PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church Council Minutes, June 25, 2019, Greenwood Room
Sally Pederson, Moderator; David Johnson, Moderator-Elect

Voting Members Present: Franklin Codel, Judy Diedrichs, Jason Dreckman, Pam Duffy, Irene Hardisty, David Johnson, Linda Knodle, Jon Merkle, Rocky Morton, Sid Ramsey, Jon Reinders, Terri Sterk, Bonnie Sunderland, Lorna Truck

Voting Members Absent: Wendy Bellus, Jodi Gruening, Eliza Ovrom, Elizabeth Talbert, Christine Woods

Others Present: Mary Ann Beard, Reverend Lindsey Braun, Deb Brookhart, Bev Burns, Cindy Eaton-Eklund, Christopher Goodson, Karen Jeske, Reverend Doctor Matthew Mardis-LeCroy, Sally Pederson, Shelly Soorholtz, Reverend LeAnn Stubbs, Susan Waller

Introductions & Welcome: Sally Pederson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions: Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy circulated the devotions sign-up sheet. He shared what it’s like to be him during this period in the life of Plymouth Church. And he highlighted the things that are currently predominant in his concerns:
- Plymouth Tower reconstruction
- Staff openings
- No updated strategic plan
- Believes the future of Plymouth Church is about who shows up in the next 12 months.

Minutes: May 28, 2019—Motion to approve, Pam Duffy; second, Irene Hardisty. Minutes approved as submitted.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND OLD BUSINESS
Subject: Long-Range Planning Task Force Report and Recommendations—Sally Pederson
- Sally Pederson distributed the report to Church Council members.
- Rev. Mardis-LeCroy reviewed the Staff Team Reorganization. Has been approved by the Plymouth Church Personnel Committee.
- Opened the floor for questions and answers.
- Pam Duffy moved Staff Team Recommendations on page 2 of the report be approved. Motion approved.
- Pam Duffy moved the Consultant Report be accepted and received by the Church Council.
  - Rev. Mardis-LeCroy reviewed the report for the Church Council.
  - Sally Pederson recommended reading "Inside the Large Congregation" by Susan Beaumont.
- Motion approved.
- Sally Pederson submitted the following names to be appointed to the Long-Range Planning Committee:
  - Deb Ledesma
  - John McCormally
  - Anna Osborn
  - Ruth Staplin
  - At-large member
- Linda Knodle moved acceptance. Second, Judy Diedrichs. Motion approved.

Subject: Plymouth Place Board of Directors, Franklin Codel
- Reviewed the history, especially the governance, of Plymouth Place.
- Requested the Church Council support the appointment of directors due to reclassification of supporting relationship.
• Pam Duffy moved to rescind the motion regarding the Plymouth Place Board of Directors passed at the May 28, 2019, Church Council meeting and return to the approved motion passed at the February 26, 2019, Church Council. Second, Irene Hardisty. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts, Memorials & Architectural Changes: No report.

Personnel: David Johnson
• Committee met the previous week. The Senior Minister annual evaluation was conducted.
• Conducted exit interviews with the Reverend Doctor Valerie Miller-Coleman and Jennifer Hines.
• Reviewed the Long-Range Planning consultant’s report by the Reverend Sarai Rice.
• Motion made by Jon Reinders to elect Kerry Gumm as a first-year committee member. Second, Jason Dreckman. Motion approved.

Plymouth Foundation: No report.

Plymouth Women: Bonnie Sunderland
• Last Lunch & Learn of the program year was May 16. Next will be September 19.

Stephen Ministry: Deb Brookhart and Bev Burns
• There are 18 active care givers and 17 care receivers.
• Preparing for a new class in 2020.

Transition into Ministry (TiM): Karen Jeske
• Reverend Mary Kate Buchanan starts June 30.

BOARD REPORTS

Benevolences: Report submitted by Irene Hardisty is attached. Additionally:
• Asked Church Council members to sign up to serve two meals at the Homeless Shelter.

Christian Education: Report submitted by Jon Merkle is attached.

Christian Social Action: Report by Jon Reinders.
• Elizabeth Talbert will serve as Vice Chair for the coming program year.
• Fund raising activities are being reviewed.
• Will be serving Homeless Shelter meals in July.

Christian Stewardship: No report.

Deacons: Report submitted by Jodi Gruening is attached. Additionally:
• Moved the acceptance of Nancy Strickland and Jo Mickleson to the board. Motion approved.

Membership: No report.

• Discussed end-of-year business.
• Serving a meal at the Homeless Shelter June 26.

Spiritual Growth: Report by Linda Knodle.
• Summer Vespers will be July 11, 18 and 25 in the Sanctuary.
• Inspiration Lounge Library is coming along and should be ready early fall.

