

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Minutes of the Worship Committee  
June 9, 2004

Attendance .....	1
1. Meeting Begins at 7:05 pm. ....	1
2. Minutes Approved .....	1
3. Logistics .....	2
4. July 4 <sup>th</sup> Service .....	2
5. Jim Scott .....	2
6. Evaluation of Outside Speakers .....	2
7. Next Big Thing .....	3
8. Application Process for those Proposing Worship Services .....	3
9. Observing Birthdays .....	4
10. Next Meeting .....	4
11. Closing .....	4
12. For Specific Future Agendas .....	5
13. BIN: Maybe We'll Get to It Sometime. Expires After 6 Months .....	5

**Attendance**

- Members:** Marvin Benson (Acting Chair), Leslie Clute, Marilyn Hall, Gretchen Meyer, Jack Slingerland (Scribe)
- Staff:** Mark Gallagher (Minister)
- Excused:** Erica Kelley (Music Committee Liaison) and Nora Siegfried (Chair) are in England.

Meeting held in the Library of MSUUF.

**1. Meeting Begins at 7:05 pm.**

- Marvin provided the opening reading.
- Check-in.
- Reading of the Process Covenant
- Welcome to Marilyn Hall attending her first Worship Committee meeting

**2. Minutes Approved**

Corrections:

- "Children's Tim" should be "Children's Time".
- "Net Big Thing" should be "Next Big Thing".

The draft minutes of the Worship Committee meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004, were approved with these corrections.

### 3. Logistics

Marvin noted that he is trying to recruit Logistics Coordinators by an electronic equivalent of passing a clipboard. So far it seems to be working.

Sometimes the designated Logistics Coordinator doesn't show up. This can disrupt the flow of the service when expected items (such as the offering baskets or the children's candle holder) are not present.

It was suggested that perhaps seeing that logistics are handled appropriately is important enough that it should be the job of the Worship Committee members rather than volunteers.

We decided to place a reconsideration of how we handle logistics on the agenda for the July meeting.

### 4. July 4<sup>th</sup> Service

The speaker for July 4<sup>th</sup> has cancelled. This service is based on the sermon "Do Youth Have Souls" by Jaco ten Hove. Jack suggested the sermon would more naturally be delivered by a young adult male. Gretchen suggested her son, Alex Koerger. Alex is a mentee of Jaco's and also active in youth programming. Gretchen called Alex and he agreed.

Jack will distribute copies of Jaco's sermon to the committee members.

Leslie will let Donna know of the change so she can change the summer schedule.

### 5. Jim Scott

Jim Scott emailed Gretchen to say he was available July 30 - August 1. He is interested in a concert, a Sunday service, or both. Since we already have the summer scheduled, a Sunday service was not an option. Gretchen will forward the email to Jennifer Pratt-Walter of the Music Committee in case they are interested in following up on the concert. Gretchen will also let Jim Scott know what she has done.

### 6. Evaluation of Outside Speakers

Gretchen suggested five dimensions we use in evaluating speakers:

- Presentation Skills
- Speaker Preparedness
- Content
- Relative to UU
- Diversity of style

After some discussion, we back up to "Why would we want to do such an evaluation?" A sampling of reasons included:

- Provide a historical record to guide the selection of future speakers
- Somebody has to decide which speakers to recruit. An evaluation might provide an intentional basis for selecting speakers.
- It is good to have more than just one person forming an opinion on the quality of to service.

- Part of our on-going emphasis on quality

During the discussion, some negatives came to light:

- We would need a low-effort mechanism for collecting the evaluations
- Setting out to do an "evaluation" can make the reviewer super-critical

It would be helpful if we first had defined the outcomes we expect from the worship service. Good criteria would be helpful, and we would have to show some discipline in applying the standards evenly.

It was pointed out that our concern was with the "presentation", not with the "presenter".

We agreed to table this discussion until we have completed discussion of what we are attempting to accomplish with our worship services.

## 7. Next Big Thing

Nora has a proposal for extension worship services which she will present in July. Other than that, we agreed to postpone further pursuit of the Next Big Thing until our special meeting following Rev. Greene's workshop on growth.

## 8. Application Process for those Proposing Worship Services

When someone suggests a worship service, on what basis do we decided "Yes" or "No"? The very question suggests that we have a set of goals for a service that we can use to guide our decision process. While it is true that we have some ideas, they have not been clearly stated or written down.

Besides the benefit to the Worship Committee in having such a statement of the goals for a worship service, it would be very helpful to be able to share such a list with those who contemplate leading services.

Gretchen observed that she would find it helpful to have a visual guide to our liturgical year. Others agreed. Mark will draft something for the August meeting. One of the things to consider for a proposed service is how it conforms to our vision of the liturgical year.

Mark provided some criteria we might use:

- Does the service fit our scheme for the year?
- Is it formulated appropriately? (Regardless of the topic, is it a worship service?)
- Are we confident that the person will deliver a quality presentation?
- Is there anything out the person's presentation history that informs our decision?
- What are our "living questions" that we can state with confidence?

We need to have specific goals and be more intentional about recruiting to those goals.

The informal process we currently use is working reasonable well. We can afford to take our time to carefully think through a new approach.

Gretchen noted that decisions about services and speakers should be made by a wider group than just the Speaker Coordinator.

**Suggestions for services:**

- A Society of Friends (Quaker) speaker on how consensus serves her/his religious community.
- A service exploring the way democracy works in a religious community (particularly as this differs from its use in secular groups)

## 9. Observing Birthdays

Why would we want to observe birthdays in a worship service?

- It can help to make children feel part of the larger church community.
- It can have a pastoral function - helping to provide recognition for those who may not have family or friends to take note of this milestone.
- It was noted that in one church, the birthday person donated a penny for each year of age. This allows using birthdays as a vehicle for teaching generosity.

How might it happen? One suggestion was that once a month, all the people with birthdays in that month stand and the congregation sing them "Happy Birthday".

Out of time, this topic was passed back to the "bin".

## 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004, in the MSUUF Library. Jack will provide the opening and closing. Marvin will chair the meeting.

## 11. Closing

Marvin read the closing words from "After the Ecstasy, the Laundry: How the Heart Grows Wise on the Spiritual Path" by Jack Kornfield.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

---

## 12. For Specific Future Agendas

- **July, 2004:** Nora has an idea for extension worship services away from the MSUUF site.
- **July, 2004:** Determine if there will be a registration fee for the Worship Workshop. [Placed in BIN in May. Expires in September (since the workshop is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.)]
- **July, 2004:** Reconsider how we do logistics.
- **August, 2004:** Mark will present graphical representation of our liturgical year as it currently exists.

## 13. BIN: **Maybe We'll Get to It Sometime. Expires After 6 Months**

- Develop an application process to be used by those who wish to propose providing a worship service. [Placed in BIN in February, 2004. Expires July, 2004. Visited June, 2004. New expiration December, 2004]
- Recognition of Birthdays. [Introduced January; Placed in BIN in February. Discussed, then deferred in March. Expires July, 2004. Visited June, 2004. New expiration December 2004]
- Determine if there will be a registration fee for the Worship Workshop. [Placed in BIN in May. Expires in September (since the workshop is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.)]