

Worship and Music Committee Minutes

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Participants: Anne Pickett, Rosa Fullerton, , Becky Davies, Carolyn Carmack, Paul Van de Water, Katherine Gunter, and Larry Hayward. Anne Pickett opened the meeting with prayer.

Month in Review

David Erwin's bell choir was a joy on June 15th. It was also expressed that the way the medical emergency was handled on that Sunday and the inclusion of one of David's choir members in the recognition of graduating seniors reflected well on Westminster's atmosphere of caring and welcome. M & M Week was a definite success and brought Casey Fitzgerald back from maternity leave. Larry reported that Casey liked the number attending and felt the mix of music with the more traditional vacation Bible school enhanced the week. She is looking to next year's scheduling and may even want a week at both the beginning and end of summer.

Month Ahead

Communion on July 13 will be seated; on August 10 it will be by intinction. Patrick Hunnicutt's installation will be on July 27th during the regular service, with Presbytery officials participating. Envelopes will be provided for those wishing to contribute to the special installation offering to benefit the Presbytery. New members will be received August 3rd. On September 7th, the normal schedule of two services will be resumed, and Casey's William will be baptized that day.

Other Business

Wholeness and Healing Services: Everyone agreed that this has been a successful and very meaningful service for all participating, and Larry reported that the staff wants to continue these in the fall. The problem: when the bell tables are returned for use, where will this service be held? The staff is looking at various options (they want to keep it generally in the same location), and when they have a recommendation, want the Worship Committee's approval. With vacations coming up, this will probably not be settled until late summer, which will necessitate the committee meeting to receive their recommendations.

Chapel Organ Donation: Anne reported to the committee that this gift had been approved by Gifts and Bequests under the Foundation Board, A & F, and the Session. Carolyn reported that she, Paul, and the donor had made one trip to look at organs. She indicated getting the perfect organ will take some time and effort.

Sanctuary Organ Dedication: This will be on the afternoon of September 21st. Publicity for the concert, ushers, and a reception will be needed.

Church Lobby Improvement Project: Anne reported that she has no news; the task force has not met again.

Whole Body Communion Trays: Carolyn, Becky, and Anne have been looking into the purchase of two “whole body” (of Christ) communion trays for the roving servers to use during intinction services. Many vendors sell these and they are virtually identical: a small center part used for bread surrounded by holders for juice cups. They match our large communion service, and can also be used for communions for smaller groups. We can get these for \$58 apiece online, the funds coming from one of the memorial funds. Anne will check with Nancy Bea to get the particulars so that a motion (if needed to spend this amount from a memorial fund) can be presented to the Session in July.

Frequency of Communion: Anne brought up the suggestion made to her that we have communion less frequently, thereby making it more meaningful. Paul spoke against this and Larry presented a brief history of how Presbyterians (and Protestants in general) strayed from more frequent communion but are now returning to the traditional form. The consensus was that we should continue to schedule communion monthly. However, the committee did endorse putting a item in the bulletin explaining the reasons and background regarding the scheduling of this sacrament. Paul will write this for the August 10 bulletin. We also discussed adding a line about “those preferring not to take communion by intinction can remain seated...” Larry felt the inclusion of this statement was too open, perhaps making the sacrament too optional. We compromised and Paul will include “those unable to take ...” in the item. It was mentioned that we could regularly include “worship information” items in the bulletin, similar to the educational blurbs on the synagogue we enjoyed at Agudus Acchim.

Head Usher Vacancy: We discussed the fact that Ken Niemann, now chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, is still acting as head usher and agreed that we need to find another person to assume this role. The problems and organization of the usher program were discussed thoroughly. Each Sunday there is an usher captain, and over this group is the head usher. It was agreed that better training is needed at all levels, especially at the usher captain level, and we would like to see an usher training program when we get a new head usher. And although there are many people on the usher list, we need more accountability and encourage new people to sign up. Katherine suggested that we work with all the groups (Young Adults, for example) to recruit new volunteers. Several people, including Larry, suggested to Katherine that she would make an excellent head usher, and she agreed to think about taking on this job.

Young Artist Series: Larry reported that both he and Bill Keeth, head of the Foundation Board, had received inquiries about this series and if the church was following the will’s guidelines by not having regular concerts by young people. Each looked into the matter separately, and each concluded that the will states that funds may be used for young guest artists, but is open that this is just one way to fulfill the intent of the donor. Although Westminster members have enjoyed the presentations by the young artists in the past, there have been problems with continuing the program: the assurance that musical selections will be sacred music and fit with the theme of the particular service and, primarily, the lack of a person knowledgeable about the area’s school music programs and prospects who would have the contacts to administer the guest artist series. The monies are being used for some musical needs now – such as the organ scholarship in Dana Brown’s name at Oberlin, and the committee agreed that we might find additional ways, especially where young artists could be presented.

Presbyterian Hymnal Review: Larry, Paul, and Molly Roden will make up the three-person team to go through the current hymnal and provide comments to the committee looking into updating the hymnal.

Chapel Candles: Carolyn has located inexpensive battery-operated candles which will be purchased to replace the problematic wax candles in the Chapel sconces.

Worship and Music Committee Reorganization: Because of the lateness of the hour and the absence of David Rodin, it was agreed to postpone this discussion until a later date.

Anne Pickett closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at 7:30 PM or by call of the Chair..