

## Worship Commission Minutes Wednesday February 5, 2014

Present: Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Kathy Ropp, David Heusinkveld, Mag Richer Smith, Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton

- 1) Devotions – Stephanie shared a prayer of Walter Brueggemann
  
- 2.) Review past services – We discussed sound issues. Karla will talk with Arden and Lonnie about training and troubleshooting sound system issues. We are grateful we've been able to gather for Sunday morning worship, considering the weather. Mag's message about the Sermon on the Mount and beatitudes was well received. The testimonies shared during the "saying yes" service were also very good and we especially appreciated the variety of people who shared. We affirmed again the intentionality and importance of the visuals Kathy creates for the worship space.
  
- 3) Mid-week Services (Lent) Committee –
  - Karla will serve on the committee and will form the committee.
    - Committee will plan four services (March 12, 26, April 2 and April 9)
  - Torre Fuerte has asked to co-lead Wednesday March 19 service. We will ask Jim Martins to work with Max and Gloria to plan this service.
  - Ash Wednesday is March 5 and Maundy Thursday April 17
  - Mag will talk to Fellowship Commission to confirm the meals.
  
- 4) Lenten Services
  - Theme: "Through the Veil"-- will focus on the heaviness of this time, but also the glimmers of hope
  - Visuals -- The cross will be behind a veil of white streamers and then color will be added on Easter Sunday. Kathy has purchased some paper lanterns that might be useful for Easter Sunday.
  - Focus for each Sunday and musical reflection
    - When Sarah emails out the bulletin, she can include a link to a youtube video with a song – we will ask song leaders if they would like to recommend a song that you could find online and would be helpful for people as they reflect on the text.
    - David will be in charge of contacting song leaders for song ideas for the youtube links.
    - Every week in the bulletin, we will put the lectionary texts for the coming week and invite people to look at them.
  - Bulletin covers --Mag will ask people to do bulletin covers
  - Children's time – we will allow children's time leaders to choose what they would like to do based on the theme of the day and lent in general
  - Other -- We need to coordinate childcare for Wednesday evening services.

**Next Meeting:** March 5 -- Ash Wednesday (7:00 service), meet after the service for meeting from 8:00 to 9:00

**Worship Commission**  
**Wednesday March 19, 2014**

Present: David Heuskinkveld, Mag Richer Smith, Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton

We had a brief meeting to touch base. Some notes below:

1. Easter Sunday

- Visuals: We affirmed that the visual for the veil and cross is working very well. For Easter Sunday we discussed trying to “part the veil” somehow or have the cross emerge from behind the veil. We also discussed adding color. We will defer to Kathy on this.
- Flowers: Mag will call Kathy and talk with her about the Easter visuals and flowers. They will decide whether to have people in the congregation order flowers or whether flowers will be purchased by the church.
- We will have testimonies in addition to a short sermon. Mag will ask new members if that Sunday works for them to be received and to share.

2. Other upcoming services

- April 6 – Communion and Anointing. We will have anointing in the back again this year. This works well as it facilitates privacy and ease of access as people return to their seats from taking communion.
- Maundy Thursday – we discussed ideas that focus on the cross, including incorporating a gong and/or having participants hit nails into the cross.
- Easter season – theme will be “Behold ...”

3. Summer Quarter Schedule: Kathy and Stephanie will put together the June-August worship participant schedule toward the end of April.

**Next meeting will be May 7 at 7:00\***

**\*We will not hold a meeting in April.**

**Worship Commission -- Tuesday May 20, 2014**

**Present:** David Heuskinkveld, Karla Stoltzfus-Detweiler, Kate Brenneman, Mag Richer Smith, Kathy Ropp, Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton

**1.) Devotions** -- David shared a story about how his grandmother would prepare an extra plate every meal for people coming through who needed something and we reflected on hospitality.

