

## **MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**December 5, 2017, 5:15 PM**, Submitted by: Jessica Stout

**Attendees:** Don Ransom, Shoshana Belisle, Jessica Stout, Diane Mellinger, Mary Blanton, Kathy Astemborski, Leon Dunkley

### **Review and Approval of Minutes from November meeting**

#### **Ongoing Business: (Action Points in Bold)**

- 1) Shoshana presented a draft of proposed spiritual themes for 2018, including titles and descriptions. Committee members discussed these, with emphasis on the first quarter, and gave initial feedback.  
**Shoshana will make modifications based on the feedback and resend the draft to the committee.**
- 2) Don announced that Hope Yeager will be joining the Worship Committee in January, at which time Kathy and Jess will be rotating off.
- 3) Reviewed and clarified coffee hour details for December; the Sundays therein appear to be adequately covered.
- 4) Committee reviewed the past month of services, which have generally been rich and well received. The primary concern raised was the issue of some services going “long”. (see below)
- 5) Review of Action Points from November meeting:
  - a) Continued discussion about the length of services. There was one service in November that became particularly extended, and that prompted complaints from some congregants about the length. It was acknowledged that there are some weeks that have a lot going on in terms of announcements and other forms of sharing, and that generally it is important for the service to honor the inherent worth of people’s stories and offerings. At the same time, Leon made the point that when a service does go long, it should feel like it was indeed necessary and important to do so. Diane reiterated the important responsibility of the worship committee to control what we can in terms of protecting the service from too much extraneous content. It was agreed that the time and space are sacred, and that people come to enter a deeper, spiritual state of being. Tuning into and responding to those needs and expectations should help inform the construction of a service. Furthermore, continued exploration of the service coordinator’s role will be helpful in terms of both the time issue and the synergistic

relationship with Leon or whoever is reflecting. Leon made the additional point that the New Member Service should not occur in June, at the start of summer when church life tends to shift.

**Consideration should be given to moving the New Member Service to a more appropriate time on the calendar, i.e. September when the right kind of attention could be paid to this important event.**

- b) The topic of “gifts” inherent in the monthly themes continues to be woven into discussion
  - c) **Consideration will be paid to possibly redrafting the Guidelines for Service Coordinators**, as we continue to explore the role. The importance of maintaining a sense of meaning for that role was highlighted.
- 6) Review of Future Services
- a) Grace Alden is scheduled for 1/21 and Mohsen Mehdawi for 2/25; both of these guest reflectors have expressed interest in participating in round table discussions following the service.
  - b) Diane and Leon have connected around the Christmas Eve Services, and at this point both are coming together well.
  - c) Leon will cover the morning service on 12/24; there will be no service coordinator that day.

**Closing Circle**

**Adjourn:** 6:40 PM

**Next Meeting:** January 9, 2017 at 5:15 (second Tuesday)