



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No	
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>
	X	Jamie Bonczyk (2019)
■		Andrea Bubula (2021)
X		Jenny French
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

Yes	No	
■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>
■		Karl Jones (2019)
	X	Jasper Jonson (2019)
	X	Penelope Needham (2020)
■		Maureen Tanis (2021)

GUESTS: Rebecca Smith & Peter Eichten from Racial Justice Initiative

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2.

Item 3.

Focusing Ourselves

Opening Thought: Karen

Karen offered an opening prayer

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

Racial Justice Initiative: guests facilitate discussion

- Question posed to board members: If you thought the congregation was ready for it, what should we talk about or be doing?
 - Would like to see our congregation be ‘unsettled’ about looking at how my life as a white person makes life harder for people of color. Be active in the question.
 - For us, as a congregation, to look at our white privilege and how it shows up in all we do
 - Directly ask: How does this issue affect your life? How do you spend your time addressing it?
 - Can’t assume racial justice is important to every single person in the congregation
 - Where do we start?
 - How many people in the congregation have been involved in the previous racial justice offerings?
 - We are in the ‘waking up’ mode. The embroideries have been a catalyst for conversation. Some people don’t see the embroideries as a racial justice issue.
 - There is a tendency at Plymouth to “make it easy” and “not uncomfortable”
 - Simpson’s Shelter will be closing. Is this an opportunity for Plymouth to open our doors to more homeless people?
 - What do we want to be as a church? What does God want us to do?
 - There is ‘classism’ here. People who don’t dress up to a certain level get different looks.
- Recommended article: “10 Myths White People Believe about Racism” from the Christian Century
- The Leadership Council would like each board to come up with an action plan that would work to undo racism at Plymouth.
- Racism & white privilege at Plymouth – how do we identify it and how do we develop plans to address it?
 - It is more than how we treat people of color.
 - We live in a white-dominant culture
 - It is hard to see how that culture oppresses others.
 - What can we do as a board to identify structural issues that oppress people of color?
 - What they have heard so far are ideas for charity, but not structural change
- Rebecca will be identifying events with racial justice focus and add them to Plymouth calendar
- Things we do well at Plymouth, think about using what we already do well
 - Pledge (action as well as money)
 - Read a lot
 - Activists for certain issues
- Make Racial Justice a priority
- A total of 150 people participated in the “Personal Lenses & Collective Environments” sessions led by Colette Campbell and Jonathan Stuart during 2016 and 2017.
- It might be easy for some people to feel like ‘racial justice is already being addressed’
- James Baldwin: white people know one thing, and the one thing they know is that they don’t want to be black and that is all they need to know (not an exact quote)
- My Grandmother’s Hands – a book Rebecca recommends

Holy Week services – last-minute preparations & duties

- Maundy Thursday (with Communion)
 - Small attendance at Maundy Thursday service – estimate 100
 - Andrea will handle the bread and will choose the type of bread
 - Service starts at 7 pm
 - Nancy & Andrea will set up Communion at church starting at 2:30 pm
 - Need 6 readers for Tenebrae – extinguish 1 candle after each reading. Will ask John GL to turn off 1 set of lights after each reading. The sanctuary should be dark while Jenny sings “Were You There”
 - Will only need 2 stations for intinction – 3 ministers plus Karl Jones will administer the elements.

- Good Friday – labyrinth in the Chapel
 - 9 am – noon
 - Beth has a prayer sheet that will be available
- Easter
 - Sunrise Service, 6:45 am, someone is bringing treats
 - First Service – Jasper still needs ushers
 - Second Service – need 3 more ushers
- Karl will continue to coordinate ushers through the summer – need to identify a successor, hopefully one of the new board members will agree to take on this responsibility

\$1000 for church growth

- There is enthusiasm on the staff for the podcast idea.
 - Need to create a small group to work on this
 - There are some things that can be accessed on the website but the sound quality is poor
 - Could post something with better sound quality – like a prayer; could also include upcoming events
 - Jenny is working on a similar pilot project at work
- Convene group after Easter
 - Talk with Cody & Allison
 - There is some free software
 - Jenny & Andrea will be part of the planning group (also check with Jamie B.)

Representative/liason needed for Christmas Festival 2019

- Need someone from this board to be a liaison with Christmas Festival – Maureen Tanis volunteered to be the liaison.
- There will probably be a meeting in June
- Board of Community Life will take care of the food
- Board of Spiritual Formation is thinking this isn't under their current mission
- Leadership Council would like each board to take on some responsibility

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, May 15, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- Karl agreed to chair the meeting, since Karen will be in France
- Opening thought by: Andrea
- Closing thought by: Nancy

Going Forth from this Space

Closing thought: Maureen

Ephesians 4:3.....make every effort to preserve unity with peace binding us together

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*