



# Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
	■	Deb Fowler, <i>Chair</i>	■		Becky Dougherty, <i>Spiritual Formation</i>
■		Sarah Lehman, <i>Chair Elect</i>	■		Karen Barstad, <i>Worship</i>
	■	Mike McCallister, <i>Secretary</i>	■		Mary Welfling, <i>Archivist</i>
■		Emi Bennett Vo, <i>Community Life</i>	■		Paula Northwood, <i>Acting Senior Minister</i>
■		Eric Olsen, <i>Finance and Administration</i>	■		Beth Faeth, <i>Minister for Congregational Care</i>
■		John Kulstad, <i>Fine Arts</i>	■		Dan Wolpert, <i>Interim Minister</i>
■		Peter Eichten, <i>Outreach</i>			

**GUESTS:** Sonia Cairns (Racial Justice Initiative), Catherine Shreves (Racial Justice Initiative), Allison Campbell Jensen, Seth Patterson.

### ***Actions Taken:***

---

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Agreed to create small groups to facilitate discussions about the embroideries during Lent.

### ***Agenda and Minutes***

---

#### **Meditation / Prayer**

- Offered by Eric Olsen.

#### **Acting Senior Minister’s Report – Paula Northwood**

- Budget has been taking a great deal of Paula’s time.
- Paula has been talking about what to do if and when the 9:00 service outgrows the chapel.
- Looking at signage around the property. It has been busy in the building, and it would be good to have things, like signs, that tell folks who we are.

#### **Minister for Congregational Care Report – Beth Faeth**

- Welcomed ten new members on Sunday.
- Beth has been working with Jean Howell and looking at ways to deal with our population over 80, as many of these folks are homebound.
- She has also been working on getting ready for Lent. Ash Wednesday is coming up on March 5. This is a time to deepen our spirituality.
- Snow and cold weather have had a negative effect on the number of folks that have attended Sunday services.

#### **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.

## **Director of Spiritual Formation & Theater Report – Seth Patterson**

- Our school tenant is expanding; possibility renting all 5 rooms by Fall.
- Racial Justice, film on Sunday with Nekima Levy-Armstrong went well.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> embroidery discussion went well.
- Theatre, Seth is working on expanding its use.
- Church School is expanding: they are doing buddies, older kids buddy-up with a younger child, and it has been good.
- Wednesday night activities continue to be busy.

## **Interim Minister's Report – Daniel Wolpert**

- Dan has been teaching 5 Wisdoms classes and the Purposes of the Church; both have been going well.
- Working on getting the Call Committee up and running.

## **Leadership Day / Embroideries Update, Paula**

- **Leadership Day:** Book of Job being read wasn't the best thing. But the discussion about "what is offensive about the embroideries?" was good, and it created some good conversation. We lost time with the Job reading which would have been good for the discussions on the embroideries and what each Board could do to help undo racism at Plymouth.
- **Embroideries:**
  - There are many perspectives that surround the embroideries. Paula shared many of the comments that she has heard about the embroideries (e.g., discussion on the process; who decides?) She feels that it comes under the purview of the Leadership Council; the Council could decide how we decide.
  - Four major options: (1) Status Quo; (2) Take it down with repentance; (3) Leave it up with confession and comment; (4) Take it down for a year and then more discussion. Any choice will bring consequences.

## **Small Group Discussions**

- The Leadership Council broke into four groups to consider each of the above four options. The groups then shared their list of consequences. Allison captured the lists.

## **Small Group Process Proposal**

- Beth and Seth proposed that we create talking circles to bring 5-8 people together with a clergy member, a Deacon, and representative from the Leadership Council to talk about options for dealing with the embroideries. These would happen over the course of Lent, and they would be offered as a Lenten practice. Circles would be a conversation about the embroideries. **Agreed** by the Leadership Council.

## **Board of Finance and Administration Spotlight, Eric Olsen**

- Eric shared the purpose of the Board. He complimented the make-up of the Board. Paula and Annette Able attend their meetings also. They oversee the Archives, buildings and grounds committees, investment committee, legacy committee, personnel committee, and stewardship committee.
- They oversee the regular financial statements. The budget is proposed by the Senior Minister and reviewed by the Board, and then jointly shared for approval by the Deacons. They oversee the capital campaign. Also manage the personnel and investment aspects of Plymouth. Only socially responsible investments are part of the endowment portfolio.

## **Housekeeping**

- Deacons created a standing Nominating Committee. The Secretary and Leadership Chair-Elect will serve on this committee. Starting now.
- Tour of the Capital this Saturday and March 16. To attend, or for more information, contact Allison.
- Last embroidery session is on March 17.
- A Call Search Committee is being put together. There will be a slate put forth to the congregation for a vote.
- A Racial Justice bibliography is now on the website.

## **Next Meeting**

- Next meeting on **Wednesday, March 27, 2019** at 6:00 pm. We will discuss the Christmas Festival.

- April will be a report by Racial Justice.

**Adjourn**

---

*Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Eichten, filling in for Mike McCallister, Secretary*