

BOARD OF OUTREACH

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

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: Shirley Rutherford

Actions Taken:

Peter E. led the reflection.

Agenda Items

Shirley Rutherford, from the Racial Justice Initiative spoke to the board. Leadership of Plymouth Church has instructed the RJI to meet with different boards and get the conversation about racism and white privilege. The board read, “10 Myths White People Believe About Racism” in preparation for a discussion. We acknowledged we are all in different places regarding racism. There was a lengthy and rich discussion amongst the board members about their responses to the article. Shirley asked the board to craft a Racial Justice Covenant for the board by April. We also need to come up with ideas about what we can do to combat racism within Plymouth. How are we framing the work that we do? How can we codify the church’s commitment to racial justice and put it in writing?

UCC recommendation that MN becomes a Sanctuary State-This came to us from the Immigrant Welcoming Group who wants us to endorse the idea, and show that we are behind this and want to support them in moving it forward. There was consensus from the board. Peter E. will ask if they need something in writing.

Review and reflections on the Retreat-The board retreat was a success and very useful. It was valuable to come together in a different environment to get to know one another better and share stories.

Radical Hospitality Update-Sue and Peter E, and Paula have been involved with radical hospitality directed towards folks who are sleeping on the property, etc. Something thrown on the table at Leadership Day was Simpson Housing, a local shelter, hopefully in the process of getting a large grant to rebuild. The program needs a place to be for a year during the construction. Could Plymouth be that space? They house 66 people. 44 men and 22 women. All single, no families.

EJ and Peter met with people at St. Stephen’s and spoke with them about how they respond to similar situations.

Liaisons need to gather a report from their committees by May-Reports detailing the activities of the committees over the past year.

Next Meeting

March 13, 2019

6:30-8:00pm , Room 203

*Respectfully submitted,
Peter Vitale, secretary*