

MISSION STUDY REPORT



Plymouth Presbyterian Church
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THE PAST

Summary of Our History¹

The history of Plymouth Presbyterian Church has been far from static. Over the years it has ranged from having a full vibrant congregation with programs for all ages to being able to provide Sunday School only. The Congregation has met in three different church buildings as well as occasionally in lodges in town. But throughout its history, Plymouth has had an active mission to serve not only its members but also the surrounding community.

The church began in 1847 when Henry Knighton claimed a plot of land and built a church on the bluff at the head of Cowlitz Street, overlooking the Columbia River. Knighton intended that the building be used by people of all denominations.

The first minister of the church, in 1853, was Thomas Condon, a Congregational pastor. He served for one year before he moved to Forest Grove and from there went on to become the first Oregon state geologist and then the first professor of geology at the University of Oregon.

In 1866, Captain Knighton died and the Methodist Church assumed control of the church on the bluff and the Congregational church mostly disappeared until Reverend Charles Philbrook became pastor in 1896 and led the congregation to officially organize as a Congregational Church. The name Plymouth was chosen for the church. After Reverend Philbrook resigned in 1902, the church again struggled, maintaining only a Sunday School for the children with occasional guest preachers.

In June 1918, Albert Spearow became pastor, bringing positive change and leadership. During his tenure the church building at 1st and Columbia was erected and was dedicated in 1920. He was also a pole vaulter, setting records nationally and world-wide. He did this while serving as a Supply Pastor at the rate of \$10 per Sunday.

In 1923, a women's group focused on aide to the mountain whites in the East and supported the Indians in the Dakota.

The church struggled financially as it had a series of short-term pastors. In 1936, the road in front of the church was paved so street assessments had to be paid. To earn money, the building was

¹ Refer to APPENDIX A for the complete history of Plymouth Presbyterian Church.

rented to both the Warren and Yankton Baptist churches. The church didn't become self-supporting until 1946.

The women's society formed a Red Cross committee that met to sew needed items. They also had a food sale for the Post War Crusade for War Victims. In 1948, the church held a shower for the victims of the Vanport Flood.

Dr. Robert Hutchinson became pastor in 1958 as a Congregational pastor and continued to serve even when, in 1964, the church became a Presbyterian church.

The church building had a history of poor construction and suffered from continued deterioration. Construction on a new building began in March of 1962, and the church was dedicated in September of that year. The old building was razed and the bell, which was cast in 1915, was saved, to become the Elmer Lloyd Bell Court.

Reverend John Phillips was pastor from 1973 until 1981. This was a time of an active congregation, with potlucks, caroling, beach trip, a trip to Alaska, and a Summer Safari to Ashland, among other events. Hutchinson Hall was dedicated in 1979.

Chuck Falconer served as Interim Pastor from 1982 to 1983. Pastor Dean Agee was pastor from May 1983 until December 1984. In 1985, Reverend Church Falconer returned and served as pastor until 1986. In April of 1985, an arson fire destroyed much of Hutchinson Hall but it was rebuilt and rededicated in August of that year. Stained glass was installed in Hutchinson Hall and on September 8, 1985, the John and Ruth Phillips Alcove (with the stained-glass window) was dedicated.

Bruce Cameron was pastor from 1986 until 1994. The radio program Heartlight, which featured the sermon and music for those who were unable to attend church in person, premiered. Mission projects included the Heifer Project, HELP, and the Soup Line lunch for the Emergency Food Board. A mission festival focused on Mexico. There were also many food-related activities such as pie social, brown bag lunches, progressive dinner, international foods potluck and a Pentecost party. The kitchen was remodeled. The wooden cross in front of the church was replaced with a steel one in 1989.

The choir loft was moved so it faced the congregation instead of the organ. The former church office became the Cry Room. A microwave was bought for the kitchen. A computer was bought for the use of the pastor and the treasurer. A TV and VCR were bought as a memorial for Homer Christie.

Reverend Cameron left his position on November 13, 1994, and Reverend Richard Terry served as Interim Pastor from January 1, 1995 until June 30, 1996. The murals in the classrooms in Hutchinson Hall were painted, including the repainting of the butterfly mural. In February 1996, the Kenneth Asbury memorial shed was built.

Marilyn Allen was pastor from 1996-2013. Support for DSH, in the form of socks and underwear, continued. An Ecumenical Thanksgiving service was held in 1996. A church vision team was established in November of 2002. The Prayers for Squares quilt ministry began. Boxing Day was chosen as the day to provide materials needed by people transitioning into permanent housing. Financial support began for the Makindu Children's Project in Kenya.

David Hutchinson was pastor from 2013 until 2021. In 2016, he led a mission trip to Menaul School in Arizona. He participated in the groundbreaking for the Faith Build Habitat for Humanity project. He led a blessing of the animals at the Columbia Humane Society. Table in the Yard, a community picnic, began in August 2016. Plymouth opened its doors to serve as a warming center until it was taken over by CAT in 2017. Boxing Day continued as a day to provide materials needed by people transitioning into permanent housing. A group of members served dinner at the St. Frances Dining Hall in Portland. In 2018, the church web site was updated. In 2019, Active Shooter Training was provided.

After Pastor David's retirement on September 30, 2021, Reverend Patricia Berger served as bridge pastor until December 2021. She helped the church through the changes and challenges of the Pandemic. In January of 2022, the Reverend Paulette Mixon-Weller became Plymouth's Interim Pastor and began a mission study with the help of seven church members.

Through good years and bad, the members of Plymouth have supported one another and the church, and have a history of reaching out to support others.

THE PRESENT

Who We Are Now

Plymouth Presbyterian Church (Plymouth) is a fellowship of Christians seeking to grow spiritually and be a family of faith. We welcome a variety of views, value independent thinking, and are called to reach out and serve each other, our communities, and God's world.

Congregational Demographics

The Church Directory of Plymouth denotes a membership of about 60 people plus over 25 family members and friends of the church, not including children. Out of these categories, there are approximately 15 members and friends who now live in a different city or state but still feel connected to Plymouth. In addition, two members of the clergy currently serve at Plymouth, Paulette Mixon-Weller, Interim Pastor and Patricia Berger, Parish Associate.

Neighborhood and City

Plymouth is situated adjacent to residential neighborhoods, a senior living and memory care center, and a small shopping center. The church and neighborhood are located within the City of St Helens, which is the county seat of Columbia County, Oregon. St. Helens was founded in 1845 as "Plymouth." The city's name was changed to St. Helens in 1850 for its view of Mount St. Helens, which is roughly 39 miles away in Washington. As of 2021, the city had a population of 14,095. In addition to church attendees who live in the City of St. Helens, regular attendees also come neighboring communities such as Scappoose, Warren, Columbia City, and Hillsboro.

Church Leadership

The governing body of Plymouth is the Church Session, which consists of six Lay Elders who generally serve for staggered three-year terms with a third of the Session elected each year. In addition to the Lay Elders, Plymouth has a Board of Deacons with a Deacon Chair, and a Clerk of Session with a Vice Clerk of Session. The Pastor moderates the Session meetings and the Clerk records the minutes of the meetings.

