Church Council
March 23, 2021

In attendance: Cindy Eaton-Eklund, Emily Tripp, Diane Hayes, Irene Hardisty, Jodi Gruening, Liza Ovrom, Bonnie Sunderland, Julie Carroll, Lorna Truck, Sid Ramsey, Alex Moon, Amy Anderson, Caroline Valentine, Christopher Goodson, David Johnson, Elizabeth Talbert, Erin Davison-Rippey, Fritz Craiger, Georgia Sheriff, Jeff Marks, John McCormally, Karen Quance Jeske, Linda Wilker, Lindsey Braun, Mary Kate Buchanan, Mary Riche, Matthew Harvey, Pam Kenyon, Pam Duffy, Rushing Kimball, Sarai Rice, Susan Waller, Wendy Bellus

Devotions: Fritz Craiger

Minutes: Feb. 23, 2021 Add Irene Hardisty as attending, Minutes approved as amended and corrected.

Special Reports and Old Business

Financial Update (Emily Tripp): We remain close to budget in the second quarter. Submitted a second application for forgiveness of bank PPE loan.

Amended strategic grant for continuation of Georgie Sheriff’s contract (Emily Tripp): Motion to approve by John McCormally, seconded by Elizabeth Talbert. Passed unanimously.

Church Health and Safety Task Force Update (Julie Carroll):

1. Review updated and revised charter. To reflect that the group has evolved more into a think-tank than a group of experts. Motion to approve by Amy Anderson, seconded by Sid Ramsey. Discussion. Motion to adopt CHAS’s new charter passed.

2. CHAS recommends the return to in-person sanctuary service May 2 under the following conditions: timing, access to building, other details. Discussion, Alex Moon, asked about capacity for visitors. Irene Hardisty, discomfort that people will misconstrue that Church Council guarantees people will be safe. Consensus is that there are no guarantees. Fritz Craiger, will virtual service continue and the answer is yes. Motion to return to in-person sanctuary service as recommended by CHAS made by Alex Moon, seconded by Jodi Gruening. Motion passed unanimously.

Senior Minister Search Update (Caroline Bettis): meet weekly on Wed evenings. Mike Goldsbury from Slingshot Group met with church leaders. Released survey for congregation on Monday, respond by April 5 to help prepare church profile.

Bylaws and Governance Committee update (Mary Riche): completed review by congregation, 19 people submitted written comments, 11 people attended first zoom, 12 attended second and 18 attended third meeting. April 5 deadline final proposed doc will be available for legal review. Church Council will see it again on April 23 for April 27 meeting.
Nomination discussion/annual meeting prep (Jodi Gruening): Board of Trustees 4 yr term, proposed bylaws sets a 3 yr term. Spouse/domestic partner cannot serve on a board at the same time (varies with proposed bylaws). These nomination discussions are governed by current bylaws. Diane Hayes prepared document of nominated names. Names were examined and boards identified.

Stewardship (Linda Wilker): total giving to charities has increased, but percentage to churches is significantly trending down. We continue to get a smaller piece of the pie, even though total giving is slightly up 2021 over 2020. Need to think differently about stewardship at Plymouth. In discussion with stewardship consulting firms, Horizon and another competing firm, Generis. BCS submitting competitive grant applications to cover initial discover phase with a consulting firm.

New Business: none

Member at Large: no report

Staff Reports:
Georgia Sheriff: preparing church school rooms for in person worship
Lindsey Braun: share stories of Joy with her, confirmation classes in progress and will help lead Easter vigil.
Rushing Kimball: Echo stewardship update, starting book study with young adults
Mary Kate Buchanan: working with dancers for holy week
Susan Waller: Joy to work with MKB for good Friday service. Mental Health and Wellness programs on Wednesdays with youth. Youth essay about writing letters with older adult member and it was picked up by the NY Times.
Karen Quance Jeske: working on a new spiritual gift discernment tool to transition members of congregation into ministry.
Cindy Eaton-Eklund: sabbatical begins April 1 and will be studying improving social and digital media to help Plymouth grow.
Christopher Goodson: spinning many plates, brass included Easter worship, bells are practicing now, warmer weather means outside programming including a summer lawn concert series, Stations of the Cross currently in the gallery.
Sarai Rice: concentrating on processes, highlighted Easter, and progress on Shelby.

Closing Prayer: Sarai Rice
Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m