

Music and Worship Committee Meeting 6:00 to 7:00
Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Attending: Anne Macksoud, John Steinle, Hope Yaeger, Jessica Horak, Brenda Johnson, Judith Taylor, Jenny Gelfan, Kathy Astemborski
We Missed: Daniel Jantos, Diane Mellinger, Hugh Belton, Carol Egbert

6:00 - 6:05: Opening Words - Anne

6:05 - 6:15: Check-ins

6:15 - 6:35: Unfinished Business from last month's minutes

We had a lot of conversation around anticipating Daniel's departure. We discussed:

- The Congregation is feeling grief
- While we may be consciously used to the idea, emotionally we may not be ready
- We need to allow for/expect people to be going through the grieving process
- Should we focus on the theme of loss before or after Daniel's departure
- While he is still here - we should continue to celebrate and deal with the grief after he leaves

Our conversation included looking at different, themes, topics, speakers for upcoming services. It is important that if we are going to suggest a theme, we need to follow through on finding a speaker to present that topic. Some of the topics we thought would be interesting:

- One Earth/One Voice coming to Woodstock on a regular basis to maintain connection
- Daniel suggested (from afar) reading "Energizing Our Theological Diversity"
- Going over the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism - how can we incorporate this into a service?
- Jenny and Daniel have discussed Tenzin's travels and the retreats he has led all over
 - could he come here? Monastery in South Woodstock as a possible venue for a community retreat? A talk on Friday and retreat on Saturday? **Jenny will pursue looking into the possibility of him coming here/possible events.**

How to involve and invite young families from our community into the congregation continues to be a topic of interest and concern. John recently had a conversation with Naomi Mallet - a young mother who is new in town. He asked her about her experience with the North Chapel. Naomi told John that every young family she has spoken with says if they were going to go to church, the North Chapel would be where they go. It really seems to be a matter of time - families feeling like they don't have time to attend/commit.

We talked about the possibility of pairing new members of the North Chapel with "veterans" for a specified time period (6 months?). We agreed this might be an initiative

the Membership Committee might take on. **John will suggest this to Sherry for follow up.**

We discussed inviting John Elder, a Vermont author and naturalist to come speak with us - maybe on Earth Day? **Jess agreed to reach out and extend an invitation.**

The suggestion was also made to have someone provide a reflection on Addiction, since this is such a pressing issue in Vermont.

The next several weeks we're signing up folks to provide 8 sentences on Inspiration. What inspires you to live the life you do? Who/What are the inspirations in our lives? All are welcome to sign up for a Sunday - this piece will go in the Order of Service right before the collection is taken.