**UUCC Worship Committee**

***ANNUAL REPORT***

**2016 - 2017**

**Membership, Participation, and Meetings**

* As of May 2017 membership included: Rev. Jennie Barrington, Ivy Coleman, Julie Davis, Peck Drennan, Rebecca Drennan, Marc Drews, Richard McLeod, Pat Mohr, Stephanie Palmer-Smith, Larry Siegel, John Starino, Judy Turnipseed, Tom Turnipseed, and Ginny Verne.
* Generally, attendance was excellent, probably averaging 10 out of 14 members. As expected, the level of participation varied, but most were responsive to requests for specific input during the monthly meeting, but less so to email or text requests.
* The committee faithfully met on Committee Night, the first Wednesday of each month. Richard McLeod chaired most of these meetings, with Ivy Coleman as Vice-Chair or other members chairing in Richard’s absence. Email and text messages were sent out as reminders before each meeting, with notes sent out after each meeting for committee members to peruse and modify. Each meeting began with a meditation read by an member volunteer.
* Infrequent visitors to monthly meetings were welcomed and invited to present issues relevant to committee tasks.

**Routine Tasks**

* The primary task of the committee was to provide guest speakers when the minister was not in the pulpit. Secondary tasks included discussing details of the service and recommend positive changes. Worship leaders and OOS details were arranged to ensure each guest speaker’s appropriateness of topic, service elements, and presentation. Speakers were arranged on the average of once a month and during longer periods when the interim minister was on vacation or professional leave. Guest speakers were sought from religious, cultural, political, and education institutions, and, while maintaining an open pulpit, reminded of UU principles and the need to respect other religions.
* Special services, seasonal and multi-generational, were scheduled and organized, with committee members participating and assisting in the planning. The Christmas Eve service was particularly well-orchestrated by Rev. Jennie with the collaboration of the committee and support from other willing members of the congregation. A special New Year’s Day service was planned and presented by committee members.
* A contact list of potential guest speakers, not only from the community, but qualified members of the UUCC, was maintained and updated regularly. Issues addressed included gun violence, science and religion, climate change, Buddhism, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, and immigration.
* Worship leaders with a checklist were assigned to assist each guest speaker organize the service and include the traditional elements.
* A contact list of musicians was maintained that allowed a published schedule of vocal and instrumental performers, pianists, song leaders, and other musicians that enhanced the musical dimension of Sunday services.
* The committee provided suggestions for structure of the revised UUCC website as well as photographs and content.
* By Wednesday of each week details of guest speakers and musicians for the coming Sunday were submitted to the interim minister and the church administrator. A weekly calendar was maintained and shared with the committee, the Board, the administrator, the interim minister, and the webmaster.
* The chair wrote meeting agendas and drafted meeting notes that were sent to members afterwards. Monthly updates of committee activities were submitted to the administrator for distribution to the Board and the congregation.
* Committee members were assigned tasks relating to worship services, like making sure there was a sufficient supply of chalice oil and candles, noting attendance, and requesting honorarium checks for guest speakers. A supply of additional hymnals was ordered and distributed.
* An annual budget proposal was submitted in the spring. The primary new item was a request for a part-time music director, which the committee felt would enhance quality of services, increase attendance, and improve church image when searching for a new settled minister.
* A new song for singing the children out began to be sung by the congregation. “Learn Your Lessons Well” written by Richard McLeod, replaced the old song.
* Input was given to the Committee for Building Renovations about the construction timeline, particularly as it related to use of the sanctuary during the renovation. Items to enhance the service were suggested, like an improved sound system and audio visual screens.
* The committee counts and records attendance at Sunday morning services. Monthly averages were calculated: July (123), August (131), September (113), October (149), November (149), December (142), January (134), February (141), March (123), and April (124). Average over that ten-month span was 133.

**Promotions and Events**

* A large event organized by the committee in August was a conference “The Evolution of God,” coordinated by Dr. Roger Ray from Missouri, with lecturers Rev. John Churcher, and Mo Wills, and music leader Sean Spyres. The three-day conference was well-attended.

**Issues Discussed and Debated**

* Candles of Community (Joys and Concerns) was a frequently debated topic that church members frequently challenged. The only change to the process suggested by the committee was that congregants be allowed to present in their own voice with previous notice to the administrator by noon on Friday.
* The welcome speech read by a Board member has been modified to use the initials LGBTQ rather than whole words.
* Details about operation of the Coffee House were debated. Though not a committee task, opinion was forward to the Board.
* In an attempt to streamline the service, it was agreed that announcements from the pulpit be limited, under the supervision of the Board member of the day. The issue continues to be debated.
* Discussion is ongoing about UUA organization, particularly about a recent controversy on the leadership choice process.

**Other Observations and Comments**

* The committee serves as one of the sounding boards for the interim minister when input is needed for directions and details of church activities and general UUCC direction.
* In another year the committee wants to assist in defining new programs and directions that will not only improve our membership, but address the spiritual and educational needs of our congregation.

Submitted by Richard McLeod, Chair

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