



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No	
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>
	x	Jamie Bonczyk (2019)
■		Andrea Bubula (2021)
	x	Vacant (2019)
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

Yes	No	
■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>
■		Karl Jones (2019)
■		Jasper Jonson (2019)
■		Penelope Needham (2020)
■		Maureen Tanis (2021)

GUESTS: list

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2.

Item 3.

Focusing Ourselves

Opening thought - Karl

Karl shared two poems, one by Ghalib and one by Issa.

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.”

At Leadership Council, there was a Racial Justice presentation. Discussed need for confession & repentance in this area.

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.

- What is the role of confession in the Congregational Church?
- Confession depends on our definition of sin. Sin is separation from God. Confession is acknowledging the separation. Repent is turning around. Confession isn't complete without words of assurance, not absolution; fallible but still worthy
- Acknowledge our personal separation, and in worship it is a corporate acknowledgement of our separation from God.
- Confession engenders humility.
- Humility is not the same as defensiveness. We need to release the defensiveness around racial justice.
- Confession is personal – can't confess for someone else. But can acknowledge as a community we have made mistakes.
- Confession is a way to remove the layers between ourselves and God. Confession is a way to be vulnerable so that grace can happen.
- Apology is a connection with another person....looking for forgiveness.
- Could we do both - and...Confession AND apology?
- Could there be an explanation of confession from the pulpit...especially during Lent?
- At Ash Wednesday or another evening service...could everyone be given a stone, symbolize something we want to be rid of, carry it during the season of Lent, then leave it at a table/bowl at the end of Lent.
- A variation: Possibly have a stone with you at all times (a reminder), have opportunity to set them down – I have known what weight that is, I am ready to sincerely ask/be forgiven. Include prompts to think about racial justice.
- Silence could be a meaningful part of confession.
- Possibly have Confession in each service during Lent, with introduction/explanation by Beth.
- How do you move people to the point of confession?
- The stars Beth distributed at First Service – about mindfulness, a reminder.
- What do I need to apologize for? Where have I separated myself from God?
- In many services, confession has been “doing really deep work really quick” not enough time allowed to think more deeply.
- Have opportunities to do Racial Justice work outside of worship.
- Strongly encouraging all board members to attend Acting Black, Demystifying Racism with Carlyle Brown, January 26, 7 pm
- Leadership retreat is 2/2, 8:30 – noon at Plymouth; Carlyle Brown is facilitator

Discussion Items

Update from Beth on clergy actions and the focus on the purposes of the church for worship themes

- The Sunday John Pavlovitz is here, there is concern we will exceed the capacity of the Chapel. First Service will be in Guild Hall that Sunday, will work to reset the space during Second Service so it will be ready for coffee time. The service will be in Guild Hall instead of the sanctuary because the sanctuary doesn't lend itself to the same style of worship as First Service.
- This Sunday in Second Service, there will be a time for greeting after the announcement, that time will end with the choir music being the cue to bring greeting time to an end.
- Beth is organizing the book signing Saturday evening 1/19 & would like some assistance. Saturday evening is a conversation with John & Paula. The church is getting many calls about this weekend event and anticipate crowds for all 3 events.

Other ways to explore and express racial justice in worship – (see discussion points above)

Ideas for using the extra \$1000 in our budget for church growth

- Each board can decide what 'growth' means – racial, worship, spiritual.....

- Being encouraged to have a broader vision of what growth means
- The charge is that each board think about their work as a board. Board of Community Life is thinking about having a block party in the summer.
- Do we want to promote the First Service in places where there are families who have young children?
- How could we promote Second Service?
- Some people like the traditional aspect of Second Service combined with progressive theology.

Services during Lent – themes/ideas

- Ash Wednesday, March 6
 - Done in Sanctuary
 - Apply ashes
 - Contemplative Service
 - Last year there were about 100 people and many children – it was incorporated into the children’s programming that night
- First Service Communion, March 3
- Second Service Communion, March 10
- Maundy Thursday, April 18
 - Adult choir sings
 - Communion
 - In the past, there has been hand washing & foot washing
- Good Friday, April 19
 - Having labyrinth out worked well last year, there was a steady stream of people throughout the day
 - Will plan to do the same thing this year.
- Easter, April 21
 - In the past there have been 2 identical services in the sanctuary
- Other services?

Filling the vacancy on the Board of Worship

- Invite someone to start early and then serve a full term
- Jamie said she would serve another term since she started part-way through a full term
- The First Service coordinator does not need to be a member of the board

Other Business

Possibility raised of moving meeting to Wednesday instead of Thursday. Leadership Council meets 4th Wednesday. If we meet on Wednesdays, could possibly get a youth member.

Committee concerns

Karl recommends designating a new person to lead the Second Service usher & greeter committee. He hasn’t gathered the committee together since the change in worship schedule. Did meet as a group about 5 times.

Leadership Day II – February 2, 2019

At Plymouth

8:30 – noon

Details will be emailed on Friday

Next Meeting

Wednesday February 20, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, in the Parsons Room

Opening thought by Maureen

Closing thought by Karen

Going Forth from this Space

Closing thought – Jasper

Shared quote by Martin Luther King Jr. – one must take action because it is right

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*