PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church Council Minutes, March 26, 2019, Greenwood Room
Mark Rosenbury, Moderator; Pam Kenyon, Moderator-Elect


Voting Members Absent: Pam Kenyon, Rick Miller, Jon Reinders, Annette Weeber

Others Present: Christopher Goodson, Erika Hale, Reverend Nikira Hernandez-Evans, Jennifer Hines, Reverend Doctor Matthew Mardis-LeCroy, Reverend Doctor Valerie Miller-Coleman, Reverend Laura Robinson, Mark Rosenbury, Reverend LeAnn Stubbs, Noelle Trevillyan, Susan Waller

Introductions & Welcome: Mark Rosenbury called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions: Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy gave thanks for the witness we have been given of a God who loves all people. He asked that we be in prayer for our United Methodist Church friends.

Minutes: January 29, 2019—Motion to approve, Pam Duffy; second, Beth Stelle Jones. Minutes approved as submitted.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND OLD BUSINESS
Subject: Proposal to Add Youth Executive Committee (YEC) as a Voting Member of the Plymouth Church Council, Erika Hale, YEC Chair; Noelle Trevillyan, YEC Chair-Elect
  • Will vote at the April 23, 2019, Church Council meeting on adding the Youth Executive Committee to the Church Council as a voting member.
  • Question will be added to the May 2019 Annual Meeting agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Arts, Memorials & Architectural Changes: No report.

Personnel: No report.

Plymouth Foundation: Report submitted by Mary Ann Beard is attached.

Plymouth Women: No report.

Stephen Ministry: No report.

Transition into Ministry (TiM): No report.

BOARD REPORTS
Benevolences: No report.

Christian Education: No report.

Christian Social Action: No report.

Christian Stewardship: Beth Stelle Jones
  • Nominated Jennifer Geiner to serve a one-year term. Motion approved.

Deacons: Report submitted by Fred Dorr is attached.
Membership: Report submitted by Nancy Landess is attached.

Music and Fine Arts: No report.

Spiritual Growth: No report.

Trustees: Report submitted by Cheryl Morton is attached.
  • Cheryl Morton moved that John Harri be approved to serve a two-year term on the Board of Trustees. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Member at Large: Mary Riche
  • Reminded the council of the Labyrinth in Waveland Hall on Holy Saturday, April 20.

STAFF REPORTS: No staff reports.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Moved by Mary Riche; second, Irene Hardisty. Motion approved.

NEXT MEETING: April 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Greenwood Room.

BOARDS’ NOMINATING MEETING CONVENED: Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy at 7:29 p.m.
  • Nomination draft and releasing process reviewed.
  • Explained items to include in the telephone contact with potential board members.
    Return information to Paula Wilkerson by April 15. Slate of new members ready to vote on by second week in May.
      o Describe board responsibilities to potential member.
      o If a “yes,” get name, year joined church and a personal comment.
      o Invite them to annual meeting. Names are put into nomination at annual meeting.
  • Members engaged in new-member selection process.

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Mardis-LeCroy

BOARDS’ NOMINATING MEETING adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Knodle, Secretary
March Plymouth Church Council Boards Reports

Plymouth Church Foundation, Mary Ann Beard

- As of January 1, 2019, the Plymouth Foundation total assets to date were $8,208,670. This includes restricted assets for TiM totaling $1,108,890. There has been a gain in market value of $418,531.47 year to date. Total net income year to date was $420,938.
- The board approved the 2019 competitive grant pool in the amount of $75,000. This is the same amount as last year.
- Grant applications: The board will review and approve competitive grants at the April meeting. Grant applications are due to the grant committee by April 1. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to apply and possibly receive a grant for the ministries your board supports and is planning for this year. Grant application link: https://www.plymouthchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Plymouth-Foundation-Grant-Application-Fillable-Form.pdf

Board of Deacons, Fred Dorr

- Pancake Supper: A record number of tickets were sold for this year’s event which translated into the largest known contribution to the Pastors’ Discretionary Fund. The net amount contributed was $4,634.
- Maundy Thursday Services: Deacon sign-up is complete for the Maundy Thursday Service. The rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Good Friday Services: All slots have been filled for the service.
- Easter Sunday Services: Deacon men will wear pastel bow ties with the Deacon women wearing pastel blouses. All slots are filled.
- Funerals: There are three funerals scheduled for this month.
- Social Committee: The end-of-the-year get together, which includes the new class of Deacons, is scheduled for May 31, 5:30 p.m., at Beth Koenig’s house.
- Central Iowa Shelter and Services Dinner: The next Shelter dinner is Wednesday, March 27. Deacon sign-up for that event is complete.
- Staff Report: Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy said staff and the Long Term Planning Task Force are discussing staffing issues in light of the probability of Rev. Valerie Miller-Coleman being called to senior ministry in Lawrence, KS, and the resignation of Rachael Corpus as the education coordinator. The task force is also looking at how to balance income and expenses as well as membership and another round of strategic planning. Rev. Mardis-LeCroy also has been in discussions with author Alan Hilton about coming to Plymouth Church. Mr. Hilton has written a book, entitled House United, which talks about overcoming polarization in today’s environment and how to have courageous conversations.

Board of Membership, Nancy Landess

- We are researching ways to add “welcoming” signage to the Welcome Desk.
- Church Membership Role Report: Of the 209 letters mailed in January 2019 to out-of-state members, who have not pledged to or attended Plymouth in more than five years, 129 did not respond in any way, as requested in the letter, as of the end of February. On March 12, the Board of Membership voted to deactivate the 129 names from the church role. While they will be listed as non-members, the names will remain in the database and can be re-activated at any time, if the person requests.

Board of Trustees, Cheryl Morton

- Trustees met in March to review the February financial results and the forecast for the year. February income was $2,500 below budget and expenses were about $5,200 below budget. With the recently announced and pending staff changes, the full year forecast has resulted in anticipated savings of $61,000. The 2019 budget contained a "to find" of $40,000 and a projected reserve usage of $86,000. The forecast shows that the $40,000 "to find" is forecasted to be delivered through timing of filling open staff roles and the usage of reserves has dropped by $21,000 from $86,000 to $65,000.
- The Line of Credit for the Tower restoration that Church Council approved last month will be signed for and closed at the end of March.