Trustees: Report submitted by Franklin Codel is attached.
NEW BUSINESS: Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy
- Provided copies to Church Council members of the Ministry Action Plan (MAP) guidelines. This is a tool for evaluation and planning within boards and committees.
- Sally Pederson nominated Linda Knodle as Church Council Secretary for the coming program year. Motion approved.

Member at Large: Reported by Rocky Morton.
- Plymouth By-Laws Committee is reviewing. Has not been done for a decade.

STAFF REPORTS
Rev. Lindsey Braun
- Thanked Vacation Bible School (VBS) participants and volunteers.
- Working on a Contact article about the Tri-Conference.
- Brought greetings from former TiM ministers from the church synod.
- Participated in ICE prayer protest at their facility.

Cindy Eaton-Eklund
- Starting interviews this week for a new assistant.
- Summer tends to be a very busy time for Communications.

Christopher Goodson
- Summer is a time of intense planning for the coming program year.
- July Contact article will discuss scheduling adjustments for children on Wednesday night.
- Vocal arts group to be here July 14.
- Chancel Choir to serve two meals at the Homeless Shelter.

Karen Jeske
- Lovely send offs were held for former TiM Associate Minister, Reverend Laura Robinson.
- Reverend Nikira Hernandez-Evans is attending the church synod.
- Connections—Looking at the fall.

Rev. LeAnn Stubbs
- Pride Day was fantastic. Booth staff had a great time. Thanks to all who helped support Plymouth Church’s presence at the Pride Parade.
- Remind folks about the critical nature of the green sheets in the red folders in the sanctuary pews.
- Church Council members to be added to the weekly prayer list.

Susan Waller
- Great Matins Tour with 58 youth and 10 adults.
- Sang at Rev. Mary Kate Buchanan’s ordination and at both church services. Discussed how well the young people represented us.

Matt Mardis-LeCroy
- Expressed appreciation for staff and lay-leader participation and how much they all contribute to this community of faith.
- Noted that today, June 25, is the 62nd anniversary of the United Church of Christ coming into being.

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy

NEXT MEETING: August 27, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Greenwood Room

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

Board of Benevolences, Irene Hardisty

• The Board of Benevolences (BoB) has been gearing up for Year 2019-2020 with a full board. Shawna Lode stepped down as Vice Chair, because of unanticipated obligations, but remains on the board. The Vice Chair remains open at this time. All new board members participated in an orientation meeting.

• Committee Activity: Board members have taken committee liaison positions. Irene Hardisty, Chair, has either met with or has meetings scheduled with all committees to listen to any concerns or ideas. The concerns below have been consistently raised by committee leaders, and we will work with committees to come up with solutions.
  1. Need better way to recruit volunteers/need more volunteers.
  2. Need better way to raise funds or have access to funds.
  3. Concern about “burnout” among committee members, as it becomes a full-time job to volunteer, raise funds and keep committee work going.

• Shelter Meals: A sign-up list will be passed at the June Church Council Meeting. Each board should sign up for two evening meals, which are the 26th and 27th of each month. CISS would like both the meal and drinks to be furnished for approximately 250 people. BoB has set-aside funds to cover “holiday” meals in the event Plymouth Church board or volunteers are not available to serve the meal. Susan Pohl, our liaison, will send out reminders, as well as help get answers to any shelter meal relevant questions, if needed.

Board of Christian Education, Jon Merkle

• One amendment: We need the council to approve two late board appointments to the BCE. They are Erin Davison-Rippey for a three-year term, and Dick Ginther for a one-year term.

• In total:
  o Served at two baptisms.
  o Vacation Bible School starts on June 23.
  o Erin Davison-Rippey will join the board for a three-year term, and Dick Ginther will stay on the board for one more year.

Board of Deacons, Jodi Gruening

• Rev. Matt Mardis-LeCroy: Thanked deacons for handling details for congregants and staff and wanted the deacons to remember they are an extension of the pastoral staff, the worship leaders, ministering to others. He also reviewed the liturgical year with its different themes for the different seasons.

• New business: Deacon introductions, updated agenda format, committee memberships, devotions and the cookie ministry.

• Church Council and staffing report: Rev. Mardis-LeCroy provided updates from the previous Church Council meeting, specifically details on church staffing decisions.

Board of Trustees, Franklin Codel

• There was no Trustees meeting in June.

• Income for May was $141,200, $29,500 less than budget and driven by lower-than-expected pledge income. However, expenses were $28,700 better than budget for the month, so May's bottom line results were in line with budget.

• Looking at the full year, we are expecting to use approximately $75,000 of reserves compared to $83,000 planned for in the budget.

• Items to monitor continue to be non-pledge income, new member pledges and expenses associated with Building/Operations. The timing of new hires will also have an impact on the results for the year.