



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>	■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>
■		Jamie Bonczyk (2019)	■		Karl Jones (2019)
	x	Andrea Bubula (2021)	■		Jasper Jonson (2019)
	x	Vacant (2021)	■		Penelope Needham (2020)
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	■		Maureen Tanis (2021)

GUESTS: list

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of February meeting held March 6, 2019 were approved by the board during this meeting.

Item 2. The Board of Worship decided that the Maundy Thursday service will include Tenebrae and Communion.

Item 3. The Board of Worship decided to continue the same Sunday schedule during the next church year: 9 am First Service, 10 am Education and fellowship, 11 am Second Service, fellowship following the Second Service.

Focusing Ourselves (5 minutes)

- Opening Thought – Nancy
Read from “40 Days of Decrease” by Alicia Britt Chole
- **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.”

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.

Discussion Items

- **Minutes from meeting on 3/6/19 need approval**

One correction made. Finalized version will be sent to Doug Freeman with cc to board members.

- **Holy Week Services**

- Maundy Thursday with communion (according to the Church calendar, dinner is at 6 and service is at 7 pm)
 - Traditionally done by intinction, choir joins the congregation and participates in Communion.
 - Foot washing
 - Has been done in the past
 - Logistics
 - A basin & pitcher of water
 - Person put their feet over the basin and water poured over the feet. Then person provided towels.
 - Might be challenging to include foot washing, Communion and Tenebrae service
 - Another option is a Tenebrae Service: have readings from the Passion Story, 1 candle extinguished after each section.
 - Possible order
 - Opening reading
 - Communion
 - Read the Passion Story, Tenebrae service, then listen to “Were You There” in the darkened sanctuary.
 - Could use this as an opportunity to talk about Maundy Thursday and educate people about segue from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday. The education could be woven into the liturgy and the meditation. Beth wrote an article about Maundy Thursday for the Flame.
 - Board decided to include Tenebrae with Communion. No foot washing this year.
- Good Friday – labyrinth in the Chapel
- Easter
 - Sunrise Service
 - The service starts outside, then moves inside the building
 - Karl has an identified an usher to help with this service
 - First Service
 - 9 am in the Sanctuary instead of the Chapel
 - Clergy would like to incorporate aspects of First Service into the 9 am service. Ideas include keeping the Peace Candle and family hosts. Chapel Singers will sing only at the 9 am service, otherwise the services will be identical. The jazz trio will be in both services. Can we include the “kid’s rug” during the 9 am service? It was decided to check the logistics and if there is room include the rug in the sanctuary during the 9 am service only. Jasper will check for a host family for both services.
 - Second Service
 - Peace Candle & family hosts will also be part of the Second Service. Only difference between the services will be the Chapel Singers singing only at the 9 am service. The other music will be the same for both services

- **Locations for summer services while Sanctuary & Guild Hall floors are being sanded & finished in June & July**

The first Sunday that will be affected is the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. The project will start with the Sanctuary and during that work the pews will be stored in Guild Hall. Once the Sanctuary is completed, pews will move back into the Sanctuary and the floors in Guild Hall will be sanded and refinished. The embroideries will need to be out of Guild Hall to protect them from the dust and fumes.

- First Service at 9:00 am
 - Chapel
 - Clergy supports keeping the service in the Chapel. This may change if fumes from the Sanctuary floor re-finishing are too strong.
 - If needed, could use Jones Commons or the Gallery for this service.
- Second Service at 10:30 am
 - The choir is still singing during June, so clergy recommends the theater for this service.
- **Resuming current service and education time in the fall (9:00, 10:00, 11:00)**
 - Impact on attendance of schedule change
 - Attendance at First Service has grown. It has increased by 55 people this year. Some parents have started to attend service in addition to bringing their children to Church School.
 - Attendance at Sundays at 10 has grown. How has this impacted the people planning Sunday Forum? Presentations have been ending at 10:50.
 - Difficult to have another event in the Chapel after the service. Meditation has moved to Nancy Baltins Room.
 - Attendance at Second Service has stayed the same as previous church year.
 - Reaction by congregation
 - Haven't heard any negative comments
 - Motion made to continue the same schedule next Church Year. Motion passed.
- **Clergy suggestions for themes in Summer and Fall**
 - "The Purposes of the Church" series ends on Easter Sunday
 - The Sunday following Easter is Confirmation and there will only be 1 service
 - May 5 – Dan's last Sunday to preach
 - May 12 – Jim Gertmenian will preach
 - May 19 - Youth Sunday, one service
 - May 26 - begin Summer Schedule, Second Service will be in theater
 - Summer: Wisdom, Wit & Wonder
 - How do we find joy in these difficult times?
 - Guest Preachers: Philip, Peter Eichten, Karl Jones
 - Fall: Parables of Jesus
 - Rally Day is September 8
 - Series will end the first Sunday of Advent
- **Greeting time during Second Service – reactions from congregants**
 - There are some people who are very upset about including greeting time.
 - There are other people who delight in this time. Beth has observed people moving to different aisles to greet others.
 - The clergy have been receiving complaints that should be re-directed to the Board.
 - Have added musical cues to bring a close during this time.
 - Greeting time hasn't been included in every service – inclusion depends on the length of other parts of each service.
 - The Board had an extensive conversation. If, as a congregation, we are trying to build connections adding a greeting time to Second Service is a tool to build connections.
- **\$1000 for church growth**

We need to have an idea before end of Church Year

 - Podcast
 - Some people are excited about this idea and are willing to work on this.

- Would be more than just a recording of the service.
 - Could highlight things that are happening at Plymouth
 - We don't know what the Church Growth Task Force is working on. Karen will ask for an update.
- **Emily Jarrett Hughes' idea for a water service this summer**
 - Karen shared Emily's email with a variety of ideas.
 - Having a service near the fountain in the courtyard could be a way to gauge interest. Could be a challenge to get people to go off-campus for a worship service.
 - Recommend that it be "in addition to" Sunday services instead of instead of scheduled Sunday services.
 - Recommend that Emily will plan and promote the service and will need to connect with clergy.
- **Names to submit to Nominating Committee for Board of Worship**
 - Send suggestions to Karen
 - We need to have someone take over Karl's job of coordinating ushers for Second Service.
- **Replacing 2 blue pottery communion chalices**
 - Need to order 2 more cups for Communion by intinction
 - Maureen will research online
 - The best bread for Communion is supposed to be King's Hawaiian bread, although Texas Toast is mentioned in the historical directions.
- **Next Meeting**
 - Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
 - Opening thought by: Karen
 - Closing thought by: Maureen

Going Forth from this Space

Closing thought: Jamie

Reading from "A Stranger's Journey" by David Mura about how we create an idealized portrait. Writers challenge, attach and dismantle these idealized portraits. They take them out of the closet and identify what was omitted from idealized portrait.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary