

Worship and Music Committee – January 18, 2023

Present: Randy Churchill (Chair), Allison Johnson (Council Liaison), Carol Broderick, Sonja Demeter, Mary Kienitz, Vicky Edell

Absent: (none)

Staff: Pastor Julie, Carol Browning

Meeting Called to Order with prayer at 1:18 p.m.

Time & Talent Interest: Randy asked about any members who had expressed interest in serving on the Worship & Music Committee on their Time & Talent forms – Bob Cole and Jeffrey Saner did so. Randy suggested sending a note to them, however, Pastor Julie said that the Executive Committee wants to revamp the current committee structure and that will be part of the February 11 Leadership Retreat agenda so we should wait and see what develops.

Altar Guild: Carol Broderick is struggling to get new people involved. Some have personal issues that preclude them from helping right now. Pastor Julie suggested Rachel Zook might be interested. We have people signed up through May but need to fill out the rest of the year. Carol will be tweaking the instructions again and is interested in having another training after Easter. Mary volunteered to help Carol with coordinating this. Some of the acolytes have trouble using the candlelighters. Carol will make a pictorial “how-to” diagram to post on the closet where the lighters are kept.

Worship Assistant Sign-ups: Vicky Edell stated that, in general, people are very generous with their time in signing up, although she has trouble getting tech assistants. When she was ill and at home in December, she realized how important the livestream ministry is for people who can't get here in person. She suggested that Andrew Johnson be hired on a regular basis until he goes to school in the fall. After some discussion about budget and pay, Randy offered to donate a stipend for Andrew to be here for 3 months (January 22-April 9), and Vicky made a motion to ask if he would serve on a trial basis, with a second from Mary; motion passed.

Music Ministry: The committee discussed percussion in worship. Carol has been and will continue to work with Jeffrey as he's learning. Carol is grateful Jeffrey is interested and wants to be here. She will keep encouraging him as he grows. She mentioned that she will be out of town on January 25 but Miriam Hoffmann will lead both the bell choir and choir rehearsals. Randy expressed that he's enjoying rehearsals with the choir and would like to see more people involved. Carol is extending an invitation to new members in her annual report and in her February newsletter article, and Pastor Julie mentioned that personal invitation is great for recruiting people.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julie reported that she was so pleased with our Christmas, New Year's, and Epiphany worship services, and also expressed that she was sorry that there was some miscommunication with Sonja. She shared that one of our newer families who is not from a liturgical tradition told her that although they had to adjust to the flow of liturgy, they discovered that the worship is about “we” not “me” and they appreciate that.

Pastor Julie asked for feedback on the Advent theme of “What Can’t Wait” which she had purchased. People liked the theme; Mary commented that Mount Cross has had themes for seasons in the past. Pastor Julie has purchased materials for a Lent theme of “Seeking.”

Additional Comments: Allison Johnson shared comments from a couple of members who loved singing the familiar Christmas carols on January 1 and that people enjoyed having Kate Lewis here. Randy commented that he enjoyed Deacon Cecelia’s sermon on the past Sunday.

Next meeting time: No meeting was scheduled, pending the outcome of the Leadership Retreat committee restructuring.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 2:15 p.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Pastor Julie Morris.

Worship and Music Committee – March 29, 2023

Present: Randy Churchill (Chair), Carol Broderick, Sonja Demeter, Vicky Edell, Mary Kienitz, Allison Johnson, Bill Stoll (Council Liaison)

Absent: (none)

Staff: Pastor Julie, Carol Browning

Meeting Called to Order with prayer at 1:16 p.m.

New Council Liaison: Randy welcomed Bill Stoll, our new Council Liaison for Worship & Music. Randy commented that exciting things are happening at Mount Cross regarding committees. Pastor Julie distributed a memo she had sent to Randy, outlining “A Vision for the Worship and Music Committee” and shared what had come out of the February Leadership Retreat about reimagining our committees. She expressed her gratitude to everyone on the current committee for being a sounding board. What she’s hoping for will be a reimagined committee that will include ministry heads (including some of our worship ministries that currently do not have someone heading them) and environment people – individuals who can hold trainings and do practical work. She envisions quarterly meetings with this new group to review the past and look ahead at what’s coming up. Randy commented that gathering of thoughts from those involved is a positive approach. He would like to see representatives from the various music groups included on the committee.

There was some discussion of potential changes to the sanctuary, including the projector that doesn’t work and possible monitors, and how a new design might play into a new committee. At the moment, we don’t have money to do some of the things that have been talked about so this is a fundraising, more long-term effort. The first step is reimagining what could be.

Randy sees the new vision as a way to take some burden off the Council. During COVID, some decisions were made without committee input. He has a sense of this as a fresh start. Pastor Julie added that reimagining all the committees is good and also helps to get the new, younger families involved.

Randy recommended that the current W&M Committee be officially disbanded, allowing for a new committee to reconvene and the committee was in consensus with that plan. If current members wish to be part of the new committee, they should talk to Pastor Julie.

Holy Week/Easter: Pastor Julie mentioned that there was an ad in the *Acorn* the past weekend from Mount Cross, St. Columba’s, and CUMC, highlighting the shared Holy Week liturgies. There will be a separate Easter ad from Mount Cross in the *Acorn* for the next two Saturdays. She encouraged the committee members to attend the shared worship, including Maundy Thursday at CUMC, with DaVinci’s “Last Supper” painting and each disciple coming to life and sharing their stories. On Good Friday, there will be a procession carrying a large cross and prayers from the community, from CUMC, past St. Columba’s, to Mount Cross, followed by a Tenebrae service in our sanctuary. For Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil worship will be at St. Columba’s. Each congregation will celebrate Easter Sunday on its own.

Additional Comments: The Prossers will once again set up the Easter cross, starting with artificial palms and flowers. We've invited people to bring real flowers to fill out the cross and will reinforce that message through emails. Pastor Julie mentioned that Bishop Brenda Bos will be here on Palm Sunday, leading our worship, which is a big deal, and encouraged everyone to be here. Carol Browning had nothing specific to report regarding music other than things are extremely busy with all the special liturgies.

Carol Broderick informed everyone that Mary Goodenough brought some beautiful embroidered cloths that a friend had done, for use on the small tables. Carol will do a formal thank-you to Mary and her friend. Randy mentioned that having the article in the bulletins about children receiving communion was helpful, that someone who had been opposed to it changed their mind. (This info will remain in the bulletins through Easter Sunday.) There was also a little bit of discussion about whether to go to a Common Cup or Intinction for Communion and possibly consider using white grape juice to make it more obvious, but the feeling was that we should wait a little longer before making any more changes.

Prayground: Bill Stoll shared that the Council has approved creating a "Prayground" space on the carpeted area in the sanctuary, as of April 30, on a trial basis.

Next meeting time: No meeting for the current committee is scheduled; a meeting will be dependent on the status of the new committee.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 2:20 p.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Pastor Julie Morris.