PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Church Council Minutes, May 28, 2019, Greenwood Room  
Mark Rosenbury, Moderator; Sally Pederson, Moderator-Elect

Voting Members Present: John Childers, Franklin Codel, Judy Diedrichs, Fred Dorr, Pam Duffy, Jodi Gruening, Irene Hardisty, Kirk Johnson, Beth Stelle Jones, Linda Knodle, Nancy Landess, Deb Ledesma, Jon Merkle, Cheryl Morton, Sally Pederson, Jon Reinders, Mary Riche, Terri Sterk, Annette Weeber

Voting Members Absent: Kerry Gumm, Rick Miller, Christine Woods

Others Present: Mary Ann Beard, Reverend Lindsey Braun, Deb Brookhart, Tracy Codel, Cindy Eaton-Eklund, Christopher Goodson, Reverend Nikira Hernandez-Evans, Karen Jeske, David Johnson, Reverend Doctor Matthew Mardis-LeCroy, Mary Pearson, Mark Rosenbury, Reverend LeAnn Stubbs, Lorna Truck, Susan Waller, Jared Walter

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

Devotions: Jodi Gruening used as her inspiration an online quote from Robert Glazer.

Minutes: April 23, 2019—Motion to approve, Pam Duffy; second, Beth Stelle Jones. Minutes approved as submitted.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND OLD BUSINESS
Subject: Connections Survey, Karen Jeske, Connections Coordinator/TiM Coordinator
- Walked the Church Council through the focUS Insights Survey Results 2019.
- Reviewed the process of creating conversations among church members.
- Worship, connections, growth and service are key elements.
- Key findings show that satisfaction ratings are good throughout the survey.

Subject: Appointment of By-Laws Governance Committee, Mark Rosenbury
- Mary Riche nominated Rocky Morton. Second, Annette Weeber. Motion approved.

Subject: Member at Large, Mark Rosenbury
- Mary Riche nominated Rocky Morton. Second, Annette Weeber. Motion approved.

Subject: Long-Range Planning Task Force Update and Proposals, Mark Rosenbury
- Reverend Sarai Rice provided an assessment of staffing resources.
- Full assessment to be provided to the Church Council in June.
- Mark Rosenbury presented the members of the Director of Operations and Finance Search Committee. They are as follows:
  - Board of Trustees—Franklin Codel
  - Plymouth Church Foundation—Mary Ann Beard
  - Board of Stewardship—Paula Bittick
  - House and Space Committee—Dave Miller
  - At Large—Mark Schuling
  - At Large—Kerry Gumm
  - At Large—To be named by committee.
- Pam Duffy moved acceptance of the members. Second, Kirk Johnson. Motion approved.
- Remainder of the assessment suggestions tabled until the June 25 Church Council meeting.
COMMITTEE REPORTS
Arts, Memorials & Architectural Changes: No report.

Personnel: No report.

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

Plymouth Women: Annette Weeber
• Have awarded annual scholarships.
• Held the final Lunch & Learn of the program year.

Stephen Ministry: Mary Pearson
• Continuing education is scheduled.
• Will be focusing on aging issues.
• Retreat to be held in September.

Transition into Ministry (TiM): Karen Jeske
• New TiM Associate Minister, Reverend Mary Kate Buchanan, will join us June 30.

Willits Committee: Jared Walter
• Capital City Pride Parade is Sunday, June 16.
• Need volunteers to work in the Plymouth Church booth.

BOARD REPORTS
Benevolences: Irene Hardisty
• Held new board-member orientation.
• Special offerings, including Easter, have been down this year.

Christian Education: Report submitted by Deb Ledesma is attached.

Christian Social Action: Jon Reinders
• Completing action plans for various committees.
• Two English as a Second Language students are working on their citizenship requirements.

Christian Stewardship: Beth Stelle Jones
• Offered that Pam Duffy has many plans for the coming program year.

Deacons: Report submitted by Fred Dorr is attached.

Membership: Nancy Landess
• New member class is Sunday, June 2.

Music and Fine Arts: Judy Diedrichs
• Discussed the closing out of the program year.
• Matins Concert is Sunday, June 2.
• Members from the Anti-Racism Committee presented at the board meeting.

Spiritual Growth: John Childers
• Summer Vespers will be July 11, 18 and 25 in the Sanctuary.
• Working on a Thanksgiving Eve Service of Gratitude.