The six Plymouth Lay Elders are Chairs of the following Commissions.

- Buildings/Grounds
- Finance/Stewardship
- Membership/Outreach
- Mission/Peacemaking
- Administration/Personnel
- Music/Worship/Nurture

Staffing

Plymouth has a staff of three people, which includes the Pastor, the Church Administrator, and the Pianist. There is also a contracted Custodian. The Interim Pastor served at three-quarter (3/4) time during all of 2022, but is currently serving at one-quarter (1/4) time in 2023 while also serving as a Chaplain in a care facility. The Church Administrator works 10 hours per week and has office hours on Tuesday and Thursday. The Pianist is paid a stipend for each worship service. The Custodian is paid monthly through an invoice from the custodial service.

Church Finances²

Plymouth consists of a small but stable congregation who are faithful in their giving. In addition to regular offerings, the congregation gives generously to local and global mission projects. Plymouth congregants also give to the four PC(USA) Special Offerings each year, including: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy.

The approved 2023 budget for Plymouth consists of \$63,555 in projected regular income and \$61,938 in projected total expenses, resulting in a projected budget surplus of \$1,617 for the year. The regular income includes pledges, unpledged, and per capita giving. The total expenses include pastoral services (ministry), mission pledge to the presbytery, operations, other personnel costs, and program expenses.

As of year-end 2022, Plymouth had investments with the Synod of the Pacific totaling \$57,558 in addition to over \$32,000 in the checking account.

Community Giving

Giving to the local community is an important part of Plymouth's identity. Each February, Plymouth holds the "Souper Bowl of Giving" offering to help feed the hungry in the local area. Each month, Plymouth holds a worship service for the residents of the Avamere Senior Living center next door. Each quarter, Plymouth donates to various worthy organizations through the "Change for Change" program where worship participants give their coins during the offering. All year long, congregants donate household goods for "Boxing Day" where the items are placed in large plastic totes for distribution to new home owners by the Community Action Team (CAT).

² Refer to APPENDIX B for detailed information regarding the projected 2023 income and expenses in the 2023 Approved Plymouth Church Budget.

In 2022, Plymouth held special Lenten giving events called “Acts of Wondrous Love” based on the hymn “What Wondrous Love is This” that resulted in material support for the community through existing organizations, such as: mothers through the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program (WIC); students through Lewis and Clark Elementary School; new home owners through Habitat for Humanity; seniors through Avamere Senior Living and Memory Care facility; and animals through the Columbia Humane Society.

Plymouth also gives to the wider community. Donations have gone to the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon to help those experiencing water system problems. Regular support goes to the Makindu Children’s Program in Kenya to help feed, educate, and care for orphans and vulnerable children. Congregants save empty pill or vitamin bottles for the Snow Cap Community Charities in nearby Gresham, Oregon, where the bottles are filled with soap for the homeless.

Earth Care

Plymouth also cares for the environment by sponsoring several in-house recycling programs. Congregants regularly bring to church their plastic bread tabs, plastic clam shells, stretchy plastics, and used batteries. Volunteers then recycle these materials or properly dispose of them, saving many pounds of waste from entering the landfills.

Church Facilities

The campus of Plymouth consists of two main buildings and one outbuilding that are located on a large and level lot. Multiple trees adorn the property in addition to mature landscaping. A lighted sign is visible from Sykes Road with the church name, worship time, and website. A paved parking lot is located to the right of the buildings with designated handicap parking. A paved circular driveway fronts the main building with the sanctuary, which is handicap accessible.

The main building facing Sykes Road contains the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Both can be accessed from the circular driveway by a level concrete sidewalk to the ADA accessible foyer (narthex). The Sanctuary is located to the left of the foyer and holds up to 106 people in the main pews with an additional 24 people in the choir pews. The sanctuary has one center aisle and a piano. Behind the Sanctuary is a music storage room with an additional storage area.

In a small room off the foyer, there is a comfort room that serves the dual purpose of being a lending library. This room has a window that looks into the Sanctuary and is wired for sound from the Sanctuary. Stairs off the foyer also access an open balcony above the foyer, which is currently used for storage but can also be used for videography and photography during a service or event.

To the right of the foyer is the Fellowship Hall, which has a capacity of 97 people. At the far end of the hall is a serving kitchen in addition to single occupancy men and women's restrooms. The Fellowship Hall has a piano, multiple tables for fellowship and serving, and several cupboards for storage. The Fellowship Hall can also be accessed from the parking lot via sidewalks to a single side door with a small step or to double doors with no step.

The second building, called Hutchinson Hall, is located next to but behind the main building (from Sykes Road). The two buildings are connected by a covered breeze way and concrete sidewalk. Hutchinson Hall can be accessed through double doors from the breeze way or from two single side doors located just off the parking lot via a sidewalk. The Pastor's study and the Church Office are located just inside Hutchinson Hall off the breeze way. There are wheelchair or walker accessible men and women's restrooms in Hutchinson Hall. There are several other separate rooms in Hutchinson Hall, including:

- Nursery room for infants,
- Playroom for toddlers or older children,
- Meeting room with tables and chairs,
- Large room with its own entry/exit door,
- Large room when the divider is opened; or
- Two smaller rooms when the divider is closed.

Reflections from Labyrinth Walk & Visioning Session³

In July 2022, Interim Pastor Paulette Mixon-Weller led the congregation in a special worship service, which was followed by a labyrinth walk and visioning session. This special event began in the sanctuary with a worship service that included reflections on Plymouth's good works, the history of Plymouth, and an introduction to labyrinths by a guest speaker who also created a labyrinth in the fellowship hall. After worship, the congregation moved to the fellowship hall and participated in a guided labyrinth walk. When all participants had completed their labyrinth walk, they were led in a group visioning session. Five questions previously determined by the Mission Study Leadership Team were asked of the participants. The complete results can be found in Appendix C.

³ Refer to APPENDIX C for a complete summary of the special labyrinth event activities and reflections.

Congregational Survey⁴

In 2022, the Mission Study Leadership Team (Team) conducted a congregational survey at Plymouth. The survey consisted of seven (7) questions on a single letter-sized sheet, which was handed out during the worship service on October 2 before the offering. Worship participants were asked to complete the survey there in-the-pews, and the surveys were then collected by the Team. On October 9, those participants who were not in worship the previous Sunday were also surveyed in the same manner.

At the time of the survey, the Team believed that the only two options for pastoral services at Plymouth were either: 1) *Pulpit Supply* with Parish Associate Patricia Berger and other pastors or lay people; or 2) *Stated Supply* with a pastor at half-time that would deplete Plymouth's reserves in a year and a half. Therefore, the congregation was asked which option they preferred. Not surprisingly, 77% of the survey participants chose the Pulpit Supply option. Follow-up questions asked about increased giving in 2023 or possible fundraising. The remainder of the questions focused on the participants favorite things or activities at Plymouth, past and present. The complete results of the survey are tabulated in Appendix E.

