

DEACONS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 5th, 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Peg Birk (2020)	■		Gloria Wallace (2019)
■		Claire Colliander (2021), <i>Treasurer</i>	■		Greg Zoidis (2019)
■		Ed Curtiss (2019)	■		Paula Northwood, <i>Acting Senior Minister</i>
■		Katie Dillon (2021), <i>Clerk</i>	■		Beth Faeth, <i>Minister for Congregational Care</i>
■		David Homans (2020)		■	Seth Patterson, <i>Director of Spiritual Formation and Theater</i>
	■	Claire Kolmodin (2020)	■		Dan Wolpert, <i>Interim Minister</i>
■		Brian Siska (2021), <i>Moderator</i>			

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2: A motion to recommend the three current officers (Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer) to return as the same officers was approved.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation (Gloria)

Gloria gave the meditation on Attitude out of a book called A Better Me written by Walter Swan, a farmer from Bisbee, AZ.

Reports

Ministers:

Paula- Downtown clergy are working on a process related to social cohesion, especially during this time of tension politically. Paula shared that Hannah Gustafson will be the new outreach coordinator. Growth Task Force will be sharing some information out about their work. Paula has been working on the embroideries topic including going to the Capitol to learn about the controversial paintings and engaging the textile expert from the MIA. The budget is going through the Board of Finance and then will come to the Deacons.

Beth- We received 20 new members who went through a new member process, this is a joy for Beth. The new member process is continually being looked at, right now it includes 2 sessions during the 10am hour. One idea for new members is to have a host not just for the one day of new member reception but through the course of a year. Lent begins tomorrow. The Board of Worship has a lot on their plate including the summer schedule and getting ready for fall. Pastoral Care has mainly centered around the weather and those who are struggling with some isolation in this time. We will go through an intentional process on how best to serve our elderly population who have a tough time getting here on Sundays. The embroidery process has shown that there is a continued need for people to share different viewpoints with one another; Lenten Conversations was proposed to hold small talking circles of approximately 8 people- the Leadership Council approved that initiative.

Dan provided a written report prior to the meeting. Dan also shared an anecdote from the weekend, after the services there were a number of people who had been or are connected to the Methodists and expressed their appreciation for what Dan said in the service and also appreciation for finding an open and inclusive community at Plymouth; this was a good sign of what Progressive Christianity means.

Moderator (Brian):

Brian update the group that the nominee roster for the Search Committee is filling out; Brian has been in conversation regularly with Chris (Search Cmte chair). A special meeting is proposed for April 28th to approve the slate of candidates to the Committee. The bylaw change that was brought to the Annual Meeting was tabled, we will need to circle back around on that and possibly adjust based on Dan's suggestions- we will bring it to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in June.

Treasurer (Claire C.):

Paula and Claire co-presented the financial report from January; we are in a good spot, income is higher than expenses year-to-date.

Recommend officers to Nominating Committee

Brian has agreed to return as Moderator, Katie has agreed to return as Clerk and Claire C. has agreed to return as Treasurer. Dave made a motion to recommend the three current officers to return as the same officers, Peg seconded, motion passed.

Annual Governance Agenda

Monitoring GP 4.5, 4.6 (treatment of staff and protection of assets)-

4.5: Personnel policies have been updated and are provided to employees. All other items noted are in compliance as far as our understanding. The Personnel Committee is in place and functioning well.

4.6: No items of concern and some of the items are delegated to the operations staff.

Other items

The group discussed the need to further define the overarching vision of the Church as well as the vision for Racial Justice work. The group may want to revisit the work done by the smaller visioning group and work with Dan on visionary statements related to Racial Justice; these could then be discussed with the Racial Justice Initiative when they come to a Deacons meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm, followed immediately by an executive session of the Deacons

Next Meeting Preview

- a. Monitoring GP 4.7-4.10
- b. Annual meeting agenda; invite members to submit items for annual meeting agenda. Per June 12 2016 bylaws we require 10 signatures and 30 days
- c. Develop proposed slate of new Deacons
- d. Racial Justice Initiative will also be joining the Deacons at the April meeting
- e. Joint meeting with Leadership Council April 24, 6:00-8:00

Next Meeting

April 2nd, 2019

*Respectfully submitted,
Katie Dillon, Clerk*