

Worship and Music Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

Participants:

David Roden, Anne Pickett, Becky Davies, Carolyn Carmack, Jan Dickerson, Larry Hayward, Paul Stetsenko, Paul Van de Water, and Rosa Fullerton.

David Roden opened the meeting with prayer.

Month in Review

Recent worship services were reviewed and discussed. The Bach Cantata on February 11th was well received, but a number of problems with the communion service were raised. A combination of circumstances caused a significant traffic jam. We decided not to have the ushers guide the rows at the next communion on March 11th. The words for the Sanctus (Holy, Holy...) were missing in the bulletin. Paul Stetsenko will insert the words and/or music in future bulletins.

A concern was raised about transition music after receiving new members. One verse of "Blest be the Tie that Binds" was used for many years at Westminster to welcome new members. Future new member services will include this hymn if the new member liturgy is not immediately followed by a congregational hymn.

Paul Van de Water raised the issue identified at the Officer Intreat about the length of recent services. The children's sermon and offertory music were mentioned as places where better time management might be applied. Paul Stetsenko pointed out that the offertory music is not simply background music while the money is being collected, but is in itself an offering to God.

Larry Hayward asked how many people were commenting on the length of the service. He has not heard such comments for over a year.

There is significant pressure to include a lot of elements in worship at Westminster and he does not want to be tied down by false deadlines.

The general consensus was that 65 minute services were not a problem, but 75 minute services were too long.

Month Ahead

Ashes for the Ash Wednesday service are at the church office. Becky Davies will check with Karen Blomberg about the need for kosher bowls and oil. Announcements for the March 4th service were included in the bulletin and will be highlighted in worship.

David Roden will bring the fellowship pads and offering plates to George Mason at 8:00 AM. Ken Niemann will organize the ushers. David Roden will contact and meet with the school staff.

Major Events

Holy week discussions involved several considerations related to the move back into the Sanctuary. The current plan for Palm Sunday, April 1st, is to have only one service preceded by a 30 minute event at Agudas Achim with their congregation followed by a processional to Westminster. It is unlikely fellowship hall will be available for coffee hour after the service.

The communion service on Maundy Thursday, April 5th will be by intinction due to the uncertainty of the space or equipment for anything else.

It was suggested that we may wish to make intinction the standard method of serving communion in the future. We will need to see the new space before this suggestion can be discussed further.

The Easter Sunday service on April 8th will include the Commonwealth Brass. Flower arrangements

(Lilies/Azaleas/Hydrangeas?), scents, purchasing methods, and placement options were discussed. The committee recommended purchasing and arranging flowers after viewing the space. Becky Davies agreed to contact several members with skills and interest in flower arranging to see if they would be willing to help.

Move in Planning

Plans for preparing the Sanctuary and communion prep room for worship were discussed. A work day on Saturday March 24th or 31st was identified to place the hymnals, bibles, and fellowship pads in the pews and setup the paraments, candles, and communion equipment.

Procedures for ushers, communion, greeters, processions and other liturgical movements will need to be prepared. People to be trained in operating the lighting and sound systems were identified.

Paul Stetsenko offered to make his organ available in the interim while the main organ is being constructed. The committee accepted his offer and hoped that arrangements could be made to move the organ into the Sanctuary as close to April 1st as possible.

The discussion about the 15 minutes before worship and fellowship hour after worship raised a number of concerns. The general consensus was to minimize loud talking in the Sanctuary before worship. Five to seven minutes of music before the service was thought to be the most promising way of setting the tone. The pastors will greet people in the library hall outside the Sanctuary. This area could be used for additional coffee fellowship before and after the service.

Notes from the Officer Intreat

The pros and cons of continuing to include the words and/or music for the hymns in the bulletin at Westminster were discussed.

The committee did not object to including hymns in the bulletin if it does not overly burden the church staff. Words and music for hymns that are not included in the hymnal should be included in the bulletin. Using the hymnal is an important component of music education for children and adults.

Session Motions

1. To modify the communion schedule for 2007 as follows:
 - May 13th à April 29th (preaching about Worship for the new Capital Campaign)
 - September 9th (Welcome Back Sunday) à September 2nd (Labor Day Weekend)
 - November 11th (Remembrance Sunday) à November 25th (Thanksgiving Sunday)
2. To invite Amey Upton to preach at the 8:30 service on April 15th to help fulfill one of her requirements as a candidate for ministry.

Closing Prayer by David Roden

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 2006 at 7:30 PM.