Since the survey was conducted, further discernment and discussion has occurred, including the new 2023 covenant for Interim Pastor Paulette Mixon-Weller at quarter-time with professional benefits. This reduced level of pastoral services allowed Session to approve a balanced budget for 2023 (refer to Appendix B). During her second year at Plymouth, Interim Pastor Paulette developed a monthly plan for how a quarter-time pastor could serve Plymouth and not work over these limited hours. The use of pulpit supply and lay preachers is being combined with quarter-time pastoral services to manage the total monthly hours for Pastor Paulette. It is hoped that this model will allow Plymouth to benefit from a Stated Supply pastor or certified ruling elder while living within a balanced budget.

⁴ Refer to APPENDIX D for the Congregational Survey blank form.
Refer to APPENDIX E for the Congregational Survey results (pages 1 and 2).

THE FUTURE

Visioning Retreat⁵

In March of 2022, Interim Pastor Paulette Mixon-Weller gathered the Session and the Mission Study Leadership Team in an informal retreat to vision and strategize together about the future of Plymouth Presbyterian Church. The retreat was structured into segments in order to discuss Plymouth's future in the context of three main categories: 1) Current Goals; 2) Future Goals; and 3) Action Steps. Below is a summary of each category.

Current Goals

The first goal identified was to process the Presbytery paperwork for Pastor Patricia Berger to be recognized as Plymouth's Parish Associate. This status had previously been approved by the Session. When serving as pulpit supply, Pastor Berger would continue to receive remuneration. Other pastoral services such as serving communion, hosting Bible or book studies, and providing pastoral care to the congregation could also continue at the invitation of Pastor Paulette. A public recognition for new Parish Associate Patricia Berger would follow during the April 2 worship service, along with announcements in Plymouth's newsletter and bulletins.

Attendees requested additional information regarding the pastor search process and the options for pastoral services at Plymouth. Pastor Paulette therefore arranged for a representative from the Presbytery of the Cascades to attend a subsequent Session meeting, and Brian Craker shared his invaluable knowledge (via Zoom).

Prior to the pandemic, Plymouth members enjoyed attending women's retreats and a summer social with live music. It was decided that these two events, along with a possible men's retreat or breakfast and another Session retreat, should be planned when possible, hopefully in 2023.

Attendees named community projects as being important to Plymouth's commitment to the community, such as volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and the Community Meals program. Further contact with these organizations is planned.

Revisiting the structure of current commissions and committees was recognized in addition to reinstating a Welcoming Committee.

⁵ Refer to APPENDIX F for the complete notes from the Visioning Retreat.

Several internal community building projects were discussed, such as creating a pictorial directory, starting a mobile pictures project in the Fellowship Hall, and continuing the “Journey of Faith” testimonies.

Lastly, housekeeping projects were identified, such as organizing yard cleanup days and a room cleanup work party, plus moving the Community Meals freezers out of Hutchinson Hall.

5 Year Goals

The attendees brainstormed their desires for the future, which included having a permanent pastor, stable finances, and full building use.

The leaders in attendance aspired to full participation in community ecumenical services by Plymouth, such as World Day of Prayer, and Thanksgiving and Good Friday Services.

Areas of ministry were identified as important for the future, including mission, youth, meeting needs at the middle school, and being a voice of grace, reason, and love in the community.

Action Steps

Items identified as needing immediate action were then assigned to attendees and included the following:

- Publish the Mission Study Report
- Plan a Session Retreat
- Identify Ecumenical and Joint Activities
- Plan a Summer Social
- Identify needs/involvement at Middle or Primary School

Conclusion

Although the pastoral leadership at Plymouth Presbyterian Church is in transition, the future is nonetheless exciting! For over a century and a quarter, God has guided the members of Plymouth and empowered them with the Holy Spirit. There is good reason to believe that God will utilize Plymouth in the future as well. Plymouth’s history reveals that through good years and bad, its members supported one another and the church. Plymouth has a rich history of reaching out to support the community as well. With the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Plymouth will continue to do amazing things going forward!

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A: COMPLETE HISTORY OF PLYMOUTH CHURCH
- APPENDIX B: APPROVED 2023 PLYMOUTH CHURCH BUDGET
- APPENDIX C: SPECIAL EVENT: LABYRINTH WALK & VISIONING
- APPENDIX D: CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY – BLANK FORM
- APPENDIX E: CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY – THE RESULTS
- APPENDIX F: NOTES FROM VISIONING RETREAT, MARCH 2023

History of Plymouth Presbyterian Church

The history of Plymouth Presbyterian Church has been far from static. Over the years it has ranged from having a full vibrant congregation with programs for all ages to being able to provide Sunday School only. The Congregation has met in three different church buildings as well as occasionally in lodges in town. But throughout its history, Plymouth has had an active mission to serve not only its members but also the surrounding community.

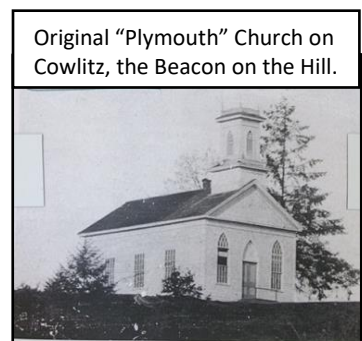
The church's history begins with the history of St. Helens, the city.

The city of St. Helens began in the late 1840s, near the historic courthouse in the downtown area. Henry Knighton, from New Jersey, signed the Oregon Donation Land claim to the area, in 1847 and moved to the area about a year later. He built a temporary log cabin and had the land mapped and plotted with lots for sale to the general public.

The new town was listed as Plymouth, Oregon Territory. It changed briefly to Kasenau, named for the local Indian chief. By 1850, the name St. Helens appeared on official documents filed with the territorial government.

By 1853, Mr. Knighton had enough framing for housing shipped around the horn from Maine, to build the first modern structures built in St. Helens.

At least three buildings were built from the first shipment of fabricated lumber. The first was thought to be a home for Mr. Knighton and his family. The second home was built for a former sea captain, Mr. Francis Lemont, who had a land claim next to Mr. Knighton's DLC claim. The third was a church on the bluff at the head of Cowlitz Street, also called Knob Hill, overlooking the Columbia River. It was called the Beacon on the Hill because ships on the Columbia used the light from the church as a reference point. Mr. Knighton intended that the church be for use by persons of all denominations and it was used intermittently by Christian, Congregational, and Methodist congregations, among others.



The first minister of the church was Irish-born Thomas Condon, a former New York school teacher. He was sent by the American Home Missionary Society of New York in December 1852 on the clipper ship Trade Wind. The ship traveled around



the horn to San Francisco. Thomas Condon and his wife, Cornelia, then traveled by ocean steamer to Portland. They arrived in Oregon on Condon's 31st birthday, on March 3, 1853.

Condon was given an examination by the Ecclesiastical Council of the Congregational Church in Portland on April 20, 1853, and was then ordained the following evening. Soon he was assigned to the church on Knob Hill in St. Helens. While he served the church, he also started the first school in the area at the church, where he taught future Oregon Supreme Court Justice, Thomas McBride.

Condon served as a Congregational missionary on Sundays and was a school teacher in Eugene during the week. Condon developed a love of rocks⁶ from his childhood in Ireland and used his time in St. Helens to explore the quarries in St. Helens and The Dalles.

