

NOTES FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING ON 8/5/2014

Attending: Brenda Johnson, Anne Macksoud, Daniel Jantos, Hugh Belton, Jenny Gelfan, Kathy Astemborski, Geraldine Fowler, Neil Stannard, Deb Rice

We Missed: Diane Mellinger, Hope Yeager, Jessica Horak

Opening Words: Anne shared a poem from *Help Is On The Way*, followed by a moment of silence and check-in.

Feedback from recent services:

People appreciate when the service sticks to an hour.

This past Sunday, Steve asked the congregation to look at a picture and share reactions in small groups. The observation was made that having specific questions to respond to in small groups was helpful. There was discussion on how the congregation values connecting on a more personal level, and yet the exercise of working in small groups can be uncomfortable. Going forward we will make an effort to be more mindful of how we set up small group interactions. Bringing more people into the planning of these conversations may help. The observation was shared that the conversation can get easily derailed by group members going off topic – lessening the impact of the exercise.

Discussion:

Geraldine – will set up a meeting with the people from Children First/Let's Grow Kids to find out more about the program. The initiative is looking for faith based organizations to get involved.

Geraldine needs a biography from **Hugh** for the upcoming service, August 10.

Brenda spoke with Dov to see if he'd like to do a service in September. She emailed him and is waiting for a response to firm up a date. Hugh can follow up if more communication is needed.

Brenda will get Hugh the updated outline of the service coordinator's role and also share the outline for the reflector's role (send to Kathy please!).

Brenda incorporated words that Daniel used recently, "Moment of Being More Fully Present" into the bulletin this past Sunday. The suggestion was made to keep that phrase in the order of service.

Diane organizes the music for the services. Jenny/Kathy gave Anne some suggestions for music on 8/24.

The Quest deadline is 8/22 for the September edition.

Len Cadwallader and his wife confirmed they will provide the reflection for the 10/19 service. Anne will ask Peg Kannenstine to introduce Len and his wife. We'll need a service coordinator for the service.

We haven't heard back from Anne Marinello about Change the World Kids doing a service. (Update: She thinks spring might be a good time when gardens are being planted.) Carmen Bango and Jack Greene have contacted Anne Macksoud about a film they're making on Our Relationship to the Earth. The suggestion was made to have them come to the 8/31 service to discuss their work and possibly with Peter Wilson. Anne has also met a young man at Farm and Wilderness who may be someone to invite to speak.

Daniel mentioned the great resource we have in the Dartmouth community and there are many interesting people there who may have a message we'd like to hear. When approaching people to speak at the North Chapel it's important to invite people who have a specific message/topic we want to hear about.

Delia, providing the reflection on 9/28, will talk about her pilgrimage in Spain.

On 9/21 people from our community will be heading to NYC to participate in the March on Climate Change. How do we want to focus our attention on this issue in church that day? Should we frame questions to put out to the congregation ahead of time? It's possible Dov might be providing the reflection that day and we discussed if it would be better to have him come another day if his reflection is on a different topic. We thought the march will be on people's minds and it would be helpful to have the reflection that day connect with this topic.

Daniel shared that the President of the UU Association has identified 3 issues to focus on this coming year. They are:

1. Getting Religion
2. Cultivating Leadership
3. Crossing the Borders

We had much discussion on the topic of finding cross cultural speakers and activities. As Unitarian Universalists we look to bring people/religions together. How can we explore this value/idea further? Perhaps this would be a way to get people involved who haven't shared in church before.

Some ideas that came up:

1. In September there is a Hindu celebration called the Festival of Light – there is a large Hindu community in Hanover that may be a resource.
2. When entire religious communities are displaced (Tibet) how do they maintain their faith and customs without a homeland?
3. Hugh knows a couple who have lived in/are from Mongolia – would they be willing to share about what it's like to live there (and then be here?).
4. Would it be possible to engage people outside of the Sunday service to further this exploration? Perhaps showing a movie on a cultural topic on a Thursday (or other day) before the Sunday service and having a conversation about it. (Example – showing a Cuban movie before Len

Cadwallader provides the reflection). We could do a month focusing on a particular culture through movies, readings, reflections.

Geraldine noted she has seen that people are “clicking on” the links provided in the weekly newsletter to read articles or listen to a song. She is also working on a Facebook page and we discussed how that might be used and embraced (or not) by the church community.

We tabled discussing:

Shortening the length of the usual service routine when there is a guest reflector.

Exploring authentic questions/topics/thoughts.

Jenny will provide opening and closing words for the September meeting.

Closing Words: Anne shared again from Help Is On The Way

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Astemborski