**2.) Minutes from our last meeting were approved.**

**3.) Past Services**

- Easter Sunday visuals were very well done and we reflected that the theme “Through the Veil” came together very well.
- The paper lanterns will stay up through Easter season until early June.
- We appreciated recent guest speakers (Nancy Halder and Paul Wiebe)

- The worship schedule template/system has been working well

#### 4.) Upcoming Services

- Banners – We will put an Easter banner up and then the Pentecost banner later.
- **Theme for summer – “Go Outside”**
  - June 8 Pentecost Sunday – to kick off the theme
  - IDEAS: Enjoying and caring for creation; going “outside” ourselves – mission and service; outside the lines (color); stepping outside your comfort zone (Jesus walking on water)
  - Could encourage people to walk to church and bike, etc.
  - Lanterns will be left up
  - Picnic after service in August – pastors will talk to fellowship commission to check dates.

#### 5.) Audio-Visual Plan

- We discussed the need to have an audio-visual person who can be in charge of video projection for services and special events. This is in addition to the sound system schedule; however, the audio-visual person will need to also be familiar with the sound system as they are connected.
- We discussed the possibility of paying someone (from worship commission funds) to set up the system and train church members. If worship commission deems it necessary to hire someone more regularly, we will approach Ad Cabinet about a possible ongoing position.
- The church has purchased a new laptop to connect to the audio-visual equipment.

#### 6.) Sound System Guidelines

- David presented us with a draft for the guidelines for the sound system. These guidelines are in keeping with other elements of worship (worship leader, song leader, etc.)
- We will circulate the draft to church members involved with the sound system to elicit feedback.
- Our recommendations for additions/changes to draft of sound system guidelines:
  - We will add sound system volunteers to the master schedule (sound system coordinator will communicate with worship commission/church office about who is signed up when)
  - The church office (pastor, secretary, or worship leader) will send the order of worship with microphone needs on it to the sound system person for that week at least 24 hrs in advance of the service.
  - If the person assigned to the sound system cannot make it because of an emergency, they should find coverage and notify the church office immediately.
  - We will have a log of who has worked with the sound system. They will sign and date the fact they turned everything off and locked everything up.

**Next Meeting: June 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Worship Commission Meeting Minutes August 20, 2014**

Present: Mag Richer Smith, Kate Brenneman, Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton, Karla Stoltzfus-Detweiler, David Heusinkveld, Kathy Ropp

**1) Opening** - Karla shared about the joy of “play” and challenged us to think of worship as play.

**2) Review Agenda:** We will do a new worship gifts survey. We will talk to Sarah about doing a form on the website, possibly also doing a hard copy.

**3) Review / approve minutes** – minutes from May 2014 are approved.

**4) Review Past services:** We appreciated the sermons this summer. We appreciated the baptism service.

#### **5) Sound System Guidelines**

We need to find a person who will oversee the audiovisual things as trainer and expert. We discussed names of possible people. We discussed compensating someone to first lead an orientation, then work with people one on one. This person would train a group of people, then sit with them in service once or twice, then be on call on a as needed. Karla will contact possible persons and David will check about reasonable compensation.

**6) Plan Fall Retreat** – Saturday night meal (camp supper), Sunday morning breakfast – Kate will talk to fellowship commission (we will encourage them to tap someone else so they get a retreat too), camp will serve Sunday lunch.

We talked about how to make the Sunday morning service meaningful and talking to musicians about a possible music themed service where people share hymns that are important to them and why. **Karla** will ask some young adult musicians. Karla will also find a coordinator for the music service. **Kathy** will do sign up sheet for rooms, meals. **Stephanie** will sign people in Saturday and Sunday. **Kate** will talk to fellowship commission about coordinating a light breakfast (donuts, etc.).

Announcement in bulletin for August 31 about retreat. Karla will put this announcement in the bulletin. Kathy will plan to have sign up sheet for August 31. We will shoot for people to sign up by mid September.

**7) Plan Fall Worship Services and select fall worship theme:** our fall series will Start on September 7. Our theme will be: Wild hope – “Faith for an unknown season” – Mark 4:37-38

**Next meetings:** Wednesday September 3 and Tuesday October 7 (advent planning meeting)

### **Worship Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Sept. 3, 2014**

**Present:** Miriam Augsburg, Kate Brenneman, Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton, Nancy Halder, David Heusinkveld, Mag Richer Smith, Kathy Ropp, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Isaac Schrock

**1.) Opening Devotion/Prayer** – Karla led us in a time of devotion focused on the act of worship.

**2.) New Members** –We introduced new worship commission members. We discussed the collaborative nature of worship commission. Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise indicated.