The Condons welcomed a son, Edward, to the family while they lived in St. Helens. Then in 1854, Condon moved his small family to Forest Grove, home of the newly formed Congregational institution, Tualatin Academy.

In 1866, Captain Knighton died and the Methodist Church assumed control of the church on the bluff. Without a church building, and with no local leadership, the church struggled to survive.

For the next forty years the congregation met occasionally in local halls, and the congregation mostly disappeared until June of 1895.

⁶ Condon gave a series of lectures in Portland in 1871 that would solidify his position as Oregon's preeminent geologist. In 1872, the legislature appointed him Oregon's first state geologist, and the following year Condon resigned his position with the Congregational church and moved to Forest Grove, where he assumed a professorship at Pacific University. In 1876, Condon became the first geology professor at the newly opened University of Oregon, where he taught for nearly twenty years.

At that point, the Reverend Charles Philbrook came to St. Helens from Kansas to visit his sister, the widowed Sarah Lemont. Reverend Philbrook saw the need for a local Congregational presence. He resigned his post in Kansas and preached for the first time locally in Houlton, later known as West St. Helens. Within a month, he sent for his family to join him and for the next year he continued to preach the gospel in local meeting halls. He also encouraged the organization of a Sunday School and a formal church. With that in mind, Reverend Philbrook called a meeting, but only six people attended and no one pledged.

Reverend Philbrook then called for a second meeting, this time to include a meal. At that meeting, sixteen people declared their intent to organize a Congregational Church.

The organization of the Congregational Church in St. Helens began in earnest on August 27, 1896 when twelve prospective members reached agreement to begin the process of incorporation. The original members who committed were James P. Charlton, Mrs. M.C. Gray, Mrs. Charles Philbrook, Reverend Charles Philbrook, James Spence, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Stephen S. Way, Mrs. Eunice M. Little, Mrs. Alma V. Lemont, Mrs. Laura Hooghkirk, Mrs. Mary Cawrse, Mrs. J.R. Beegle, Mrs. Sundby, and Mrs. Amanda Decker. By September 16, 1896, 22 people signed the membership roll and were received by the Reverend C.L. Clapp, superintendent of the state conference.

On October 4, 1896, at the Masonic Hall, the church was officially organized, a name given, and the first officers elected. Those officers were:

M.C. Gray, Clerk

Mrs. C.J. Hooghkirk, Treasurer

Deacons: Stephen S. Way and James Spence

Trustees: Reverend Philbrook, Mrs. A.M. Decker, James Spence,

Mrs. C.E. Philbrook, Mrs. S.S Way, M.C. Gray, and Mrs. Nellie Cooper

It was time to build a new church. The name Plymouth was chosen for the church. That was the name Captain Knighton had chosen for his community and since the church they were building was going up on solid rock, it seemed an appropriate name.

February 22, 1897

Four fifths of the lot was donated by Hannah Tyszkiewicz.

March 26, 1897

The Plymouth Congregational Church was incorporated for the purpose of collecting funds for the construction of a new church.

April 23, 1897

Construction of the new church was authorized by the board of trustees of the Plymouth Congregational Church in a meeting held in Houlton.

June 30, 1897

The St. Helens Mist newspaper reported that the church foundation had been laid and the lumber was on the ground.

December 19, 1897

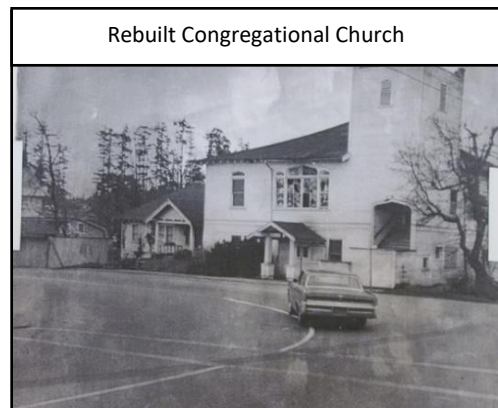
The church was dedicated to the citizens of St. Helens.



Dedication of the Congregational Church, 1897



Original Congregational Church



Rebuilt Congregational Church

Reverend Philbrook resigned in 1902 and the church tried briefly to use the Rainier pastor, Reverend Taggart, but they found this did not work well for the people of St. Helens. For the next ten years, the church maintained only a Sunday School for the children, with occasional preaching from Reverend Taggart, Reverend Joplin and many guest ministers.

In 1912, they built took out a mortgage of \$800 to build a parsonage next to the church and welcomed the Reverend Frank J. Meyers as pastor. In 1913, Reverend Meyers started the local chapter of the Boy Scouts in the Plymouth Congregational Church.

In the years leading up to the First World War, the church was pastored by four different pastors and two part-time teachers, including the Reverend John (Frank?) Foster, the Reverend David Jopling, and the Reverend D.J. Taylor. Then Reverend Taylor enlisted for YMCA services overseas.

Then in June 1918, a young pastor named Albert Ralf Spearow came to St. Helens and became pastor. He brought much positive change under his leadership and was the most active pastor in the community. Among his accomplishments, he:

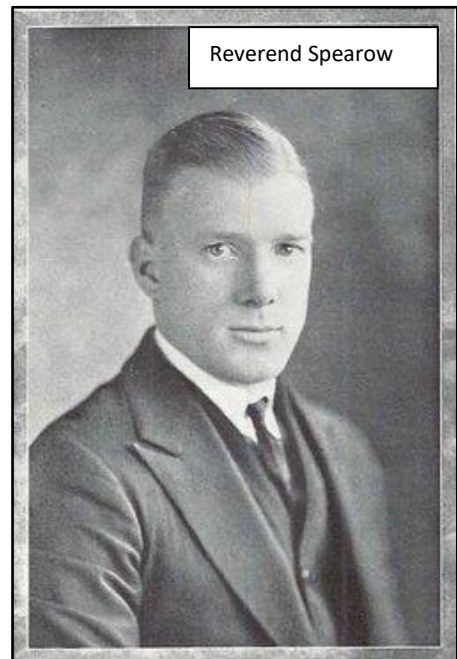
- Organized the glee club at the High School for both boys and girls, which lasted over 50 years.

- Proposed the idea of a Chamber of Commerce to local businessmen, Dr. J.H. Flynn, J.H. Thatcher, and others, on December 3, 1918 in the Circuit Courtroom.

- Was a member of the Columbia County Fair Board, assuring clean fun at the family event.

- Organized a men's chorus and choir in 1919.

- The Church building at 1st and Columbia was erected in 1918 and dedicated in 1920.



The war years were difficult for the church. Membership was down when 18 members enlisted in the service. Because of the influenza epidemic, many meetings were cancelled. The elders credited those closures with saving many lives.

In March 1918, Reverend Sparrow had begun track and field workouts at the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club in Portland and trained under the MAAC coach, George Philbrook. Reverend Sparrow set records in the pole vault at the state level, regionally, nationally, and even world-wide. In August 1919, while still serving Plymouth Church, he set the Pacific Northwest Association Pole Vault record.

Reverend Sparrow served until December 1, 1920 as a Supply Pastor at \$10 per Sunday.⁷

From 1920-1928, three different pastors served and they and two school teachers kept things going. Operations were subsidized by the national organization.

