

Music and Worship Committee Minutes
October 7th 2014

The Committee does not need anything from the Board of Trustees except to wait until November to receive the edited guidelines for the Music and Worship Committee

The Music and Worship Committee met from 5:30 -6:30 on October 7th, 2014

Present: Daniel Jantos, Diane Mellinger, Hugh Belton, Carol Egbert, Jenny Gelfan, Anne Macksoud, John Steinle, Jessica Stout, Judith Taylor, Hope Yeager

Absent: Kathy Astemborski, Brenda Johnson

Anne opened the meeting with verse 64 of the Tao Te Ching

The members briefly discussed guidelines for the Worship Committee sent to us by the board for our review. Since several of our practices in the committee are different from the guidelines, we decided to review the guidelines next month and make some edits that describe our actual situation more accurately. We will send a revised paragraph to the Board after Nov.4th.

We reviewed the Sunday services for October, November and December. Although Daniel will be here for most of them, we need a service coordinator for October 19th when **Len and MaryAnn Cadwallader** will be doing the reflection. **Anne will ask Richard Schramm or Norwood Long to be Service Coordinator for the Cadwalladers., and also remind Peggy Kannenstine about introducing them.**

Keri Cole will be the guest Reflector for November 9th. Daniel suggested that we ask her husband, Ben, to introduce her. **Anne will invite Ben to do that and invite Elizabeth Reaves or Michael Zsoldos to be service coordinator.**

On November 16th, the day before Charles Egbert's birthday, **Carol will select the three readings that are reminiscent of Charles.** Daniel will do the reflection.

November 30th is an open Sunday. We will invite a guest reflector. **John Steinle and Anne will create a short list of suggested people and send it around to the rest of the committee for approval or further suggestions. Based on that feedback, we will invite someone to fill in for the 30th when Daniel will not be here.**

For the Winter Solstice service on December 21st, Hope Yeager will invite Rob Hansen (teacher from Pomfret School and astronomer) to do the reflection. Peg Brightman will present three dances (with three dancers). Daniel will be present at the service as well.

John Steinle led a conversation about the characteristics of a good/successful reflection. All of the committee members said that they liked "stories", for example, the reflection is personal, has one or two anecdotes from the reflectors life.

- Everyone agreed that we do not like reflections that are impersonal, i.e.. too theoretical - like an academic lecture.
- Most agreed that shorter is better than longer
- Some didn't like the idea of Robes.

The committee likes the use of “**props**”, like the valentine sayings that Carol did last February. The sayings also **invited participation** from the congregants who enjoyed reading aloud the saying/poem that they were given. Another good way to invite the congregation to participate was **Steve Swayne’s** photograph of a crowd in the Louvre taking cell-phone photos of the Mona Lisa. This photo sparked a lively discussion among small groups in the congregation, and allowed them to participate in a less threatening way than small groups talking about personal feelings. The dialogue reflections that Daniel did with Michael Zsoldos and Delia Clark were appreciated. Hope suggested that they could be better if each person had a microphone rather than the cumbersome passing back and forth of one mic.

Two more suggestions for guest speakers, included UU Minister **Nancy Crumbine** from Dartmouth and **Jesse Taylor** (about his walk on the Appalachian trail from GA to ME.)

Daniel spoke about the possibility of inviting **Rev Telos Whitfield** (UU Minister from South Strafford) to fill in for two Sundays a month (during January and February) while Daniel is in Australia. Telos has indicated an interest and has also said she would be “on call” in much the same way that Joy and Lawrence were available to the community while Daniel was on sabbatical. The committee, after hearing about Telos and how highly she is regarded in the UUA, asked Daniel to invite her for the 2nd and 4th Sundays in January and February 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30. Worship Committee members went downstairs and returned with an amazing dessert provided by **Mary Jeanne Taylor**. From 6:45 until 8:00, the committee joined a conversation led by Denise Lyons (planning Committee) about our vision of the North Chapel in the next 5 years.