

MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 7, 2017, 5:15 PM, Submitted by: Jessica Stout

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

Moment of Silence

Check-in

Review and Approval of Minutes from October meeting

Ongoing Business: (Action Points in Bold)

- 1) Coffee hour assignments for December: committee members signed up for days, as they were able, to assist with coffee hour during the month of December. All dates have coverage at this time.
- 2) Committee members reviewed services from the past month, during which Leon has provided all of the reflections. Leon welcomed feedback, which was very positive in terms of content and style. Leon discussed his decision to be the “first face” in the pulpit and greet the congregation, in response to the feedback that it was difficult to physically see him behind the pulpit until he rose to speak. Committee members agreed that it was beneficial for Leon to begin the service, and remarked on how well it has worked when he weaves themes from the beginning into the reflection later in the service. Committee members also remarked on how well it worked for Leon and the service coordinator to provide the benediction together. Generally, it was agreed that the service coordinator role can evolve as needed, now that we have a settled minister in place; Leon expressed his strong preference to continue to work with service coordinators, as the conversations therein enhance his own experience and that of the service.
- 3) Review action points from October meeting.
 - a) Per the Board’s request, Don, along with Norwood, will provide committee representation on 11/26 on the topic of what the North Chapel means personally and why to support it financially.
 - b) Don followed up with Wendy regarding the relocation of the Food Shelf collection bin.
 - c) Committee member discussed the issue of the length of the services. Traditionally, there has been a goal to keep services to

roughly one hour, though there are many variables that can contribute to longer services. While no one thought there was a pressing issue in terms of services running longer (and no one thought imposing rigidity around this would be wise) it was agreed that **a general effort to be mindful of time and not overload services would be a good idea going forward. There was also consensus that Leon's time should be prioritized.**

- d) Committee members discussed the topic of worship themes. Shoshana and Leon have not officially had an in depth meeting about this, but will continue to communicate around it. **In this effort, Leon expressed a preference that he focus on the "specifics" of certain topics and dates as they apply to his reflections, while Shoshana focuses her creativity on the broader themes, as she has been doing this past year. In the coming year, these themes may shift and evolve somewhat, but will likely have some continuity related to the seasons and the natural world.**
- e) **As related to above, committee members will continue to explore the gifts embedded in the monthly themes, as Shoshana continues to provide an overarching framework.**
- f) Leon expressed flexibility in terms of his time off in January, February and March. **Don will pursue dates with guest reflectors for those upcoming months and let Leon know.**
- 4) Review of future services: Leon will provide a simple, perhaps abbreviated morning service on 12/24 without a service coordinator; Leon will provide the reflection on 12/31, with Richard Schramm as service coordinator; **Leon and Diane will work together to plan the Christmas Eve services.**

Closing Circle

Adjourn: 6:30 PM

Next Meeting: December 5, 2017 at 5:15