

Worship and Music Committee Minutes **Wednesday, May 10, 2007**

Participants:

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

David Roden opened the meeting with prayer.

Month in Review

The April 29th service included communion in the pews for the first time in our new sanctuary. A conflict between serving the choir and the choir anthem resulted in significant delay. Anne Pickett distributed a list of options for addressing this issue in the future.

The preferred approach was to serve the choir before they sang, but other options and some variety in communion music were suggested. In general the setup and procedures worked well.

The question of continuing with pew service versus intinction was raised. During the school year, offering intinction at the 8:30 service and pew service at the 11:00 service was preferred. During the summer every other communion service will be by intinction. Pew service was selected for the communion services on June 10th and August 12th while intinction was selected for the communion services on July 8th and September 2nd.

Agenda notes forwarded by Larry Hayward raised a number of questions about the frequency and liturgical nature of communion.

The committee favored monthly communions, but not necessarily on a specific Sunday of the month.

Coordinating communion with liturgical seasons was preferred. The Presbyterian calendar lists Sundays in the liturgical year where communion is recommended.

The Children's Sabbath service went very well.

It was unfortunate that the microphones faded in and out for several speakers.

Youth Sunday on April 22nd was a lively service and generally appreciated. The speakers were especially good. A few people, however, were quite upset.

In general the committee felt a number of aspects about the service could be improved. We understand that a bulletin was intentionally not provided.

Nevertheless, we would recommend including a bulletin in the future giving the congregation a better sense of the service structure and organization. Not having a bulletin left an impression that the service was not well planned.

A number of committee members felt the music was over done – more moderation desirable. The song selection could also be improved. The songs were not easy to sing. The rhythms and melodies were too difficult for a first time participant to learn on the spot. Including music on the PowerPoint slides would have helped. The sound system used by the band was also problematic.

It overemphasized the bass tones and made it difficult to understand the singer. The song that had men's and women's parts needed a male and female leader.

The one song most of the congregation probably did know was done as an anthem by the Middle School group. It would have been nice to have the congregation join in at the end of this song.

Month Ahead

The scheduling and approving of baptisms was raised. It was unclear if baptisms were scheduled for the May 20th, May 27th, and June 10th or if one or more of these were duplicate dates.

The summer schedule with one service at 10:00 AM starts on May 27th.

Looking ahead to see pledge dedication, new members, and graduate recognition scheduled for May 20th and recognition, dedication, first fruits, and Montreat commissioning scheduled for June 3rd caused some concern about worship content. The discussions lead into a review of the service timing chart prepared by David Roden. The number of services that ran over by 10 minutes or more was a concern. The committee affirmed including life of the church and mission messages in the service, but thought more attention should be given to keeping the messages short and avoiding several messages within the same service. Striving to keep the children's sermon to 5 minutes or less would help.

If the service includes several messages, communion, or significant recognitions, it may be desirable to reduce the sermon to 15 minutes.

Other Business

Larry Hayward asked the committee to review lay participation within worship. The committee would like to encourage lay participation to promote the impression of a "people driven church". At least two worship leaders should be included in each service, but no more than three leaders should be used at any time. Lay participation should fit within these guidelines. Recruiting and training lay leaders was discussed.

As feedback from last month's discussion about ushering it was felt that the glitches experienced during the first few weeks have been addressed.

The committee did not feel a core group of ushers were needed as long as the usher captain was experienced and well trained. Ushering is perceived as a good way for new members to get involved.

Setup of the worship prep room is near complete. All of the candles have not as yet been found or returned. Some are at Becky Davies house and Betsy Preston has some others. The position and decoration of the cross and communion table still need work.

One suggestion was to purchase a smaller cross that could sit on the communion table. Another option is place a larger cross in front of the pulpit. Catalogues of brass vases for holding the flowers were reviewed. It was also suggested that the florist should be reevaluated.

Carolyn Carmack presented her research on purchasing a new set of paraments for the communion table and pulpit. Almy appeared to offer the best price for silk damask paraments. The cost would be between \$4,300 and \$5,500. Carolyn estimated the current bequests totaled less than \$3,000. Questions about symbols and cleaning still need to be addressed.

Larry Hayward asked the committee to recommend that the Session authorize communion at the last Disciple class on May 25th. The motion was made by Becky Davies and approved by the committee. Paul Van de Water closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 13, 2006 at 7:30 PM.