Reverend Kimball Clark was selected as pastor on December 1, 1920. He served until April 24, 1921. Services were held in the lobby of the Orcadia Hotel.

Reverend Paul D. Hoffmann served from September 1, 1922 until January 15, 1926. He helped form a women's group on January 23, 1923. This group focused on Mission projects both locally and in the mission field. They focused on aide to the mountain whites in the East and they supported work among the Indians in the Dakotas, aiding in their sustenance and attempting to bring them into Christianity. In 1923, Plymouth joined with other local churches in the city, in the interest of the Anti-saloon league. The Plymouth Missionary Society was also formed that year and was very active. They sponsored "Community Teas" every two weeks as a way to raise funds for the church.

Reverend Hoffmann also encouraged wiring the church for a radio and he helped organize the Intermediate Christian Endeavor Society, in an attempt to get the children involved.

Reverend W. A. Mulder served from March of 1926 until November 1, 1928. In 1926, the women's group boasted 43 members. Sunday School attendance was up to 80 and Christian Endeavor had 12 active teen members.

⁷ Reverend Sparrow left St. Helens for Eugene where he won a spot on the 1924 Olympic Team that traveled to Paris. He was expected to win a medal in Paris but because of a foot injury he was only able to place 6th in his only event. After the Olympics, Sparrow went to Yokohama, Japan with a few of the other American athletes for an exhibition. During that unofficial event, he set a world record in the pole vault that would go unrecognized because the event was not sanctioned by official governing bodies. He often gave speeches about Japanese people and culture.

In 1928, (or possibly March of 1929), Reverend E.A. Allin became pastor and served for eight years. 1928 was the first year the church did not have to depend on the conference for financial support, and it became necessary again in the following years.

Reverend Allin yoked the churches of St. Helens and Scappoose because of bad economic times. He moved to Scappoose, and only came to St. Helens twice each week. Then the times got worse financially. The City of St. Helens nearly foreclosed on the church building for non-payment of a bonded assessment. Loggers were out of work and mills sometimes closed.

In 1932, Reverend Allin formed a Men's Group. In 1933, Plymouth sponsored monthly "Silver Teas," a renewal of the Community Teas of the 1920s. These were vital for the financial support of the church and continued through the 1950s. In 1934, the church gained a new heating plant, new shingles on the roof, and paint inside and out. Times continued to be hard, and the church had to borrow money and mortgage the property to pay for upkeep of the very run-down facilities.

In 1936, the road in front of the church was paved, so street assessments had to be paid. To provide income, permission was begrudgingly given to the Warren and Yankton Baptist Churches to use the building for evangelistic purposes.

There followed a series of short-term pastors: Reverend Robert E. Fitch (November, 1936-January 28, 1937), Robert Eddy (Summer of 1937, Student Supply), Reverend F. W. Westwood (November 1937-December, 1940), Norman Henly (May 27, 1941-October, 1942), Reverend Harry Taylor (January 1943-December 1943, part time), and Reverend Ernest R. Bellingham (December, 1944-June 30, 1958).

Also in the summer of 1936, Reverend Dickey, a student pastor came and wrote a report of what he found at the church. According to him:

-There were about 100 members of the congregation.

-Only 25-40 people attended Sunday services and they all sat in the back four rows.

-As for the building itself, there was no organ and no church symbolism. There were only three rooms for classrooms and they were all in the basement along with the kitchen so it always smelled. Some areas of the church could not be heated.

-The church was kept afloat financially by loans and mission from the Congregational Conference as well as the Women's Society serving meals to various clubs in town.

-The city of St. Helens had a population of 4,000 in the middle of a general farming and timber area. Local businesses suffered from competition of nearby Portland. St. Helens was split between the bank of the river, where the courthouse, church, and sawmill were located, and West St. Helens, two miles away, where most of the church members lived. There was a big open space between the two sections of town. The large separation necessitated the minister, if he had a car, function as a taxi service.

In the summer of 1937, Pastor Robert Eddy, from the Harvard Divinity School, served the church. He also wrote an extensive report of what he found including: *"St. Helens is very chopped up city. Owing to variable mill activity, the population is very transient. Streets are intermittent, cars aren't too common and telephones are rare. There are 13 churches in the town, and with the exception of the Methodist church, none are decently attended."*

During that summer of 1937, Plymouth joined the Free Methodist and Methodist Episcopal churches in sponsoring a vacation church school. The project was extensively publicized and included a parade down the main street of town. As a result, the Sunday schools of all the cooperating churches increased their attendance.

By 1938, most of the children in Sunday School were from homes outside the church membership, so the program was continued as a mission activity.

In 1939, they held monthly potluck dinners, put locks on the church parlor, and asked the Catholic Church to return eight cream pitchers. The Women's Society held a Mexican dinner as a fundraiser. The choir was struggling for members.

By 1941, the choir was growing again, but the parsonage was deteriorating. The Elders discussed selling it to pay off the mortgage but the decision was postponed until 1945.

Reverend Norman Henley was criticized because he did not join the military. Some of the church members were concerned those comments would cause him to leave, but there is no record of why he left.

Plymouth Church became permanently self-supporting in 1946. The Women's Society formed a Red Cross committee that met to sew needed items. This included Mrs. Vaughn who offered a sweater each week. They also had a food sale for the Post War Crusade for War Victims.

In 1946, the church celebrated its 50th anniversary, but the building itself was showing its age. Due to poor construction and improper roof design, the building was slowly falling apart. The walls were thrusting out three inches. It was held together with bracing rods, a new foundation under one corner, and a new roof.

In 1948, the Plymouth Society held a shower for victims of the Vanport Flood. They also bought a double-oven electric stove and a water heater for the church kitchen.

Financial difficulties continued for the church as the pastor, Reverend Bellingham (1944-1958) took summers off to work elsewhere, since the church was unable to pay him.

On June 3, 1958, the congregation voted to reject a proposed merger between the Congregational Churches and Evangelical and Reformed Church. They declared themselves an autonomous Congregational Church.

Dr. Robert A. Hutchinson became the pastor of the autonomous Congregational Church on September 19, 1958 and remained in that position until October 3, 1959. He continued to serve the church from October 4, 1959 until November, 1964, but at that point Plymouth Congregational Church became Plymouth Presbyterian Church. Dr. Hutchinson had intended to stabilize the church and return it to the Congregational fold and retire in October.

But as he said, "I have become more and more involved in the plans for an expanded program and a new building. I thought I had made conditions for my remaining so impossible that my exit would be welcomed. Failing that I expected my family physician to aid me in achieving the same end. No luck. My final hope was that the building proposal would prove abortive."

Again, his plans were not realized. They brought in more money than expected. And so he said, *"I must unconditionally surrender. Unless I am stricken I shall remain on duty."*

Construction began on Plymouth Presbyterian Church on March 19, 1962. The previous building had continued to deteriorate. Space for Sunday School was inadequate, the steps were falling apart, and the furnace smoked, causing some members of often sing, "On Top of Old Smokey."

The first service in the new building was held on July 22, 1962, and in September of that year the church was dedicated.

