

Minutes:
Music and Worship Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 6th 2015

Those Present: Jenny Gelfan, Carol Egbert, Don Ransom, Kathy Astembnorski, Diane Mellinger, Hugh Belton, Anne Macksoud, Jessica Stout

Those Away: Rev Wendy Pantoja, Judith Taylor, Hope Yeager, Ben Fox

Minutes from the September meeting were approved and seconded.

We discussed the **guest reflectors** who are confirmed for the next few months: Carol Egbert wanted to be sure that the guests have our “*Guidelines for Reflectors*” so that they will know the suggested guidelines in terms of **time** (about 15 minutes) and **content** (personal. Spiritual...”not a “lecture.”

- Charles MacCormack, October 25th
- Dr. Dennis McCullough MD, November 29th
- Simon Dennis, December 27th. *Diane recalled how few people come to church the Sunday after Christmas and suggested that Simon Dennis be rescheduled for a time when more people will be present. **Jenny will contact Simon to see if he would like to be rescheduled.** If so, it was suggested that we do the “Burning of the Chaff” service on December 27th which does not require a reflector and would be a service that is fairly easy to organize.*
- We are still looking for a date for Dov Taylor. All were enthusiastic about having Dov come again for a reflection.
- Jesse Taylor and Mary Blanton are still on our “A” list. They would be talking about their (individual) experiences on the Appalachian Trail. Jesse's schedule has been busy, but whenever he can fit it in (on a day when Mary Blanton is also here and Rev. Wendy is not the reflector) we will schedule them.
- We are eager to get Rev. Nancy Crumbine as a guest reflector

There was discussion about the order and the “flow” of our services. Everyone agreed that those who want to make longer announcements (more than the usual minute or two) need to check with the head of the Worship Committee a week before so that any lengthy announcement can be incorporated into the service in the best way possible.

Presently there are some suggestions for making a few changes in order of service. We discussed these suggestions at length and everyone felt that we would need more conversation about “Why” the order would be changed. Diane Mellinger recalled that we have fine-tuned the service many times over

the 18 years she has been at North Chapel, and there have been a number of changes made over the years. At this point we felt that we should not make any sudden changes in something that is working well for so many people (see comments about services from 2014 planning process questionnaires). We would like to discuss this more at our November meeting.

We discussed the **Guest at your Table** program that would happen around Thanksgiving time. We would need to incorporate that program into the **Thanksgiving Basket** program that we have done for several years as part of our collaboration with the Woodstock Area Food Shelf. It was suggested that Geraldine and Ben, if they are willing, take over the particulars of the **Guest at Your Table** Program.

In terms of any new (outside) programs this year, we were all concerned that they might take energy and funds away from the big task we have set for ourselves in **Our Future in Focus** - in particular our pledge to become a carbon neutral church in the next few years. Since this will take significant new funding and some volunteer teams to create new space in the building, we feel that it is very important to not divide our attention. Besides this major effort, there were many other (prioritized) goals that emerged from the planning process. There was a suggestion that the committee stay focused on these already articulated goals and use them (rather than outside programs) as inspirations/"fodder" for our Sunday Services.

We discussed the **What Anchors Me** part of the service. Everyone likes the topic and has benefitted from the offerings we have already had. But Jenny Gelfan reports that people are not volunteering to fill the slots as they did for the previous topic: **Inspirations in Our Lives**. Rather than let go of the **Anchors** topic, Anne Macksoud suggested that it be reframed. She will give that a try on Oct 11th when she is service coordinator. Carole Egbert suggested that our next topic (after **Anchors**) be **Sharing a Prayer**. Everyone liked the idea.

The dance service requested by Peggy Brightman was discussed and all agreed **December 20th** would be a good date for it.

We discussed the idea of **joint interfaith services** 4 times a year. Most people want to stick to once a year. Don Ransom enjoyed the spirit and momentum of the Barnard Event. This will need more discussion at our November meeting.

We agree that **photographs during worship service** need to be taken discreetly, usually from the back of the church. Jenny Gelfan read **Closing Words** and the meeting adjourned at 7:00

Respectfully submitted: Anne Macksoud (for Hope Yeager, Secretary)