Trustees: Report submitted by Cheryl Morton is attached.
**NEW BUSINESS:** Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy  
- Carla Cain will be ordained Sunday, June 9, in the Sanctuary. She will consult with churches in the Conference.  
- Linda Knodle moved that Mark Rosenbury sign off on the covenant. Second, Franklin Codel. Motion approved.  
- Franklin Codel moved we rescind last Church Council’s vote on board members for Plymouth Place Senior Housing. Second, Judy Diedrichs. Motion approved. Abstained: Pam Duffy.

**Member at Large:** No report.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Rev. Lindsey Braun**  
- Promoted Vacation Bible School (VBS).  
- Working with the planning committee for UCC Tri-Conference joint annual conference.  
- Working on a story telling event for the conference.

**Cindy Eaton-Eklund**  
- Assistant Lisa Jacobs resigned. Looking for a replacement.

**Christopher Goodson**  
- Reviewing summer concert opportunities.

**Rev. Nikira Hernandez-Evans**  
- Providing support for Boards of Christian Social Action and Education.

**Karen Jeske**  
- Reverend Mary Kate Buchanan will be here June 29/30.  
- Created a program guide for the summer.

**Rev. LeAnn Stubbs**  
- Month of bringing on new board members.  
- Working with the Willits Committee, which is at a crossroads.  
- Sent the Deacons out to do home communion.  
- May is a very busy time.

**Susan Waller**  
- Matins Concert this coming Sunday.  
- Matins Tour will take them to Hudson, OH, to participate in the ordination of Mary Kate Buchanan.

**Matt Mardis-LeCroy**  
- Believe we had a very meaningful conversation tonight.  
- Thanks to Mark Rosenbury, retiring Church Council Moderator, for his exceptional leadership, and to new Moderator Sally Pederson and new Moderator-Elect David Johnson for being willing to step up.  
- Spent some time reflecting on the work that we do.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy

**NEXT MEETING:** June 25, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Greenwood Room

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Knodle, Secretary
**May Plymouth Church Council Boards Reports**

**Plymouth Church Foundation, Mary Ann Beard**
- As of April 30, 2019, the Plymouth Foundation’s total assets were $8,777,735. (This includes restricted assets for TiM totaling $1,283,694.) Total net income was $213,114.
- Grant requests previously approved by the Plymouth Church Council for House United, $6,700, and Staff Assessment, $4,500, were approved.
- Five grant requests, totaling $34,050, were approved. They are:
  - Food Buddies
  - Quilting
  - Staff Retreat
  - Summer Vespers
  - Video Editing
- Two requests were declined because they did not meet the merit of the Plymouth Church Foundation guidelines. One request was returned asking for it to be considered a strategic grant requiring Church Council approval.

**Board of Christian Education, Deb Ledesma**
- Served at five baptisms.
- Recognized Sunday School teachers on May 12, also the last day for classes.
- Vacation Bible School registration is available for attendees and volunteers.
- Anti-Racism Committee presented at the May board meeting.

**Board of Deacons, Fred Dorr**
- New deacon orientation: Will be held on Sunday, May 19, 3-5 p.m.
- Holy Week: All thought Maundy Thursday and Easter services went well and were meaningful services.
- Communion and home communion: Consensus was the communion by intinction with the confirmands went well. The recent home communion was very meaningful to both the Deacons serving as well as the homebound served.
- Funeral: Deacons served at the Harvey Rice memorial service.
- Social committee: Final Deacon social outing of the program year is planned for May 31, 5:30 p.m. All current Deacons and the incoming class, along with spouses/partners, are invited.
- Music and Fine Arts: The Requiem is scheduled for November 4, 2019, 7 p.m.
- Thank you third-year Deacons: The outgoing Deacons reflected on what it meant to serve and were thanked for their service.

**Board of Trustees, Cheryl Morton**
- April income was $140,378, which was below budget by about $43,000. However, year-to-date income is about $12,500 below budget, due mainly to payment of 2018 pledges this year.
- April expenses of $171,000 were below budget by $17,800. Year-to-date expenses are about $44,000 below budget.
- To date, we are approximately $31,700 on the plus side.
- Things to be aware of:
  - No new-members pledges to date.
  - Non-pledge income is down approximately $40,000 to date.
  - Search expenses have been added to the budget projection.
  - Projecting these trends at our current staffing level, allowing for a three-month gap for unfilled positions, $90,000 of reserves may be used by year end. Several of our top donors are 80-plus years.
  - The financial position remains fluid until we receive recommended changes for our staffing configuration.