On October 12, 1962, the original Celtic cross, a memorial gift from David Williamson and Fred Watters for their mothers was installed. That evening the Columbus Day Storm (otherwise known as Hurricane Hannah) hit with wind speeds up to 110 mph. When members of the congregation arrived the next morning to assess the damage, they found the cross was undamaged.

In 1963, a Golden Jubilee service was held in celebration of Dr. Hutchinson's 50 years as a minister. At that event, Dr. Hutchinson added a layer of concrete to the base of the cross and embedded in it his lifetime collection of rocks from special places, including the Holy Land.

In 1964, the new church property was annexed into the city of St. Helens. The old building was razed and torn down. The only large survivor of the old building was the bell, which was cast in 1915. Elmer Lloyd, with other members, arranged to remove the bell the day before the old building was torn down. The bell eventually became part of the Elmer Lloyd Bell Court. That was also the year the Baptismal Font was dedicated in memory of Francis Gill.

Reverend Charles W. Wilson was pastor from February 7, 1965 until April 30, 1972. He was followed by interim pastor Reverend George Shuman from September 15, 1972 through April, 1973.

Reverend John G. Phillips became pastor on June 10, 1973. Under his leadership, the building mortgage was paid off in 1973 and a storage shed was built. Sunday School was reactivated but due to inadequate facilities, a trailer was used for the primary classes. This led to the eventual construction of Hutchinson Hall in 1976. In 1974, the choir performed at Expo '74 in Troutlake, Washington. Also in 1974, an elaborate Christmas pageant began with almost total participation by adults and children. It went on for about ten years after which it became difficult to find people to fill the roles of Mary and Joseph. The church enjoyed an active social

life during those years, with potlucks, a caroling party, picnic, a beach trip, an adult/youth overnight hike to Mt. Hood, a trip to Alaska on a small steamer and in 1975, a Summer Safari to Ashland.

1976 was the church's 80th anniversary as well as the country's Bicentennial. A special tribute was made to the 1896 founders and Gayle Clemmer did a "glorious Bicentennial party."

Construction began on Hutchinson Hall in 1976 and it was dedicated on September 16, 1979. Much of the work was done by church members including Carl Ramsey. Adrienne Schilling painted a mural on a classroom wall. The pastor's study in the new building was named the "Carl Ramsey Study" in his honor.

On November 16, 1978, Dr. Kenneth Thomas, missionary to Iran spoke to Plymouth.

Dave Williamson and Kenneth Asbury built the Elmer Lloyd Bell Court using the bell from the old church building. The Court was dedicated on November 8, 1981.

The Plymouth Cookbook, titled "Feasting with Plymouth Pilgrims" was printed in 1981.

December 31, 1981 was the last date Reverend Phillips served as pastor, after which Reverend Charles Falconer served as interim pastor. Reverend Dean Agee served as pastor from May, 1983 until December 31, 1984. The fellowship Hall was reroofed, the furnaces were replaced, and a new copy machine was purchased. The Open End Clothing Project was begun in 1983 by Gayle Clemmer, Shirley Eaton, and Linda Gaskill. It provided clothing for school children in need.

Then the church and pastor's office were burglarized, with the loss of typewriters, phones, tape recorder and answering machine. The police recovered all that was lost, but kept it for evidence.

On January 1, 1985, Reverend Chuck Falconer returned to serve once more as interim pastor. Reverend Falconer remained at Plymouth until January of 1986. During that time, in 1985, a new wooden sign was installed in the front of the church. On April 4, 1985, an arson fire destroyed Hutchinson Hall, which was rebuilt during the spring and summer of 1985 and the building was rededicated in

August. Stained glass was installed in Hutchinson Hall and on September 8, 1985, the John and Ruth Phillips Alcove (with the stained-glass window) was dedicated.

On January 12, 1986, Bruce W. Cameron became pastor of Plymouth. In 1987, the kitchen was remodeled and updated by Marilyn Brinster and Judy Dinsmore.

In the fall of 1989, Bill Gulker, local resident and employee of Watson Company, a ship repair business located on Swan Island, was contacted by David Williamson when it was obvious that the old wooden cross that had stood in front of the church was rotting and needed to be replaced. Bill did research on Celtic crosses and showed Dave a hand drawn blueprint and it was a go. The cross cost between \$3500 –\$5,000. It was fabricated from 1/2" mild, rectangular, structural steel--the same steel that is used to build and repair ships because of its malleability. It was a conscious decision not to use stainless steel, but instead something that would weather and have a softer look to it.

The finished cross was transported via flatbed truck from Swan Island to the church. Along with it came a portable crane as well. The base had already been completed using some of the stones Rev. Hutchinson had put at the base of the first wooden cross. These were stones he'd gathered from his travels around the world. The cross was fitted onto the base and the cross still stands.

In 1990, stained glass windows constructed by Bill Cade, were installed in the windows on the east side of the sanctuary, and dedicated. In 1992, church members repainted the church. In 1993, the radio program, Heartlight, began thanks to Reverend Cameron. It featured the sermon and music for those who were unable to attend church in person. There were also many food-related activities such as pie social, brown bag lunches, progressive dinner, international foods potluck and a Pentecost party.

There were many mission projects during those years: a Mission Festival focused on Mexico, the Heifer Project, HELP, and the Soup Line lunch for the Emergency Food Board among others.

The choir loft was moved so it faced the congregation instead of the organ. The former church office became the Cry Room. A microwave was bought for the kitchen. A computer was bought for the use of the pastor and the treasurer. A TV and VCR were bought as a memorial for Homer Christie.

Reverend Cameron left his position on November 13, 1994 and Reverend Richard Terry served as interim pastor from January 1, 1995 until June 30, 1996.

During Reverend Terry's time at Plymouth, in the spring of 1995, the murals in the classrooms in Hutchinson Hall were painted, including the repainting of the butterfly mural. In February, 1996, the Kenneth Asbury memorial shed was built.

In July of 1996, Reverend Marilyn Allen became pastor. During her time at Plymouth, she led the Centennial celebration of Plymouth Church on October 27, 1996. An Ecumenical Thanksgiving service was held in 1996. A church vision team was established in November of 2002. The Prayers for Squares quilt ministry began. Boxing Day was chosen as the day to provide material needed by people transitioning into permanent housing. Support for the Makindu Children's Project in Kenya began. Reverend Allen retired on June 1, 2013.

In 1999, the Red Cross awarded member Ruth Cox their gold award for her volunteer services.

On December 15, 2013, Reverend Doctor David Hutchinson became the next pastor at Plymouth. Emergency Procedures were updated in 2014. A new sign was installed. Gary Dinsmore set up the church web site, and sermons were posted on the site. Also in 2014, Plymouth opened its doors to serve as a warming center for those in need of a warm shelter during freezing weather under the leadership of Jan Stites. This was eventually taken over by CAT in 2017.



In May 2016, Hutchinson led a Mission trip to Menaul School in Arizona. On September 29, 2019, he participated in the groundbreaking for the Faith Build Habitat for Humanity Project. He led a blessing of the animals at the Columbia Humane Society. Table in the Yard, a community picnic, began in August, 2016.