**3.) Advent** - Kathy shared her current ideas about visuals, including a branch/twig tree and candles, perhaps different logs with candles. Members are encouraged to be thinking about advent ideas!

**4.) Review Past Services:** We only had two weeks between meetings and both services were very good.

#### **Old Business/Updates**

**5.) Sound System update:** Karla has checked with a potential candidate about becoming the tech expert for the sound/visual system. She will follow up with the person regarding their interest and rates.

**6.) Church Retreat Update:** Karla has talked with some musicians. We need to form a planning committee or at least a couple people to help with worship and children's activities. Several worship commission members volunteered to help. Karla will talk with some more people.

### **New Business**

**7.) Worship Survey** – Sarah has created a survey to appear on the website and is willing to help compile the results of the survey. The survey will be comprehensive and have several different aspects, including fellowship commission requests and interest in small groups, etc. We will provide hard copies for those who prefer. We also discussed putting a laptop in sip and chat area for people to complete the survey.

**8.) Worship Feedback Survey** – we will include this with the survey Sarah compiles. This is our proposed wording for the worship questions:

*At First Mennonite Church, our hope is that we all encounter God through worship. As you respond to these questions, we invite you to consider elements of worship (prayers, music, sermon, children's time, sharing time, moment in mission, visuals, communion and rituals, call to worship, etc)*

1.) *What aspects of FMC worship services enable us to encounter God and offer our worship to God?*

2.) *What might enliven the worship life of our community?*

**9.) Shalom Readers** – Noreen will share with Shalom readers during children's time. Mag will schedule this.

**10.) Goshen College Parables** – They would like to come Tuesday October 14. Miriam will be a point person for this and is willing to help lead the worship that evening. We will provide lodging Monday night.

### **11.) Worship Commission Goals for 2014-15:**

- Conduct survey and follow up from the worship survey –*will set more goals based on results*
- Implement audio-visual guidelines and contract with tech Specialist
- Broaden scope of hymns and music we sing
  - o Intentional implementation of new hymns (teaching new hymns, repeating them)
  - o Procure Sing the Story books

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday October 15 - Advent planning (7:00 PM) – meet in the sanctuary (Update – need to change meeting date. TBA)

## **Worship Commission Meeting – October 15, 2014 Advent Planning Meeting**

**Present:** Miriam Augsburg, Kate Brenneman, Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton, Nancy Halder, David Heusinkveld, Mag Richer Smith, Kathy Ropp, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Isaac Schrock

### **1.) ADVENT**

**Advent Theme: “Bursting out of Barrenness”**

Our theme arises from images found in this year's Advent Scriptures -the juxtaposition of barrenness and fullness, dark and light, despair to hope. It also arises out of the nature imagery, especially the image of a tree and the endurance of God through winter seasons of our lives. This theme also allows us to incorporate visuals such as branches, trees, lights, etc. It provides a nice segue from “wild hope” and reminds us that buds of new life are always within the barren branches of winter, preparing to “burst” through. Finally, it helps us appreciate the rest that this season provides (winter and hibernation).

**Visuals:**

- Kathy will coordinate visuals: trees, candles and lights. We will incorporate a manger scene as well.
- Kathy will also purchase votive candles for each household

**Children Stories: “Interviews”**

Mag will find someone to write the scripts, an interviewer, and actors

**Music Ideas**

- Initial suggestions were: *Tree song* by Ken Medema from *Sing the Story* (STS), *Canticle of the Turning* (STS), *What Child is This* Duet Song (STS)

