



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Deb Fowler, <i>Chair</i>	■		Becky Dougherty, <i>Spiritual Formation</i>
■		Sarah Lehman, <i>Chair Elect</i>	■		Karen Barstad, <i>Worship</i>
■		Mike McCallister, <i>Secretary</i>	■		Mary Welfling, <i>Archivist</i>
■		Matthew Wiandt, <i>Community Life</i>		■	Paula Northwood, <i>Acting Senior Minister</i>
	■	Eric Olsen, <i>Finance and Administration</i>		■	Beth Faeth, <i>Minister for Congregational Care</i>
■		John Kulstad, <i>Fine Arts</i>	■		Dan Wolpert, <i>Interim Minister</i>
■		Peter Eichten, <i>Outreach</i>			

**GUESTS:** Allison Campbell Jensen; Sonia Cairns, co-chair of the Racial Justice Initiative; Seth Patterson

### Actions Taken:

- Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.
- Item 2. Agreed to invite the Growth Task Force to present an update at an upcoming Leadership Council meeting.
- Item 3. Rescheduled the December Leadership Council meeting from December 26 to December 19.

### Agenda and Minutes

#### **Meditation / Prayer**

- Offered by Peter Eichten, a reading from Luke 21, and a unison prayer.

#### **Acting Senior Minister’s Report – Paula Northwood, related by Deb Fowler**

- Encourage boards to consider how they are working on church growth. Noted that members of the Growth Task Force will be visiting with each of the boards soon if they haven’t done so already. The Leadership Council discussed their recent interactions with the Growth Task Force and some of the themes or thoughts this raised within their boards.
- Dan shared that the Growth Task Force is mostly in a listening mode right now. They are going through a group discernment process, working through activities that get them out into unfamiliar areas of Plymouth to discover what is already going on across the breadth of the church.
- **Agreed:** should invite the Growth Task Force to present in upcoming Leadership Council meeting.

#### **The Embroideries and Racial Justice**

- The Leadership Council had a lengthy, wide-ranging discussion of what its members had heard at the recent listening sessions on the Embroideries. These sessions made evident that there are wide-ranging perspectives and opinions about this topic.

#### **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.

- In the spring, there will be four education sessions on related topics. These will likely take place as Forum sessions during the education hour on Sundays in the coming months. Seth is working on several ideas, and he is also open to suggestions on what should be included.
- We are also looking at other educational opportunities such as a tour to the capitol building to look at how they deal with art with similar issues, and a Film Club screening of the Embroidery DVD.
- While no outcomes are foreordained, one potential scenario is that a recommendation could be brought to the Annual Meeting in June.

### **Spotlight: Board of Outreach**

- Peter Eichten related several updates from the Board of Outreach during the Board Spotlight portion of the agenda.
- One area of focus for the board is homelessness and housing insecurity. The board has recently engaged on this topic by allocating some funds to help with rental assistance for people who are hard to place. They have also offered office, rehearsal, and performance space for the zAmya Theater Project, which brings together homeless and housed individuals to create and perform theatrical productions. Peter also gave updates on Plymouth's involvement in Families Moving Forward and how it might be changing.
- Peter gave updates on a small group, formed in collaboration with the Board of Finance and Administration, that is working to develop and share facts around the Community Fund. This is intended to help make known the monetary and non-monetary contributions Plymouth makes to the greater community.
- The Board of Outreach is talking about using their supplemental Growth budget to support a board retreat, believing that it will help board grow, and that this growth as a group will help the church grow in turn.
- Peter extended an invitation to a lunch on February 22 at 12:30 that is being held for the clients and employees of the Groveland Food Shelf. This is a way to say, "thank you", and we would like the larger Plymouth community to participate and show support.

### **Other Business:**

- Sonia Cairns, co-chair of the Racial Justice Initiative gave an update on how the Initiative is tackling the request from the Leadership Council on working with the boards. They have aligned members with each board, and they are now beginning to engage with them. They will be working on racial justice covenants and working to become an ongoing racial justice resource for the boards.
- The Leadership Council is signed up to serve coffee in the month of January, after the 11:00 a.m. services. Matt Wiandt will coordinate specific scheduling offline.
- The Leadership Council discussed the December meeting date, which would fall on December 26 by the standard schedule, but the church is closed this date. **Agreed** to change the next meeting date to December 19.

### **Next Meeting**

- Next Leadership Council **December 19, 2018** at 6:00 pm

### **Adjourn**

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*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Mike McCallister, Secretary*