



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF OUTREACH

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
x		Peter Eichten (2020), <i>Chair</i>	x		Sue Moses (2020)
x		Sally Cassellius (2019)	x		Paula Northwood, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
	x	Birdie Cunningham (2019)		x	Jared Swanson (2019)
x		Mary Jordan (2021)	x		Peter Vitale (2020)
	x	Kim Lutes (2021)	x		Gingie Ward (2018)

GUESTS: Mary Kay Sauter

Actions Taken:

The meeting was held at Gingie’s home. Peter E. led the meditation and prayer.

Agenda Items

MARY KAY SAUTER-Mary kay brought forward a request for household items for immigrants and refugees. She became aware of the need from a mailing from the Minnesota Council of Churches. She approached the Immigrant Welcoming Committee and is also approaching the board for ideas on how to best fulfill the needs without competing too much with the other collection drives taking place at Plymouth right now. It was determined that the items needed were specific enough not to compete with other programs. Paula suggested a barrel be placed in Jones Commons after the New Year.

GROWTH INITIATIVE-Paula reported that the church continues to engage in discernment on the topic of growth with an ephasis on encouraging everyone to think about growth all the time; Are we welcoming? Is the building welcoming? They are also actively identifying initiatives that don’t cost much money. When money is spent on growth, trying to make sure it’s spent in areas that are necessary. Advertising has not been good in the past, so how do we make that better? Paula noted the we currently do not advertise the programs we house; VocalEssence, The Conn Theater, etc. Plymouth is trying to slowly encourage a culture shift in thinking about growth. Peter E. added that the growth team is speaking to each of the boards. Peter had a conversation with them on the topic of what can we do as a board to help promote the growth initiative.

RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE-Peter E. reported that the Leadership Council has directed the Racial Justice Initiative to talk to all of the boards, probably in January. Representatives will attend board meetings and ask them to adopt a Racial Justice Covenant. It’s very possible that there will another Leadership gathering in the winter/spring to address Racial Justice topics. What does it mean to be white? How is that interwoven into racism and institutions, including Plymouth?

E.J. KELLEY PROPOSAL-Last week a small group gathered to discuss E.J.’s concerns about how to best help the foodshelf volunteers and clients who are struggling with houseing. They also discussed the groups camping out on Plymouth’s property during the warmer months. They would like to have a plan in place before spring when

it will be a problem again. The goal is to welcome them in a more appropriate manner than we have in the past. They will continue to meet over the winter months.

RETREAT IDEA-Peter E. wanted to know if this was a good idea? There was consensus from the board that it was a great idea. Dan Wolpert is willing to facilitate. Some large, local houses are available on Air B&B. Peter suggested we start with Friday evening dinner then spend all day Saturday. January 25th and 26th seem like the most promising choices.

GROVELAND FOODSHELF/THANK YOU LUNCH—The board is invited to be part of the lunch on Feb 22nd at 12:30PM. The lunch is held at Plymouth.

MARY JORDAN-Mary has been meeting with the committees for which she is the board liaison. They have expressed a desire to get assistance recruiting volunteers. Board of Outreach could coordinate a Volunteer Fair for that purpose. These are usually scheduled well in advance, so we'll shoot for the autumn of 2019.

Next Meeting

January 9, 2019

6:30-8:00pm , Room 203

*Respectfully submitted,
Peter Vitale, secretary*