



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF COMMUNITY LIFE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 9 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
	■	Emi Bennett Vo (2019), <i>Chair</i>	■		Collin Smith (2019)
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	■		Remona Weaver (2021)
■		Jess Ahlemeier	■		Matthew Wiandt (2020)
■		Heidi McCallister (2021)	■		Brad Wieman (2019)
	■	Fran Neir (2021)			

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting were electronically approved.

Reflection

Brad read a selection titled 'Cracks of Light' from 'The Book of Awakening' by Mark Nepo.

Committee Leadership (Matthew)

- We continued our conversation regarding needs and opportunities for attracting volunteers to events and committees. Suggestions include :
 - Move towards a model where BCL board members are more involved in governance decisions, so we have more input and oversight regarding event planning and volunteer recruitment.
 - Fresh faces are needed on committees, boards etc. It seems the same people have been involved in the same committees for a long time. How can we encourage new members to join boards and committees?
 - There are many opportunities available in new member classes.
 - Provide a checklist of available activities to new members, to help us understand their interests and talents; then pair them with hosts who have similar interests. Ask hosts to commit to mentoring their new member(s) for a period of time. This will help connect new members to roles which are meaningful to them, and help foster success within those roles.
 - Encourage new members to become involved with something that interests them in the church, while remaining mindful that everyone joins the church for different reasons...not all new members may be looking to become immediately involved. New members could be asked to host a new member within two years of their join date.

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.

- Remona offered to have a more active role in new member brunches, in order to present opportunities for involvement.
- Survey new members 1 – 2 years after their join date, to help determine whether they are finding connections relevant to their needs and interests.
- Should other boards be involved in organizing this? Sharing the Ministry is a possibility...
 - Host a table one Sunday each month, to provide information regarding volunteer and committee opportunities. Perhaps we could ask the board sponsoring hospitality for the month to bring cookies, to help attract people?
 - Invite members who express interest in joining boards to observe a board meeting.
- Next steps
 - Develop a survey to be sent to new members within 2-3 years of their join date, to assess whether they've made meaningful connections, and to help target areas needing improvement.
 - Remona will reach out to Sharing the Ministry to get them involved.

Growth Initiative Funding (Matthew)

- Current opportunities for growth
 - Spring Fling **SATURDAY, MAY 18**
 - Excellent opportunity to attract new people to the church, including people in the surrounding community
 - Should we invite families of our pre-school students?
 - We could use part of our budget for marketing; possibilities include:
 - Fliers posted in community businesses
 - A boost on Plymouth's Facebook page (this would actually come out of another budget, so BCL budget would not be impacted)
 - Collin will research the possibility of advertising in local community calendars
 - Announcements in the Flame, the weekly bulletin, and from the pulpit
 - Could we ask high school students to drive the marketing, as a cost-saver?
 - Matthew will talk to Nina.
 - Collin is willing to talk to students re opportunities/possibilities, if needed

We have a budget of \$2,000 for the Spring Fling; so far, we are budgeted to \$1,100 (for DJ, salsa dancers, and gratuity for the DJ), so have ample funds available to market the event.
 - Block Party (?)
 - We discussed holding a block party in the parking lot during the summer
 - Open to Plymouth members as well as to the surrounding community
 - Attractions could include music, food trucks, game booths, etc.
 - We'd need to check in to zoning restrictions and the possible need for permits
 - This event could be sponsored by multiple boards, in order to pool funds

FUTURE EVENT PLANNING (All)

- New Member Reunion (the '09's) **SUNDAY, MARCH 3**
 - Remona has organized distribution of invites, registration, and articles in the Flame
 - Philip is confirmed for a presentation on his career in music
 - Remona suggested that children be given opportunities to ask Philip questions re his career during the performance.
 - Heidi is coordinating table tent decorations with youth
- 50 Year Reunion
 - Philip will perform
 - Open attendance encouraged

UPDATES FROM BETH

- New Member Class
 - We will likely need to move the next New Member Class to the last week of February; will confirm
 - Would like to consider changing the structure of the New Member Class
 - This includes recruiting members for a New Member Committee; keep an eye out for possible members.

- Guest John Pavlovitz January 19 - 20
 - January 19
 - John and Paula will host a conversation in the sanctuary; open to the community
 - John will sign / sell copies of his book afterwards
 - Brad will help with this event
 - January 20
 - John will be our guest preacher

- Social Justice
 - The Leadership Council and the Deacons recently met to discuss next steps regarding the church's focus on social justice
 - Church leaders are being called upon to participate in upcoming events related to social justice, and to become knowledgeable regarding ongoing discussions. Upcoming events include:
 - **Embroidery Conversations** Discussions in Guild Hall each Sunday from 10 – 11, regarding our embroidery tapestries
 - **Saturday 1/26, 7 – 8:30 pm** 'Acting Black', by Carlyle Brown, will be performed in the Conn Theater. Plymouth board members are strongly encouraged to attend.
 - **Saturday 2/2** A special Leadership Day, focusing on racial/social justice, will be held at Plymouth.
 - Racial/social justice topics will be woven in to upcoming sermons

- Senior Minister Search
 - The deacons have established a timeline / process relevant to the search for a new senior minister.
 - The deacons hope to install a 'collaborative' senior minister
 - Hoping to have a search committee in place by April; currently looking for a chair for this committee.
 - The goal is to present a candidate to the congregation at the 2020 annual meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brad Wieman (substitute)*