

**Minutes**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**February 27, 2017**  
**7:15 pm – 9:15pm**

**Council Attendees:** Joan Barrington (Council Chair), Lynne Devnew (clerk), Heather Edwards (at large council member), Patti MacLennan (chair of deacons), Drew Thawley (at large council member), Peggy O'Connor (senior minister), and Emily Keller (associate minister). **Tom Brayer (chair of trustees was unable to attend).** **Guest:** Laura Dunn (deacon responsible for adult Christian Education)

Joan convened the council meeting at 7:20 pm.

Peggy opened with prayer

Kenyon College Beyond Walls

Laura Dunn joined us to request our support for her attending a week long spiritual writing program at Kenyon College called Kenyon College Beyond Walls. Laura, who has been using her spiritual writing gifts to write reflections during our adult CE courses over the past few years, would like to learn how to be more effective in her spiritual outreach to the Pilgrim Church community. The class costs \$2,000 for tuition, room and board. Laura requested the church cover this expense and noted she will handle transportation. Laura has the support of the Deacons.

Discussion continued after Laura left. We clearly anticipate a need to communicate beyond church walls and believe Laura can help us with mission and visioning in addition to implementation. Patti moved we support Laura in her plans to attend Kenyon College Beyond Walls as an agent of council in our future visioning and missioning work and to support the development of her writing in the spirit of extending our faith beyond our walls. Lynne seconded. All voted to support the motion. Drew volunteered to draft an email to Laura indicating our support for her request and noting things we'd like her to be thinking about while at Kenyon and to share with us after she returns. Peggy is to tell Trustees at their meeting on February 28 of our support for these plans.

Senior Minister Search Committee

We reviewed the final list of the nine individuals who have been asked and who have agreed to serve on the search committee. (The list will be added to the minutes as an addendum following the sharing of the list with the congregation.)

We then determined who would call each of the wonderful church members who either volunteered or replied to earlier requests indicating they would serve if asked and will not be needed on the search committee. We agreed to share with them how much we appreciated their willingness to serve and the demographic-related reasons that strongly influenced the difficult decisions on whom to ask.

The congregational vote on the search committee and the charge to the new members of the committee will take place on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be announced in the weekly newsletters published on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> and announced in church on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Nominating Committee

We formalized prior email discussions regarding forming a nominating committee for the 2017-2018 church year. We will ask Kate Sturgis (Joan is to call her) and Greg Hunter (Peggy is to call him) to serve on the nominating committee with Peggy and Emily. Committees are being asked to help the nominating committee by providing suggestions. We began to discuss approaches that might be used, such as repeated job fairs, and decided it was more appropriate to let the nominating committee establish its own process.

### Executive Session

The council then voted to go into executive session.

The executive session and the council meeting were adjourned at 9:15 with a closing prayer.

Minutes taken by Lynne Devnew, Pilgrim Church Clerk