welcoming - focus on embroidery & racial justice
- *The racial justice initiative, under leadership council, is going to shift focus from individual education to helping Plymouth at a systemic level, e.g. in what way does Plymouth, internally and outwardly, uphold white supremacy?
- *They will reach out to each Board to develop a racial justice covenant
- In Jan/Feb someone will come to the SFB to discuss development of our covenant
- *Deacons may propose amendment to the Church “purposes” making racial justice a church purpose

Christmas Festival Liaison update –SFB asked to assist with set up Dec 1 @ 9:00am

Observe and participate and think about Long Term Leadership / Sustainability.

- *Festival does not have a lead person(s) identified for next year
 - *SFB and The Board of Community Life co-sponsor event. BCL is responsible for the food only
 - *Idea: Christmas festival committee that has reps from each board?
 - *We will continue this discussion in December/January meetings
- Consider - Does the Christmas Festival support our church purposes? If so, how?

Sundays at 10

Seth lead discussion to evaluate and plan January – May semester programs.

Evaluation: What have you noticed?

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.

- Spiritual Care for the Kids you Love - programming has been great, but the only one that gets traction (attendance) is non-violent communication topics. Other topics have fewer attendees.
- Sunday Forum - it's embarrassing when we only turn out 10 people for a speaker
- Are there sometimes too many options, splitting attendance
- "I'm missing valuable stuff. I can't be every place at once!" - FOMO
- Meeting people & seeing people I haven't met before
- Lots of opportunities - lots of choices to come and do something
- The civil discourse session didn't have enough time
- "Had a problem finding where the classes are -don't know where to go to find what's happening
- People find the booklet confusing
- Smaller groups lead to more intimate conversations - better way to connect with people.
- Teenage kids - priority is to get to a service. Sundays at 10 is secondary.
- "Hard for our family to do both." - Sundays at 10 is our church – Not all attend a worship
- Still a learning curve
- This church feels very comfortable with and maybe favors intellectual pursuits
- When Dan Wolpert class was not held, people were upset
- Discussion Questions:
 - ~500 people between the two services, Sundays at 10 is roughly 200 (including church school)
 - Challenge for us is how to attract more adults that aren't currently coming?
 - What's the barrier?
 - Does Sundays @ 10 need new name?
 - Concern about some overscheduling
 - Habits have to change. Schedule change is still new
 - What is attendance? How do we count who is member? Do people who might only come Wednesday nights, or only yoga, consider themselves members? Offer pledge?
- Ideas
 - Build Deacons Q&A into the schedule so it doesn't pull attendance from other sessions
 - Replace Sunday Forum once/month with a Deacons meeting/ad-hoc
 - Dan's class was popular - maybe people want more book-type discussions
 - Better communication- better signage about where/when to find classes
 - Attendance is not a concern - this is still new
 - Spirit Moves needs support - how can we help them get the word out, to build their attendance?
 - Goal of Sundays at 10 is to give people options-
 - Advertising, Marketing, Maps - when people walk through the door, how do they easily find out what's being offered, when, and where?
 - 10:00 greeters? Official greeters are only organized for 11:00 service. We don't have official greeters for 9:00 service or 10:00 hour
 - Have White Board sign at Jones Commons front door
- Seth's Proposal for Sundays at 10 APPROVED, Jan - May (Theme the 13 purposes of the church)
 - Sunday Forum
 - Theology of the Purposes (Lead by Dan Wolpert + other clergy). Dan is only here 3x/month
 - Spirit Moves (***Spirit Moves leaders have since decided to discontinue this program***)
 - Non-Violent Communication for Parents/Grandparents
 - Meditation
 - Church School
 - Regular time for Deacons/Ad-hoc sessions

Select volunteers to put booklet together before December meeting

*Corbin, Johanna volunteer for booklet development plus someone from Spiritual Exploration

To set format of booklet. Allison Jenson-Campbell has dates and programs names

*Add "back page as passport" idea

Do a "Fellowship Joy" on first Sunday in January with booklet, 2019 new schedule of Sundays at 10 Next

Meeting December 12 at 6:30PM

Respectfully submitted, Becky Dougherty/ Johanna Schussler