

Worship and Music Committee – November 16, 2022

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

Absent: Vicky Edell

Staff: Pastor Julie, Carol Browning

Meeting Called to Order with prayer at 1:10 p.m.

Budget Report: Randy noted that he had turned in the Worship & Music Committee 2023 budget request, with input from Pastor Julie and Carol Browning.

Altar Guild: Carol Broderick reported that we need some new linens, which the committee approved; she will order them. She made new washable bags for the chalices which look more professional and will help them stay clean. She is training a couple of new people and has spoken with a few others who are interested. Carol will coordinate with Vicky Edell about any signups from the Time & Talent forms. She also reported that Rick Mann is working with her on setting up and decorating the Advent Wreath.

Altar Platform: Randy said that Cy Johnson is seeking input from the W&M Committee on removing the platform behind the altar. There are some safety concerns and it's not very attractive, however, it is useful for concerts & programs and also allows all the communion ministers to be on the same level. Pastor Julie is in favor of it being removed, mainly for safety reasons, but also reminded everyone that there is a larger question of overall sanctuary design and fuller accessibility. She also said that Cy is hoping the Concert Series Committee would allow using some of their funds to buy a replacement "stage" that's easier to remove and store. Randy will give Cy the W&M Committee's agreement that the platform should be removed but that an option for concerts is important and working on overall safety concerns and sanctuary design needs to occur.

Further Budget Discussion: After the 2023 budget is approved, Randy will provide an accounting of the W&M funds available, including the funds from Linda Frantz. Pastor Julie noted that we need to have an overall vision for the sanctuary and would like to see some of the funds used for a worship architect to advise us. Randy said he had contacted one person and that she's now retired but would be willing to come and consult.

Recognition of Veterans: Mary expressed her disappointment that our veterans were not asked to stand and be recognized on the Sunday nearest Veterans Day. Pastor Julie was away and the visiting pastor, who had designed elements of Mount Cross' worship space, spent quite a bit of time explaining the theology and vision behind the designs. It was not an intentional oversight, just an unfortunate occurrence.

Children in Worship: There were a few comments about children playing or making noise during worship. Pastor Julie reminded everyone that Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." It was mentioned that Family Faith Formation Committee has brought up the possibility of having a "pray ground" or soft space for the children in worship. Our pastoral approach is to lean toward accommodating those with special needs and children fall into that category.

Music Ministry: Carol Browning gave a brief report, stating that the handbell choir had a very successful concert the past Sunday and that the various music ministry groups and soloists were hard at work preparing for the upcoming Advent/Christmas program on December 11.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julie reported a highlight of this church year was Baptism Sunday on November 6, baptizing four individuals and welcoming seven other individuals through reaffirmation of baptism or transfer of membership. She mentioned that we will have one 5pm service on Christmas Eve (which is a Saturday) and a 9:30am service on Christmas Day, because it falls on a Sunday. We are also planning a service for Epiphany, which falls on a Friday this year and wouldn't be celebrated on a Sunday. She mentioned that the Synod had sent out a marketing campaign promotion for sending postcards to advertise Christmas worship. Randy offered to help with addresses and printing. Allison suggested using a banner. Randy said he would look into putting hooks on an existing sign so that banners could be used for various services and he would try to have something up for Thanksgiving.

Livestreaming: There was a brief discussion about the expense and time for livestreaming our services. This issue is part of the overall discussion of sanctuary design. Sonja moved and Mary seconded that we make a recommendation to the Council that sanctuary design be a priority for them in the new year; all approved.

Next meeting time: Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 1:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:10 p.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Pastor Julie Morris.