

Plymouth Congregational Church UCC - Council Meeting 11/10/18 – Saturday

Present: Bing Tso, Mike Pierson, Courtney Hashimoto, Debbie Baden, Elizabeth Gordon, Katherine Guthrie, Cindy Anderson, Kyna Shilling, Karen Clark

Joined by Rev Kelle Brown & Rev. Steve Davis

Absent: Madeline Beery, Lori Kaid (Moderator)

***December Church Council meeting:** 12/08/18 (Saturday) at 9:00 AM

Called to Order – 10:25 AM by Vice-Moderator, Bing Tso

Opening prayer – Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Check-in: All

Review of agenda (Bing Tso)

Highlights we really need to talk about include property consultants, 2019 Budget, Plymouth Healing Communities.

***Hiring property consultants:** Discussion /overview

- Rev Steve Davis – overview of proposal
- Current building is #4 of Plymouth Church – every 50 years there has been a new building (the past 2 on the same piece of land). We are at 50 years in 2017 for this building.
- Last mainline denomination in downtown Seattle
- Number of options for use of this land, building: we need to dream about possibility of what is present and what is future
- Look at this decision as our ‘homework piece’ – for awareness of possibilities
- Cost of evaluation/study would be approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000
 - Rev Steve recommends these monies come from Endowment to be paid back in future

Courtney H. spoke to the need to engage the consultant which is Council decision. Need to engage and have Congregational conversations & meetings to keep them in the loop. We need to take the first step.

- Courtney suggested that we look at using some of the money to seed affordable housing in a location (not necessarily downtown) – keeping our commitment to affordable housing but not in high-rent district.

We are going to need Congregational support. Discussion ensued regarding how to approach this study and inform them of Endowment \$\$ needed.

- Annual Meeting 2019: present packet of what we’re considering regarding study of possibilities
- Need to involve Congregational input at multiple points for this to move along

- Motion (Katherine G.): Council recommends that we engage Meriwether Advisors (as consultants) to conduct a strategic site assessment. Funded by distribution from Endowment subject to the approval by Congregation.-for future use of Plymouth Church land/building.
- 2nd by Kyna
- M/S/P

Lead Pastor report (Rev Dr Kelle Brown)

- Spoke about her recent experience at *Parliament of World Religions* (Toronto, Canada): very inspiring and had “wonderful integrative experiences”.
- Reviewed upcoming opportunities at Plymouth and outreach.
- Kyna mentioned that she will get on Kelle’s calendar for upcoming budget needs for

Executive Minister Report (Rev Steve Davis)

Steve correction to Minutes regarding OCWM (last month discussion): didn’t we make a decision to increase to \$100,000 level? We had decreased it to \$95,000.

*Motion: Kyna moved that Budget Committee be responsible to set amount for OCWM.

- 2nd Katherine
- M/S/P (with one abstention)

Annual Christmas Plymouth Staff celebration on 12/11/18

- Council members are invited to attend
- Location is TBD
- Steve reminding us that we can contribute

Kyna mentioned that she will get on Steve’s calendar for upcoming budget needs.

2019 Budget – First draft (Kyna Shilling)

- Kyna reviewed with Council (page-by-page)
- Note: she will send out updates.
- Pledge cards for 2019 – turn in tomorrow (11/11/18)
- Thank you to Kyna & Diane Jacobsen for all their hard work

Budget meetings scheduled for December 2018

- **Dec 8** – Council meeting: 2nd draft of Budget
- **Dec 16** – the 2019 Budget will be presented to congregation for discussion. Kyna will be sending out information for Congregation.

- **Dec 19 at 12:00 noon**– Council Zoom meeting (phone) to Vote on recommended 2019 Budget
- **Congregational Meeting to vote on 2019 Budget scheduled for Sunday 01/06/19**

150th Anniversary Celebration

- Need planning Committee – 2019 is now
- Celebrating who we are and who we were
- Ideas needed: lots of tradition & lots of history
- Karen C. & Mike P. would like to be on Committee
- Kyna will need Budget allocation for this & will contact the ministers

PHC (Plymouth Healing Communities): Mike P & Cindy A

- Bylaws for PHC has 60% of Board members – Plymouth Church
- Proposal to 51% (changing make-up of Board by one person)
- PHC request to allow for more diversity in Board (possibilities for community members)

Motion: that Council approve PHC request to reduce Plymouth Church’s membership on PHC Board from 60% to 51% equivalent of one person.

*2nd (Courtney)

*M/S/P (w/2 abstentions: Mike P & Cindy A on PHC Board)

Bing & Elizabeth are still working on their project. Survey has been sent to Council members regarding this.

Board Liaison Follow-up (Elizabeth G)

- Brief reports from Elizabeth (Community Care Board): they are requesting more information on what they are supposed to be doing. Request contact people for the small groups.
 - Need some connection what they are supporting
 - Interested in ‘Simple Church’ and getting more Staff support to iron out issues of connection
 - Welcome desk: volunteers & how to recruit
- Volunteer opportunities – form sent out with 2019 pledge
 - Will be entered in database and updated
 - There will be hardcopies available (at Welcome desk?) for people to complete (data will transcribed)

Organizational change update (Elizabeth G)

- Recommended us to review email sent with her slides (sent recently)
- Guided meditation (by Elizabeth): discussion on what we experienced

Plymouth Congregational UCC Annual Meeting: Sunday 01/27/19

Rev. Steve Davis prayed us out.

Adjourned at 1:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baden

(temp Scribe)