Pastor Hutchinson was a delegate to the Presbytery General Assembly in 2016, when it was held in Portland. A Barnabas grant enabled the church to put on a new roof. Then the building was painted in 2017.

A group of members served dinner at the St. Frances Dining Hall in Portland and toured the Genesis Group in 2017. In 2018, new signs were posted outside the office and back by the kitchen. The website was updated and security cameras were installed. In 2019, Active Shooter Training was provided. Throughout his tenure, there was a focus on music, with the choir, small groups, individual performers, and a jazz group that Pastor David was a part of.

After Pastor David's retirement on September 30, 2021, Reverend Pat Berger served as bridge pastor until December, 2021. She helped the church through the changes and challenges of the Pandemic.

In January, 2022, Reverend Paulette Mixon-Weller took over as interim pastor. She began a mission study with the help of seven church members. The church had a special outreach called Acts of Wondrous Love during Lent, that resulted in support for mothers through WIC and CAT, students through giving to Lewis and Clark Elementary School, Habitat for Humanity, Avamere, and the animals at the Columbia Humane Society,

The members of Plymouth have supported one another and the church through good times and bad and have reached out and cared for others. We thank you, God, and celebrate with joy your faithfulness.

APPENDIX B: APPROVED 2023 PLYMOUTH CHURCH BUDGET

Plymouth Presbyterian Church Budget 2023		
Category	Account	2023 Budget
INCOME		
REGULAR INCOME		
Pledge		\$ 51,580.00
Unpledged		\$ 11,000.00
Pledged to Per Capita		\$ 975.00
TOTAL REGULAR INCOME		\$ 63,555.00
OTHER INCOME		
Cust Acct Xfer from Investment Account		\$ -
Bldg. Use		\$ -
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		\$ -
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 63,555.00
EXPENSES		
MINISTRY*		
2023 -25% time - 10 hrs per week included in base Salary	Pastor Salary Housing	\$ - \$ 14,032.25
Pension	\$114.75/mo	\$ 1,377.00
Health 29% OPT OUT	based on min. rate	\$ -
Temporary Disability	\$5.85/month 0.05%	\$ 70.20
Death & Disability	\$13.50/month D&D 1%	\$ 162.00
Professional Expenses		\$ 3,500.00
Continued Education		\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL MINISTRY		\$ 20,641.45
MISSION		
Pledged to Presbytery of the Cascades for Mission	Basic Mission	\$ 1,215.00
TOTAL MISSION		\$ 1,215.00
OPERATIONS		
	Adv & Admin	\$ 150.00
Corporation	Corp Fee	\$ 50.00
	Electricity	\$ 1,550.00
Office -Copy Machine \$870 & website \$125 flat + help	Equip Maint	\$ 1,000.00
	Garbage	\$ 410.00
(2023 increase of 19% or \$661/yr) (\$1035.25 qtrly)	Liability, Prop Ins \$3480	\$ 4,141.00
	Natural Gas	\$ 1,250.00
	Office Supplies	\$ 300.00
2023 Per Capita is based on 2021 membership of 59	2023 Per Capita \$45.60	\$ 2,690.40
phone \$1255 Zoom \$180	Telephone & Internet & Zoom	\$ 1,525.00
Domaine fee \$110 + support	IT Support & Services	\$ 350.00
	Water/Sewer	\$ 2,200.00
\$990 taxes + Quick Books \$360/yr	Tax Accounting	\$ 1,360.00

**Plymouth Presbyterian Church
Budget 2023**

Category	Account	2023 Budget
	General Misc	\$ 500.00
	B&G Maintenance	\$ 600.00
TOTAL OPERATIONS		\$ 18,076.40
PERSONNEL (Gross Salaries)		
54 session at \$100 + Anniversary	Musician	\$ 5,900.00
10 hrs per week @ \$15/hr + Anniversary	Church Administrator	\$ 8,300.00
\$300/mo	Custodian	\$ 3,600.00
\$334.92 bi-annual	Industrial Ins	\$ 700.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL		\$ 18,500.00
PROGRAM		
Administration & Personnel		\$ 150.00
Deacons for cards & stamps		\$ 70.00
Building & Grounds	Improvements	\$ 200.00
Finance & Stewardship		\$ 50.00
Membership & Outreach	Fellowship	\$ 125.00
	Outreach	\$ 100.00
	Table in the Yard	\$ 160.00
Nurture & Worship Commission	M&W	\$ 400.00
7 @ \$150/session	Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,050.00
	Special Music	\$ 1,000.00
	Nurture Committee/Christ. Ed	\$ 100.00
Peacemaking & Mission		\$ 100.00
TOTAL PROGRAMS		\$ 3,505.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 61,937.85
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 63,555.00
GAIN/(LOSS)		\$ 1,617.15

Synod of the Pacific Investment	2022 Balance	INT. Earned
**Demand Account .5% interest	\$ 20,610.75	\$ 233.70
**3 YR CD - Matures 8/4/2023 2.35%	\$ 36,947.38	\$ 869.07
Total SOP Investments	\$ 57,558.13	\$ 1,102.77
Checking account	\$ 32,290.21	
Total SOP Investments & Checking	\$ 89,848.34	
**Checking Account & Investment account balances as of 12/31/2022		
*Base salary for Terms of Call for pastor increased 4.3% - 51,827 (2022) 56,129 (2023)		

**SPECIAL MISSION STUDY EVENT:
LABYRINTH WALK & VISIONING**

Date: July 17, 2022

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Plymouth Presbyterian Church

Hosted by: Mission Study Leadership Team

Present:

Interim Pastor - Paulette Mixon-Weller

Guest Speaker - Mary Jean Rivera

Team Members - Bill Eagle, Sharon Fraser, Becky Frazier, Gina Harrington, Linda Liefeld, Doris Perry

Hospitality Team - Zelda Anderson, Wendy Wells

Attendees - The Plymouth Presbyterian Church Congregation

Event activities:

This "holy circus" began with a time of worship.

Bill Eagle read the lectionary scripture verses from The Message Bible (Luke 10:38-42, the Mary and Martha story).

The congregation sang two hymns, the offertory was taken and blessed, and prayers of concerns were lifted up by Pastor Paulette.

Reflections were given by Pastor Paulette (Plymouth's good works), Gina Harrington (history lesson), and Mary Jean Rivera (labyrinths in her life).

Immediately after worship, attendees were asked to place their photo on the church's timeline, which Gina had created on a long stretch of paper placed on several tables!

A tour of Hutchinson Hall was then led by Gina, with assistance from Marilyn Brinster, who both gave us historical information.

The congregation then participated in a group labyrinth walk followed by a time of reflection during which five questions were asked of the attendees.

The answers to these reflections were captured by Sharon Fraser on a paper easel and are summarized on pages 2 and 3.

The attendees then enjoyed fellowship and a sandwich luncheon provided by the hospitality team.

