

Church Council  
28 March 2017

Members present: Doug Eason, Treasurer, Doni Mooberry Slough, Stewardship, Stephen Carttar, Membership,, Marc Mahlios, Deacons, Susan McCarthy, History Committee, Mark Simpson, Moderator, Derrick Hurst, Christian Education, Phil Mitchell, At-Large,, Peter Luckey, Senior Pastor, Eleanor McCormick, Associate Pastor

Staff Present:

Barb Holland, Business Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Mark at 7:08 p.m.

Peter opened the meeting by discussing equipping the Saints for Ministry and Discipleship. He recognized Doug Beene and celebrated the discipleship he exhibited in his life. Peter encouraged the Council to regularly give thanks to and recognize the disciples among us. Peter read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm to remind us of God's promise and comfort to us.

The February minutes were approved as submitted (Eason/Carttar).

Doug reported that we have received 15.4% of our planned receipts for the year (through February 2017) and have spent 14% of our planned expenses. He reminded the council that we have \$39,000 in prepaid income in 2017 that is boosting our income for the first four months of 2017. (This is money paid for January through April under the May thru April pledge cards.). Without this additional income, we would be behind where Doug would be comfortable with us being. He reminded us, however, that we are never really certain of our income until after Easter. The reports were received (Mitchell/Hurst).

Peter reported that the Vision and Ministry Task Force will meet on 15 April from 9 until Noon and work to put together a list of the priorities that the group should be working on. John Nalbandian and Jonathan Morris will meet with staff on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to work on implementation. Sometime after August 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a congregational meeting called to vote on moving forward with the strategic planning. Congregational input will be solicited prior to the August meeting.

Peter reported that the personnel committee has met several times, but there really was not information to report regarding the Membership Associate. On 4 April, the Personnel Committee will meet and have a thoughtful discussion regarding communication needs, coordinating activities, and looking at a broad plan for staffing that will eventually be brought back to Council at the April meeting.

Mark noted that Peter is in charge of the administrative operations of the Church. The Personnel Committee sets policy and provides a sounding board, but Peter is in charge of the decisions.

Alice Ann Johnston joined the group to discuss hospitality and safety issues.

Stephen reported that there have been some thefts in the coat room and the choir room, so the role of hospitality and safety is very important. The membership board and hospitality and safety committee have been discussing the possibility of the hospitality and safety volunteers also serving as greeters. This would require volunteers to be at Plymouth by 9 on Sunday morning. Alice Ann pointed out that the downside to this is that only Board Members would be greeters under this scenario. She is hopeful that Board Members will invite additional congregational members and friends to volunteer as greeters. Alice Ann recommended that new member lists still be sent to board members so that they can be contacted by Board Members and invited to be greeters. While members of the Church Boards will be responsible for these positions, others who are not on Boards can still volunteer/serve.

Alice Ann requested that Boards take these volunteer roles seriously, and that we continue to remember that it is crucial to our future and the mission of our Church that we engage members and get to know each other.

Eleanor asked Stephen about training for volunteers. This is still being developed, but Stephen acknowledged that it is very important and needs to be carefully considered. Eleanor pointed out that training was important for greeting as well as safety. Kay is working on developing this information and determining the best method for delivery.

Barb expressed concern that if Board Members are going to recruit others, they do so well in advance of their assigned Sunday so staff can communicate any necessary safety information in advance.

One possible solution is that Board Members could recruit outside members to be greeters but the Board Member would still be responsible for safety and hospitality.

Phil suggested that there could be a 'lead' and an 'assistant' since we cover both the north and south entries to the Church.

Stephen made a motion that the hospitality and safety volunteer position on Sunday mornings be combined with the role of greeter effective April 1st. Doni seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mark will notify the Board Chairs about the change in procedure.

Peter noted that he has really be enjoying the Micah Moments. He has been pleased with the Sunday morning services.

Mark noted that they still need more 'Micah Moments' between now and Easter Sunday. Margaret Kramar is coordinating that effort.

Peter announced that we have a full slate of members for the Endowment Board. Proposed are: Gary Sollars, Pete Curran, Hernan Nieto, Larissa Long (Chair), Linda Gutierrez, Mark Reedy, Marguerite Carlson, and James Dunn. Rich Bireta will be the link from Stewardship Board. The nominations were approved (Eason/Carttar).

