

## **Worship and Music Committee Minutes** **Wednesday, April 11, 2007**

### **Participants:**

David Roden, Anne Pickett, Carolyn Carmack, Becky Davies, Paul Van de Water, Sherrie Cathcart, Jan Dickerson, Peggy Grant, and Larry Hayward.

David Roden opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Month in Review**

The last two Sunday's at Agudas Achim went well. The last service, March 25<sup>th</sup>, was especially meaningful.

David Roden thanked the committee for their help setting up the Sanctuary and Worship Prep room on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> prior to our first Sunday back at Westminster on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Palm Sunday service went reasonably well and was very well attended. The problems with the microphones were pretty much addressed by Easter, April 8<sup>th</sup>. A microphone was needed for the Elder participating in the baptism.

The Maundy Thursday communion by intinction went well. The bread was more substantial and did not fall apart when dipped into the juice.

The Good Friday services at noon and 7:30 showed off the acoustics of the new Sanctuary particularly well. Unaccompanied congregational singing felt very comfortable.

The flowers for Easter Sunday were especially beautiful. Gale Grindstaff did a great job and will be thanked by several members of the committee.

There was noticeable congestion in the back of the Sanctuary where the choir waited for the service to begin. Having one row stand to the outside where the pews are further apart helped significantly. It would also have helped if the ushers took a more proactive role in directing traffic and helping to find seats for people. The capacity of the new Sanctuary appears to be approximately 500 people.

### **Month Ahead**

The April 15<sup>th</sup> service includes the reception of new members and the commissioning of leaders for the new capital campaign. This service will be followed by a congregational meeting.

The April 22<sup>nd</sup> service is Youth Sunday. Ushers will not be needed for this service.

The first full communion in the new Sanctuary will be on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The committee debated the pros and cons of continuing to offer communion by intinction.

The decision was to return to our previous pattern of offering intinction at the 8:30 service and pew service at the 11:00 service. A full complement of Elders has been recruited for this service. Anne Pickett and Paul Van de Water will review and update the communion serving instructions as needed. Draft instructions will be reviewed with Larry Hayward.

The communion bread and utensils were also discussed. The committee favored purchasing reasonably nice bread, but left the final selection up to Jan Dickerson.

Two of the three hand pumps used to fill the communion cups have not been located. New pumps will be purchased if the old one cannot be found. The supply of communion cups is adequate for approximately three services.

April 29<sup>th</sup> is also the kickoff Sunday for the new capital campaign. The campaign committee would like to provide special prayer cards for the four weeks of the campaign. Susan Cloud is responsible for preparing the prayer cards. David Roden will contact Susan Cloud to coordinate the card exchange.

May 6<sup>th</sup> is Children's Sabbath. Fifth grade children will help with the ushering on this Sunday. A few adult ushers will be needed to show them what to do.

### **Other Business**

Larry Hayward reported that a seven inch platform is being constructed for the pulpit. This will bring the preacher up to the previous height and improve the sight lines. The lighting and sound system needs additional work, but in general has worked better than he feared.

The early service will return to the chapel once construction is completed in approximately two weeks.

The offering logistics needed to change to fit the new space. The new plan is to have all of the ushers process from the back with the offering plates.

If the offering is followed by a doxology, two ushers will bring the collection forward and place it on the communion table.

If the service does not include a doxology or does include communion, the ushers will keep the offering in a secure place in the narthex.

There was also concern about the uniformity and symmetry of the ushering during the offering. The basic system of recruiting and training ushers may need to be reviewed. Including a core group of experienced ushers on each ushering team was suggested.

However, the committee was not in favor of having the same people usher every week.

Carolyn Carmack reported that the donor of the choir robe gift offered to pay the whole cost of the choir robes for all choirs. This eliminated the need to supplement the gift with other music funds. The Session motion was modified to include this outcome.

The schedule is to have the new choir robes available for the special worship service planned for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Carolyn Carmack also showed a sample pew/fellowship pad binder and several proposed information form layouts. The binders will make pad production much easier and provide pockets for church brochures. Extra offering envelopes and prayer cards will remain in the pew racks. *The committee voted to recommend to the Session acceptance of Carolyn Carmack's gift of new pew binders for the sanctuary.*

Reinstituting weekly pew checking was raised. Peggy Grant discussed options for storing pew checking supplies in light of the new security system.

The placement and logistics of sanctuary flowers were discussed. The flowers need to be placed higher and be easy for the deacons to deliver to shut-ins after the service.

The brass vases are not compatible with the current delivery container. Anne Picket will review options and make a recommendation.

Special gifts and memorials from a number of people have been designated for purchasing a new set of paraments for the communion table and pulpit. Due to the shape of our communion table, the set will need to be custom made. Several options for color, seasonal symbols, and fabric exist. The committee favored traditional seasonal colors and more elaborate decorations. The costs are likely to be between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Additional gifts would be needed to be solicited to make this purchase.

Paul Van de Water reported that he and Clara Beth purchased a new Bible for the Chapel. *The committee voted to recommend to the Session acceptance of the Van de Water's gift of a new Bible for the Chapel.*

Paul Van de Water closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 9, 2006 at 7:30 PM.