**SPECIAL MISSION STUDY EVENT:
LABYRINTH WALK & VISIONING**

REFLECTIONS

1) Do you think the neighborhood and people of this area know and appreciate the influence of Plymouth's presence for the good? [approx. # of responses]

- Don't think so [6]
- Maybe some individuals are recognized (as being from Plymouth)
- We need a discussion with neighbors
- Folks know about our Bazaar, Table in the Yard, etc.
- We don't evangelize (as Plymouth or as Presbyterians)
- We are DOERS instead [20]
- Maybe Plymouth should join the Chamber of Commerce again
- Plymouth's cookbooks raised awareness in the community (or maybe the awareness was already there)

2) How did you first come to Plymouth? [approx. # of responses]

- Our friends and family are here [9]
- Felt tug to go to church [1]
- Welcomed by a friendly person [1]
- Live nearby [3]
- Born into Plymouth [4]
- Great choir to join at Plymouth [5]
- Married at Plymouth [3]

**SPECIAL MISSION STUDY EVENT:
LABYRINTH WALK & VISIONING**

3) How has Plymouth affected your life?

- Kept me off the streets and busy
- Raised my child at Plymouth / God Parent is here
- Gave me a second life
- Congregation known to me
- Wonderful people here
- We are known by the members
- Congregation volunteered to help us
- Received a prayer quilt from Plymouth
[20 responded they had received a quilt / 100+ quilts given out total]
- We are "Fix-byterians" - Presbyterians fixing for others

4) Where can we see God's hand in our history?

- We started "sparks" in St. Helens that inspired the community
- We can see places where God's hands were at work on the timeline (leading in a positive way)
 - On the timeline!
 - During times that were "shaky" the thread or spark continued
 - Plymouth Church – the building, the cross, the congregation – has survived storms, fire, and struggles
 - (God is) Everywhere!
 - By inviting friends to Plymouth
 - By being Sunday School teachers

5) Anything else you would like to share?

- Financial support and legacy giving are important
- Appreciation for the MSLT, Pastor Paulette, and Mary Jean
- The Mission Study is off to a good start!

Congregational Survey – October 2022

from your Mission Study Leadership Team

1) Which option would you prefer for pastoral services at Plymouth in 2023?

Pulpit Supply with Pat Berger preaching twice a month, and other pastors or laypeople preaching other weeks. Pat Berger would also moderate Session and perform limited congregational care.

BENEFITS: Would save money so that the church can get on better financial footing.

Stated Supply for 1 year with a half-time pastor. This would cost more because of the Presbytery salary minimums, which include benefits. An additional \$30,000 would be needed from income or from savings (would deplete reserves in a year and a half).

BENEFITS: There would be a consistent person in the pulpit and in leadership.

2) What are your favorite things about Plymouth?

Worship **Fellowship Time** **Special Events**
 Bible Study **Small Groups** **Mission** **Other** _____

3) Are you able to increase your giving in 2023?

Yes **No** **Unsure**

4) Are you willing to be involved in a short-term team that would evaluate future fundraising?

Yes **No** **Unsure**

5) Are there any former activities that you would like to see return at Plymouth?

Choir **Virtual Fellowship** **Women's Retreat**
 Priscilla Circle **Table in the Yard** **Other** _____

6) Are there any broader concerns that you would like Plymouth to be involved with? FOR EXAMPLE:

Becoming an *Earth Care Congregation*
(active stewards of the earth in the areas of education, facilities, outreach, and worship)

Becoming a *More Light Presbyterian Church*
(commit to increasing the involvement of all people in the church, regardless of sexuality)

Other _____

7) Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

APPENDIX E: CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY – THE RESULTS

Congregational Survey – as of 10/09/22 - FINAL RESULTS

Number of Questionnaires Received = 31

1) Which option would you prefer for pastoral services at Plymouth in 2023?	Pulpit Supply	Stated Supply	No Response	TOTAL				
	24	3	4	31				
	77%	10%	13%	100%				
2) What are your favorite things about Plymouth?	Worship	Fellowship Time	Special Events	Bible Study	Small Groups	Mission	TOTAL	
	28	23	14	4	6	9	84	
	33%	27%	17%	5%	7%	11%	100%	
3) Are you able to increase your giving in 2023?	Yes	No	Unsure	TOTAL				
	13	11	7	31				
	42%	35%	23%	100%				
4) Are you willing to be involved in a short-term team that would evaluate future fundraising?	Yes	No	Unsure	No Response	TOTAL			
	7	9	14	1	31			
	23%	29%	45%	3%	100%			
5) Are there any former activities that you would like to see return at Plymouth?	Choir	Virtual Fellowship	Women's Retreat	Priscilla Circle	Table in the Yard	Other	No Resp.	TOTAL
	16	4	11	5	15	3	4	58
	28%	7%	19%	9%	26%	5%	7%	100%
6) Are there any broader concerns that you would like Plymouth to be involved with?	Earth Care	More Light Church	Other	No Response	TOTAL			
	10	9	4	12	35			
	29%	26%	11%	34%	100%			

Congregational Survey – as of 10/09/22 - FINAL RESULTS

7) Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

The Leadership is wonderful!

I really like my church very much, thank you very much from Mark with love.

Re-evaluate pulpit supply in 6 months.

I just want Plymouth to continue on.

A welcoming church, I appreciate this.

Would want to revisit [pulpit supply] after 1 yr.

[Priscilla Circle] once or twice a year.

[broader concern] Letting community know what we're doing or what we're about.

Fundraise, fundraise, legacies?

[former activities] Social activities away from church

[broader concern] More outreach to neighborhoods by virtue of additional events at the church.

Love our church as is.

I love my church & family of faith.

[pulpit supply] only if budget 2023 cannot sustain a stated supply half time.

[stated supply] if budget 2023 can sustain a stated supply half time.

[unsure about increase in giving] did large increase in 2022.

[former activities] any that are sustainable.

[broader concern] at least keep awareness of these concerns.

Perhaps taking a look at membership for inactivity and support of PPC - per capita is increasing along with other expenses to effect the budget; Pastor and Leadership Team - excellent!

APPENDIX F: NOTES FROM VISIONING RETREAT, MARCH 2023

RETREAT TO DISCUSS PLYMOUTH'S FUTURE

Plymouth Session and Mission Study Leadership Team

March 12, 2023

Current Goals

Pat's Paperwork- DONE

Pat's Recognition- DONE, is there more to do?

Women's Retreat

Men's Retreat/Breakfast

Summer Social with Music on a Saturday

Habitat

Community Meals (Tuesday)

Move Freezers

Room Clean Up Project

Yard Clean Up Party

Session Retreat

Committee Structure

Welcoming Committee

Pastor Search with Clark- Clark has turned that over to Brian Craker

Pictorial Directory

Mobile Pictures in Fellowship Hall

Journey of Faith

5 Year Goals

Permanent Pastor

Stable Finances

Full Building Use

Community Activities

Ecumenical Services like World Day of Prayer, Thanksgiving, Good Friday

Mission Ministry

Active Youth Group

Voice of Grace, Reason, Love

Identify a need at the middle school

Booth at the Fair

Action Steps

Pastor Pat official Parish Associate- DONE

Clark or Brian Craker to visit and share options- Paulette working on

Publish the Mission Study- Sharon

Plan Session Retreat- Helen

Ecumenical Actions, freezers, joint activities- Gina

Summer Social, date?- Linda

Middle and Primary School needs/ involvement- Gina