

Worship Committee March 4, 2014

Present: Anne Macksoud, John Steinle, Jessica Stout, Carol Egbert, Hope Yeager, Hugh Belton, Kathy Astemborski, Jenny Gelfan, Don Ransom Absent: Diane Mellinger

Reviewed the services from February

Valentine's Day: The different pieces fit so well together – common intention. Liked the variety – implies it is a way to hear many voices.

A proposal was made that the Worship Committee design a service for when Daniel isn't here that we use a different format. Consider creating a "short service" with a service coordinator, opening words, music, and quiet time. What are we doing as a worship committee to be more responsive to the people in the congregation? The goal is that people leave feeling like "I'm a part of this community – this is my community."

Consideration should continue to be given to hosting candidates for the ministry – that it is part of our responsibility to help those learning.

Acknowledgement given to Daniel's skill of being responsive to the congregation as he's speaking – feels like we're heard, a part of things, understood as the service unfolds..

Perhaps we should consider inviting people who aren't from the congregation but from the community to do a reflection.. Also should we consider advertising that service may be a "quiet" service, without a formal reflection (when planning for Daniel's absences).

Suggestion was made that the speakers/guests should be vetted through a process. We could review the guidelines for the reflection and make sure guest speakers do the same. There was wide-spread agreement from the committee and congregation that our recent guest didn't seem to understand our process or our community..

Response to the service with Jackie Fischer – support the kids being there – good to hear from them and have their presence.

Suggestion made that guest speaker be given a time limit for their reflection.

Alina and Louie Armstrong – positive response to the service.

Hope did an excellent job at service coordinator this past Sunday! Thank you and hope you do it again soon!

Conversations Across Differences – we haven't been able to sign people up to do this piece. Should we continue? The people that have gone have done a great job. How do we establish meaningful connection with those that see things fundamentally different? How rewarding it is when people open up and find a way to bridge that gap. Hugh, Hope and John volunteered to do upcoming services.

Hugh will do 3/23

Hope will do 3/30

John will do 4/6

Looking forward to the services in general:

3/9 – all set

3/16 – all set

Joy and Lawrence are set up to do workshops in March. Richard has done a great job advertising what is coming up.

3/23 – Jessica will be doing the reflection on Loss and Life After.

3/30 – Reverend Joe – he has the information on what the reflection should include.

We were in agreement we'd like to look to the wider community to have people come in and share. Simpler Quieter service – perhaps for the summer.

Easter – Daniel will be back. Will Diane be working on the flow of the service? Yes – she's looking towards that.

Committee members have heard positive feedback in having a theme for the month – so people know what will be discussed.

Suggestion made about doing a service on Forgiveness – hearing what others say about it. The committee agreed it's a theme there would be a lot of interest in.

Anne – Closing Words