

Worship Committee Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2014

Attending: Hope Yeager, Ann Macksoud, Jenny Gelfan, Jess Horak, Hugh Belton, Brenda Johnson, Kathy Astemborski, Daniel Jantos

Brenda read beautiful opening words that she WILL SEND OUT TO ALL!

Main agenda item is planning for the summer. Daniel would like to plan to take 5 weeks away at the end of July into August. We did learn from Daniel's sabbatical time that the community would rather hear from people from within the community versus the "outside".

We brainstormed to come up with some topics we could focus on this summer/during Daniel's time away – as well as looking forward to topics for the fall. Possible themes for July:

Storytelling (this is the year of storytelling)

Authenticity

Permaculture and Sustainability

How to encourage the community to move towards action in a fun way. We need to make our actions/conversations purposeful.

Encourage people to take one step at a time towards action – those are people who are less afraid and engaged in community.

Heroin problem – addressing addiction

Gender – church communities tend to be made up of more women than men. How do we encourage more men to participate and engage. One topic could be to have men tell their stories – 4 men in 4 weeks...

Transparently going into a conversation about gender – how do we approach the idea of gender and spirituality?

Solstice and the Earth – the actual solstice already has a speaker – could that happen in August?

Prison topic

Corporations' w/Conscience in Mission (Chris Bartlett?) HUGH WILL CONNECT WITH CHRIS

Len Cadwallader – created Vital Communities / Cuba trip, reconnecting with Quaker communities in Cuba– DANIEL WILL REACH OUT TO LEN

Simon Dennis – involved in shifting the mind frame around sustainable living

Jessica will talk to Matt Stout about speaking about alternative energy

We discussed the possibility of having Simon Dennis and Matt Stout do the service/reflection together (the heritage of business and environment)

Daniel suggested framing invitations for people to share reflections by asking them to speak about their expertise/experience in a specific topic.

The two Sundays in July – 7/13 and 7/20 – a suggestion was made to do a more quiet, meditative service. Another idea is to ask the community to bring in a symbol

that they would speak to – helping people to share their story/something about themselves. We could set up the question – for example: what would you bring that represents what you feel about the North Chapel – about yourself, etc.

Nancy Fraiser – spoke at Dartmouth – front yard/back yard – what used to be front and center to us has been pushed to the back yard. Economics has coopted our social relationships. Economics has dismantled the relationships people have within their community. Her point is to push the economics back and let the social relationships come back to the front yard – that becomes our work to rebuild those relationships. Daniel suggested this theme might work in the fall as a series.

Daniel suggested our committee getting together outside the meeting time to spend a spiritual experience together. The tea house in South Woodstock would be a great place to meet and think and experience together.

Jenny shared closing words.

A Summary of Action Items:

Brenda will send out the poem she read

Hugh will contact Chris Bartlett regarding Corporations with Conscience in Mission

Jessica will discuss with Matt the possibility of sharing the reflection with Chris and bringing in his expertise on alternative energy

Jessica and Hugh will coordinate one or possibly two services around the ideas listed in the above two action steps

Daniel will reach out to Len Cadwallader (creator of Vital Communities/had a recent Cuba trip where he connected with Quaker communities)

Daniel will contact Elizabeth Reeves to be service coordinator for Marta Ceroni on July 22. If she cannot do that, Daniel will coordinate.

Anne or Hope will prepare Opening Words for the July 1st meeting

Kathy will prepare Closing Words for the July 1st meeting

The Calendar at this time is as follows:

June 8: Sustaining Earth and Community

June 15: Step-Up/Father's Day Daniel, with others, telling stories of childhood summer memories

June 22: Marta Ceroni

June 29: Daniel

July 6: Daniel

July 13: Daniel, Spiritual Practice

July 20: Daniel, Spiritual Practice

July 27: Dr. Marcelo Gleiser (Bookstock)

August 3:

August 10:

August 17: Anne Macksoud and Hope Yeager, The Earth

August 24: Kathy Astemborski, with Jenny Gelfan as Service Coordinator, Finding Freedom in Prison

August 31: Daniel

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Astemborski