**Advent Devotional Book**

- Stephanie will gather entries, edit, and assemble them. Mag and Karla will read through entries, and assign scriptures to each reflection piece
- We discussed how to elicit willing participation. Ideas we had:
  - Have Sarah email out the invitation for reflections to everyone (with prompts and explanation)
  - Each worship commission member will talk with their Christian Ed class about the book and encourage volunteers
  - We will make an announcement during a church service emphasizing what this booklet has meant to people and the richness of contributions to it
  - We will encourage children and youth to contribute
  - We will emphasize that we are open to creative options (drawing, etc.) and that participants do not need to stick to the prompt or theme
- **Dates:** The final due date for reflections will be Sunday, November 16. Stephanie will layout and print the book the week of November 23. The book will go into mailboxes Nov. 30

**2.) Other Business:**

**Worship Survey** – we discussed how to garner more response to the worship survey. We will extend the window for survey completion. David and Stephanie will make a creative announcement at retreat encouraging people to respond to the survey.

**No Sunday School on December 21** – We will hold the service at 10:00 a.m. that day. We will have breakfast at 8:30. We should put an announcement in the bulletin about this change of time at the beginning of Advent

***Sing the Story* Books** – We will purchase 100 *Sing the Story* books to arrive in time for Advent, which begins November 30. Karla will place this order.

**Advent Giving Project**- This has already been discerned by Mission Commission and we will introduce the project in the children’s time on Nov 23, prior to Advent.

**Next Meeting – November 5 @ 7:00 p.m.**

## Worship Commission Meeting November 5, 2014

**Present:** Miriam Augsburger, Kate Brenneman, Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton, Nancy Halder, David Heusinkveld, Mag Richer Smith, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Isaac Schrock

1. **Review recent services:** Stanley Green's "Building Bridges" sermon was meaningful; we enjoyed the congregational members sharing in recent services; Max Villatoro's sharing was important; the Tasting Heaven All Saints Day service was very meaningful, especially the set up, music, and ritual, but some participants in the annex area felt rushed at the end to return to their seats and eat; Song of the month – October song was a bit difficult for some people.
2. **Review retreat:** The Sunday morning worship service was wonderful. Karla did the bulk of the planning this year and would like to tap a few people to be on a committee next year. We appreciated the low key, relational aspect of retreat this year. We discussed the finances of camp. Next year we will plan to make a larger sign that makes it clear that the "fees" for various activities are donations and the church will pay the fee, with members donating to the church to cover the cost.
  - a. For January meeting – let's discuss a retreat committee for 2015.
3. **Hymnal Cart** – We will purchase a cart for the red hymnals, which will be taken out of the pews to make room for the purple Sing the Story books. The cart will remain in the sanctuary so that red hymnals are still in our worship space. We will also have them available during hymn sings.
4. **Advent** – Kathy is taking care of visuals. Stephanie and Mag are working on the Advent Devotional book. Kate has lined up people for bulletin covers. The song of the month will be "As the Pauper Waits for Plenty" (STS 9). Mary Forney will coordinate children's time drama. David will talk to Shirley Oswald about the greens.
5. **Audio-Visual Guidelines and Training:** Karla will be in touch with Tyler about training and will also ask Tyler about putting together video guidelines. We will give Tyler a check for his services.
6. **Worship Survey Processing:** We began discussing the results of our worship survey. We would like to compile the results and summarize them for the congregation. We would also like to work to come up with a vision for our future worship life based on this survey. David will share a note in the bulletin thanking congregants for participating and letting them know we will be preparing a summary in the near future. Specific results we discussed:
  - a. Overwhelmingly, people expressed gratitude for worship
  - b. Proxy offering – several people would like there to be a way for electronic givers to still offer something to the plate.
  - c. Music – we have a diverse range of interests in music. Many like traditional hymns and others wish for a more diverse musical atmosphere (contemporary praise and worship, diverse instruments, etc.)
  - d. Scripture reading – several people expressed wanted to enliven scripture reading in some way
  - e. Other areas to discuss in future: communion, music, sharing time
7. **Worship Schedule:** Kathy and Stephanie will put together a worship template schedule for Jan and February.
8. **Ash Wednesday:** Feb. 18 is Ash Wednesday this year
9. **Next meeting:** Tuesday Jan 6