



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 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 (Co-chair Racial Justice Initiative), Lynn Moline (Growth Task Force), John Cairns

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Accepted nomination of Mike Crane to serve on the Board of Community Life through June 2020.

Item 3. Accepted nomination of Jenny French to serve on the Board of Worship through June of 2019.

Item 4. All boards will try to identify someone from the board, or from a committee, to participate in the planning of the upcoming Christmas Festival.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation / Prayer

- Offered by Karen Barstad, a reading of a poem by Hillary Ann Farley titled This is a Poem, from *Miracles: Poems by Children of the English-speaking World*, collected by Richard Lewis.

Ministers' Reports

Acting Senior Minister's Report – Paula Northwood

- Sundays feeling energetic and good. Worth celebrating and remembering.
- Financially, almost a month ahead in receipts.
- Philip's celebrations have been positive and well attended.
- Special Sunday on May 12, Jim Gertmenian was invited to write a hymn, and he will also preach.
- First service is continuing to grow and/or maintain high attendance for the chapel. We really need to think about when this service will move.

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.

- There is a project this summer to re-sand the floor in the Sanctuary. Some of the front pews will be replaced with pew chairs. These will give more flexibility and lots of options. May make Sanctuary better for hosting the first service.
- Meeting with Textile Expert from MIA to learn about options for the embroideries.

Beth Faeth, Minister for Congregational Care

- Highlight board report about activities around Easter, such as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and three services on Easter.
- Second Service will move to the theater in June and July, beginning Memorial Day weekend.
- On worship themes, the purposes have almost been covered, and new themes will come in June.
- Lenten conversations begin on Saturday. Some dates are full, some are still open for attendees.
- Beth starting a book study tomorrow on *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*, by Anne Lamott.

Dan Wolpert, Interim Minister

- Winding down time here, feeling more and more like a ghost.
- Continuing to do work around the envisioning pieces and Lenten conversations.
- Five Wisdoms class continues to be very good.
- Growth Task Force continuing well.

Leadership Council Business

New Board Members

- Mike Crane is nominated for Board of Community Life. Deb read biography on behalf of Emi. Will become a member for remainder of this year and next year. **Agreed.**
- Jenny French is nominated for the Board of Worship, to fill a vacancy for a seat that serves through the remainder of this year. Will try to work out overlap between choir and Board. **Agreed.**
- Looking for member of the Personnel Committee, ideally someone with HR expertise, but not a hard requirement. If have any ideas, please send to Deb.

Nominating Committee, Mike McCallister

- Mike will give an update on the nominations process:
 - The Nominating Committee will be responsible for gathering a list of potential board members for each board and developing a slate for each board.
 - We will start by looking to the Board Chairs and the Deacons to identify the needs.
 - Self-nominations will be solicited from the congregation at large, through mid-April.
 - A member from the Nominating Committee will review potential board members with each of the chairs to gather their input and we'll be asking board chairs to call identified candidates to invite them to join their board.
 - However, we will not be reviewing and vetting all the candidates at a Leadership Council meeting as we've done in the past.
 - We should probably clarify whether the Leadership Council will need to vote on the slate of candidates before it goes to the congregation though.
- All Board Chairs should provide to Mike, Sarah, and Deb a list of all returning or re-upping board members, suggestions for candidates for their boards, and suggestions for chairs if they are leaving that position. Requested by Monday, April 1st.

Completion of Year-End Reports, Mary Welfling, related by Deb Fowler

- Mary will send details on the year-end reporting process. Will also double-check on the job descriptions. Due date is May 1 for groups/committees that want their reports available for the Board reports. Board annual reports due May 7.

Decision Process and Timeline for the Embroideries

- April 24th Leadership Council meeting will be held jointly with the Deacons. Will likely try to bring forward a proposal / decision out of this meeting.
 - Would like to bring 1-3 recommendations during that meeting. Would like to distribute in advance.
 - Small groups in the previous Leadership Council meeting proposed Lenten Conversations going through April 20. Will provide additional input for the decision about the embroideries.

- Note taker will capture life giving solutions.
 - Notes will be sent to Allison, then distributed to the Leadership Council before April 24.
- The Racial Justice Initiative is also working on a set of recommendations, meeting on them next week, and expect to bring them forward to the Leadership Council.
- Also soliciting a proposal from the Needlers.
- Need to consider how to communicate with the congregation after the decision is made.
 - Deacons having Congregational Meeting on April 28 to vote on the Search Committee.
 - Also have a meeting on the calendar for the May 5, Sunday Forum, which could be used to update the congregation on the process, recommendation.

Recommendations for the Christmas Festival Going Forward, Becky Dougherty

- Vision is to move it to an all-Church, all-generations opportunity to celebrate Advent, with lots of participation from members, boards, youth, etc.
- Will have an overall committee. Will seek representation from all boards. Seeking some ownership from the different boards for their portions.
- **Agreed:** All boards will try to identify someone from the board, or from a committee, to participate in the planning of the upcoming Christmas Festival. Please target the next Leadership Council meeting.
- Target early-May, maybe June, get together to kick off.

Growth Task Force Update, Lynn Moline:

- Finished social discernment process. Generated 100+ individual ideas, ranging from small to sweeping.
- Sorted the list of ideas into 10 categories. These categories are avenues of growth.
 - **Community and fellowship within**
 - Growth in communication within
 - Connection with our neighbors
 - Use of physical assets and space
 - Social justice
 - **Radical hospitality and service**
 - Worship
 - **Personal spiritual development**
 - Name recognition
 - Financial security
- Prioritized/ranked categories. Top three are bolded above.
- Realized there are cause and effect relationships between them.
- Projected end date: Targeting end of April, with a readout for Boards and the Leadership Council.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting, with the Deacons, **Wednesday, April 24, 2019** at 6:00 pm

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
 Mike McCallister, Secretary