Plymouth Church Council Minutes
Feb. 23, 2021

Attendees: David Johnson, Jodi Gruening, Emily Tripp, Dave Miller, Lori Fenton, Sid Ramsey, Karen Quance Jeske, Linda Wilker, Sarai Rice, Shana Johnson, Amy Anderson, Lindsey Braun, Susan Waller, Erin Davison-Rippey, Mary Riche, Elizabeth Talbert, Bonnie Sunderland, Kathy DeWald, Rocky Morton, Jeff Marks, Chris Goodson, Mary Kate Buchanan, Rushing Kimball, Hallie Still-Caris, Artis Reis, Lorna Truck, Rex Anderson, Georgia Sheriff, Doug Rumple, Shari Simmons, Lynn Hicks, Matthew Harvey, Deb Brookhart, Alex Moon, Julie Carroll, Emily Chafa, Fritz Craiger, Franklin Codel

Introductions & Welcome: David Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Devotion: Alex Moon

Minutes: Minutes of Jan. 26, 2021 approved as submitted

Special Reports & Old Business:
Financial Summary (Emily Tripp) – no areas of concern to report, highlighted an area related to TiM

Financial Sustainability Study Group (David Johnson) – Franklin Codel & Dick Swanson will co-chair this group. Look at different funding sources and think broadly and creatively about our financial situation for the future. Other members include Ed Bittle, Steve Jacobs, Mark Schuling, Joe Sorenson, Hallie Still-Carris, Mary Ann Beard. Motion to approve formation of group with these members and background mission and charge as delivered, Jodi Gruening Moved, Lorna Truck Seconded, Motion carried unanimously.

Stewardship’s engagement with consulting firms (Lorna Truck and Linda Wilkers) – met goal for number of pledging households but not monetary goal during this past campaign. Historical model for stewardship at Plymouth is not working as well as it used to. Do we bring in a consultant? Do we bring in a director of Development? Consulting Group? Will return in March with more formal presentation and recommendation. Trustees and Stewardship will join to form grant request to get this off the ground.

House and Space Committee Presentation on Building Maintenance: (Dave Miller) – Basically looking at three issues in the near future: general seepage leak into sanctuary and determined after hiring contractor ($650,000); Chillers were installed in 2003, 20-year life span, needs to be addressed; roof damage due to deracho and deterioration of old roof, will have better idea in next month after insurance adjustor looks at it. 3 major projects, 1. Goal of communication that large
expenditure items will need to be addressed. 2. Long-term strategy for timing of repairs and to what extent do we repair building. 3. Funding options. Capital projects. Tonight’s report is about information sharing.

**Church Database, Shelby Next** (Rex Anderson) – Update with PowerPoint presentation, starting with history of database situation, currently working with data analyst to clean up system information, new group structure will be set up and users trained. Should be complete in May, currently on schedule. Accounting migration will be a new project.

**Governance & ByLaws Committee update on next steps** (Artis Reis, Rocky Morton, Mary Riche) – Proposed bylaws present a streamlined structure and add an executive committee component. Plymouth members would retain ultimate authority, and allow members to carry out our mission, motto, and new strategic goal. Documents will be distributed to members in next day or two. Three zoom meetings will be available for congregation members to ask questions, as well as email address to communicate through (plymouthBylaws@gmail.com). Proposed bylaws will be voted on at May meeting.

**Senior Minister Search Committee** (Emily Chafa) – meet every Wednesday, selected Slingshot as search firm, will integrate UCC conference experts as well. (plymouthseniorministersearch@gmail.com)

**Strategic Plan Implementation** (Karen Jeske/Chris Woods) – Karen thanked the boards that sent a great group of committee members. Lenten Practice Makes Plymouth program wraps up the initial communications rollout to the congregation.

**Nominations Discussion in preparation for Annual Meeting** (Jodi Gruening and Sarai Rice) – Jodi said this will be our second year doing this process virtually.
- Mondays and March 8, call for self nominations and congregation nominations
- March 15, boards submit nominee names to Diane Hayes who will qualify them (include red shirted committee members)
- March 19, nominee list will be in March Council packet
- March 23 council meeting, vet final list of nominees.
- April 3-20 boards reach out to potential candidates
- April 27 Council Meeting

**Call for Church Council Secretary:** David asked people to consider who might fill this important position.

**YEC Update** (Susan Waller) – Plymouth HS Youth Program is governed by the Youth Executive Committee. Meet monthly. Shared map of Youth Ministry components, photos of activities/connections.
NEW BUSINESS
None

STAFF REPORTS
LeAnn Stubbs – Stephen Ministers important role during this time, including dispersing Ashes to Go. New Stephen Ministers class coming up soon. Plymouth Lenten Book Study kicked off on Sunday.
Lindsey Braun – ARC offering class Understanding Social Injustice during Lent. Storytelling workshop on zoom.
Chris Goodson – worship staff planning far in advance, music production for worship includes four regular ensembles, highlighted upgrades to production equipment, phonestreaming in operation, gallery exhibits.
Mary Kate Buchanan – contemplated on the concept of waiting.
Rushing Kimball – excited to see where stewardship conversations go, young adult book study coming.
Georgia Sheriff – Family Church School 76 participants for Lent, encouraging families to have church at home and helped with small kits during Lent. Cybersecurity will be added to child and family safety policies.
Cindy Eaton-Eklund – communications fills important role during pandemic.
Karen Quance Jeske – TiM program update at significant crossroads as financial support begins to change over from Lily to Plymouth.
Sarai Rice – moving on a trajectory toward more outside worship in addition to virtual services. Shout out for addition of altarscapes added to worship services.

Closing Prayer, Sarai Rice

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.