Peter and Larissa Long are going to meet with a representative from United Church Funds, the organization that is managing the endowment funds and will report back on information learned.

Eleanor reported that she has not been successful in filling the KS/OK Conference Delegate spots for the annual meeting in Wichita. She has been focused on trying to find someone in the 20-40 age range, but the individuals seem to be overcommitted and unable to get time off work. She will continue to work on finding representatives. She does feel that there has been value to the education process she has gone through with these individuals as she has discussed with them what the Conference is and what happens at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is in October.

Doni reported that last year's established fundraising events were outside the mission spending plan and were designated for OCWM, Justice Matters, and Youth Missions. The Stewardship Board would like to continue with a similar strategy this year, but with a bit more flexibility if the fundraising is more successful than the Mission needs we have identified. The Board would like to add 'debt service' as a fourth possible recipient of the established fundraisers.

Doni reminded the Council that this does not mean that there won't or can't be additional new fundraisers established through the causal giving process. This is simply to address the existing longstanding fundraisers at Plymouth.

Doni made a motion that the proceeds from the established fundraisers this year be designated for OCWM, Justice Matter, Youth Service Trip, and service of the debt. The motion carried. (Eason/Carttar)

Eleanor reported that the 'Simply Smiles' weekend netted greater than \$5,000 for the Youth Service Trip. Brian and Kristen graciously joined us that weekend at no cost to Plymouth.

Eleanor reported that she is hoping to bring 10 more people to South Dakota this year than traveled last year.

Doni reported that the Stewardship Board, with the help of Barb and the Micah Committee, has done a fair amount of research on annual appeal campaigns and would like to propose a new approach this year to funding Mission and Ministry at Plymouth. They are calling the effort an 'Engagement Campaign'. The goal is to educate and engage members. Our demographics at

Plymouth are such that a large portion of our pledge dollars come from givers who are seniors. We need to broaden our funding base.

Tenets of the campaign will include engaging members through smaller groups, which will require a larger number of volunteers for the annual campaign. There will also be a kick-start event (or series of events) for causal giving this summer. Donors are not homogenous, so different messages need to be tailored to different recipients.

The campaign will involve technology, social media, story-telling, education, and recognition. The campaign will start soon after the Lenten season ends.

Important Themes: The budget is about mission and ministry, not about dollars. We will work toward the goal of all Plymouth Members giving out of Gratitude to God for the blessings they have received.

Doni made a motion that Alan Anderson be appointed to serve a three-year term on the Stewardship Board. Doug Eason seconded. Motion carried.

Stephen Carttar made a motion that Kay Bradt be appointed to serve a three-year term on the Membership Board. Doug Eason seconded. Motion carried.

Barb noted that the Board Baskets need to be at the Church by the morning of Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The bake sale is on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and the drawing for the baskets will be on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Doni moved that Steve Ruttinger be appointed to serve on the Deacons Board. Doug seconded. Motion carried.

Peter reported that he would be going on the South Dakota trip. Nancy Thelman will be in the pulpit that Sunday.

There will be a free will offering on Mother's Day for support of our three seminarians. Peter noted that this was approved by the Stewardship Board.

Peter also noted that on Easter there will be an offering for OCWM. Youth Members will talk about their experience attending the national conference.

Preparations are well under way for Holy Week. There will be a sunrise service on Easter Sunday at 6:30 a.m. In Centennial Park.

Eleanor reported that 12 youth and 4 adults attended a weekend at Heifer Ranch in Arkansas to learn about Heifer International. The weekend was inspiring and the programming was well done.

Eleanor noted that a group cancelled a trip to the reservation with Simply Smiles in August, so it is possible that Plymouth will take a self-funded trip (adults) to the reservation to serve.

Mark handed out a proposed contract with Head Start and requested that Council Members review the contract and be prepared to discuss/vote next meeting.

Susan McCarthy reported that the Achning Display Case in the Mayflower Room has been blocked by tables for quite some time. The tables have been moved, and the case is now available for viewing.

The Committee will also start using the Kiosk for displays.

Susan noted that the Committee, at some time in the past, had received \$500/year to pay for expenses. She requested that the Committee be given \$100 for 2017. Doni and Doug will bring this up at the Stewardship Board meeting in April.

The next meeting will be 25 April 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Doni Mooberry Slough for Mary Lake, Clerk