

**Music and Worship committee meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2015**

Present: Don Ransom, Ben Fox, guest Susan Inui, Carol Egbert, Wendy Pantoja, Jessica Horak, Judith Taylor, Jenny Gelfan, Anne Macksoud, Diane Mellinger,
Arriving later: Hugh Belton and Hope Yeager.

Check in

Opening words Pat Mayne Ellis poem "Scientists find universe awash in tiny diamonds"

Time of silence

Minutes from October meeting

Anne Macksoud did a wonderful job with last month's minutes. Minutes accepted.

Ongoing business - Jenny commented that she had been neglecting to put in an important agenda item: Review last month's music and worship services. See we took that up first.

Jenny said services went smoothly. Carol said she didn't believe the children's story should be about fundraising. Anne agreed, saying she loved story but it shouldn't have become a lesson about fundraising. Wendy said that the story is known in more traditional services as the children's sermon. The theme of stewardship was in reflection, Jenny said that the finance committee members thought that since Daniel never did this for 14 years, as a focus for this one Sunday it was fine.

Don has heard a few concerns. First was the length of the service. He thinks we should work towards managing the length. Don said some folks have missed the familiar hymns. It is nice to have some new songs as well. Wendy has been choosing songs, and Don suggested Diane and Wendy could work together on the selection. Don added that as service coordinator it is nice to be involved with the selection of readings. Wendy commented that opening and closing words are usually bookended by the minister. She is happy she doesn't have to select all the readings.

Starting on time!

Anne noted that we got used to the diversity of voices during Daniel's sabbatical. She noted we are not a traditional UU church. Wendy reminded us we are all UUA. Wendy commented that because she has worked in several UU churches, she is following some traditions which worked elsewhere, and does not know these things seem unusual here. Several people emphasized: It is about reshaping and working together. We discussed whether to always have children do the chalice lighting, and Wendy thought we need to remind people of what the special candles are for.

How to manage the length of the service and parts of the service such as: Joys and concerns. Announcements. Wendy: take a look at the elements of the service in order to figure out what is leading to the service going over time. Wendy suggested that members of the committee who are not service coordinator begin to keep track during the service of how long each element is taking.

Jess noted that a new parent said she longed for more spiritual and less meeting-like content. Also, the kids want to go to RE. Hugh commented length of service is really important especially to young families. We need to look at order of service to see what can be cut down. Story once a month? Perhaps not always have kids light the chalice.

Two candles could be lit beforehand. Perhaps families come and light the chalice. This way more members of the congregation will be represented. Anne, discuss it more. What do we cherish? What can we let go of. We need to discuss this further. Give more thought. What do we want in worship . Wendy commented that we need to give these issues more thought before we select a settled minister.

(Notes begun by Judith Taylor, continued by Jenny Gelfan, and beyond this point we returned to the agenda and notes are exclusively by Hope Yeager) Jenny mentioned that the beginning announcements are taking too long and need to be limited to the crucial ones.

Wendy mentioned that some of the "Anchors" take longer than others, up to 15-20 minutes long.

Anne Macksoud: let's work together to figure out what we cherish as a congregation so we can prioritize and keep what we love most.

Jenny asked that moving forward over the next month that Wendy, Diane, and the service coordinator communicate together before the service about how to streamline the elements of the service.

Carol offered that there are parts of the congregation's history and our identity (do we think of ourselves as UUA or not?) that we haven't had a chance to share with Wendy. Carol also mentioned that what we value in our services and the Sunday experience is seeing the faces of the members of our community.

Wendy mentioned that the Resource Committee would like to have people get up and give testimonials about what they love about the North Chapel during the weeks of the pledge season. This could be in place of the "anchors".

AGENDA FOR NEXT Month: look over and review the Worship Committee Mission and Key Responsibilities and Committee Best Practices.

Future Services... Looking Ahead

Wendy asked for the Service Guidelines for when the Minister is doing the reflection. Jenny said she would look for that document to give to Wendy.

Thanksgiving interfaith service: November 22 at 4 pm at the temple. People attending are asked to bring a dessert to share and something for the Woodstock Food Shelf. Leaders of the churches with members attending are asked to recruit three ushers.

Diane asked that the committee approve spending the funds to pay Eugene Friesen to come and play at the December 13 service. Committee members were in favor of spending Music and Worship funds to pay Eugene Friesen. Hugh offered to have Eugene stay with them for the night.

Simon Dennis will be giving the reflection on January 31.

Jenny offered closing words by Linda Hogan, "Our Houses".
The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Yeager