

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Minutes of the Worship Committee
July 14, 2004

Attendance	1
1. Meeting Begins at 7:05 pm.....	1
2. Minutes Approved	1
3. Rev. Green Worship Workshop.....	1
4. Logistics.....	2
5. Liturgical Issues	2
6. Next Big Thing	2
7. Choir	3
8. Application Process for those Proposing Worship Services (from the BIN).....	3
9. Successes.....	4
10. Contact Information.....	4
11. Next Meeting	4
12. Closing	4
13. For Specific Future Agendas	5
14. BIN: Maybe We'll Get to It Sometime. Expires After 6 Months.....	5

Attendance

Members: Marilyn Hall, Erica Kelley (Music Committee Liaison), Kate Rae, Nora Siegfried (Chair), Jack Slingerland (Scribe)

Because of a concert scheduled to be held in the Sanctuary, the Worship Committee meeting was held at the home of Nora Siegfried.

1. Meeting Begins at 7:05 pm.

- Jack provided the opening reading from a sermon by the Rev. Wendy Bell of the UU church in Harvard, Massachusetts.
- Group reading of the Process Covenant.
- Check-in.

2. Minutes Approved

The draft minutes of the Worship Committee meeting of June 9th, 2004, were approved as submitted.

3. Rev. Green Worship Workshop

Hosting - Gretchen will host Rev. Greene during her visit. Gretchen will also take care of transportation to and from the airport.

Fee for Workshop - Offering the Worship Workshop at no cost to participants would be a service to other congregations in the area. On the other hand, people value what they have to pay for. We settled on asking for \$10 from those not from MSUUF.

Publicity -

- Nora will take responsibility for contacting the other Worship Committees in the area.
- Jack will submit the Workshop information to the PNWD Calendar.
- Jack will write an article for the Servetan (due not later than August 15th).
- Jack will send the workshop information to the person from the Community UU Church of Washington County who made inquires.
- Jack will submit something to Andrew for inclusion on the MSUUF website.
- Erica will be calling other area UU churches on Music Committee business. While she's doing that, she will also get contact information for the congregation's Worship Committee.

4. Logistics

At our last meeting, we discussed the problem of "no shows" for doing the Logistics Coordinator job on Sunday mornings. At that time we considered the possibility of the Worship Committee only recruiting Logistics Coordinators from the Committee itself, the presumption being that we had more invested in the success of the task and would be more likely to follow through. In June, we agreed to continue the discussion in July.

Marilynn agreed to take on the task of, during the week preceding their duty, reminding those signed up for Logistics Coordinator. She will get the summer schedule from Donna. Marilynn hinted that she might be willing to take over recruitment once she is more familiar with the job.

Marilynn also agreed to review the current direction-sheet for the Logistic Coordinator and let us know where it needs updating.

No one seemed to know where the masters for the Joys and Sorrows forms or the Silent Candle forms were. No one was assigned the task of finding out!

5. Liturgical Issues

Beth Brown raised some issues relating to what she thought were inconsistencies in our use of language in worship services. Since the Minister is responsible for the language in the scripts, we deferred discussion of this issue until the August meeting when Mark will be back with us.

6. Next Big Thing

Nora presented an idea she had for strengthening our ties with those who reside relatively distant from MSUUF. Using language loosely, she proposed holding periodic "house services" in "remote areas." She suggested two or three services a year held in places like Battle Ground and Camas.

The idea was something like a mix of a neighborhood social gathering and an informal, lay-led worship service.

Another possibility was to add an element of outreach. This would probably require:

- Holding the meeting in a public place (like the community center in an apartment complex) because new people are less likely to come to a private home.
- Involving the minister. For new folk, the active participation of the minister would be a major drawing point.
- Advertising (and, hence, money). If we're trying to reach out to new folk, we need to let them know of our event.

Following a lively discussion, we agreed to put this idea in the BIN. We had previously decided to not make any Next Big Thing / Growth decisions until after the Worship & Growth workshop with Rev. Greene in October.

During this discussion, the topic of MSUUF advertising in The Reflector came up. Some said they had not seen any ads. Nora said she thought we were paying for them. Nora will check with the Business Manager to verify whether or not we are paying for regular ads in the Reflector.

Erica posed the suggestion that we contact those who live in the outlying areas and ask them how MSUUF could better serve their needs. (One suggestion from Battleground residents on the Worship Committee was to have some MSUUF activities in outlying areas. A Women's Group and a Dream Group were mentioned.)

7. Choir

During the coming program year, the choir will be coordinating musical selections with significant liturgical events. For example, in conjunction with Ramadan, they will be presenting a piece whose lyrics were written by Rumi (a Muslim and Sufi).

8. Application Process for those Proposing Worship Services (from the BIN)

An example: The person who brings the popular African art exhibits to MSUUF is possibly interested in doing a presentation on a Sunday morning. (The African art will be here again for five weeks in September and October.) Two basic questions:

1. How should such a person "apply" to the Worship Committee?
2. On what basis should we decide about such an application?

Some brainstorming ideas:

- Ask for audio or video of a previous presentation by the same person.
- When a person applies, are they just applying for the "sermon", or can they also take over other parts of the service? If so, what are the limits?
- We could ask other UU congregations what they do. Jack will pose the question on the UUA's Worship email list.

On a different, but related topic, Nora asked how we decided which speakers we would pay. There was an attempt to describe current practice. Do we have a description of this process written down anywhere?

- Ministers are paid at the rate set by the PNWD Chapter of the UU Ministers Association. Currently that is \$250 for a Sunday (either one or two services).
- Outside speakers are paid (almost always \$250) if they request it. We also have some who present for free. We expect that giving a platform to those who are promoting a cause is compensation enough. (But no hard rule here.)
- MSUUF speakers (with the exception of the Minister) are never paid. Just as with our featured musicians, we view the presentation as a gift of service to one's own church.

9. Successes

This month, our biggest successes were the result of *Gretchen Meyer's* energetic commitment:

- When both the scheduled speaker and his scheduled replacement backed out of presenting on July 4th, *Gretchen* created her own sermon and presented it.
- When a family emergency caused the scheduled speaker for July 18th to have to cancel, *Gretchen* quickly found the Rev. Linda Hart as a replacement.

Our hats are off to *Gretchen's* effective service in crisis situations!

10. Contact Information

Marilynn Hall has a new email address: MarilynnHall@comcast.net

Marilynn believed she had missed some Worship Committee emails while changing to Comcast. In particular, she requested that the June minutes be sent to her new address. Jack will do this.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 11th, 2004, in the MSUUF Library. Leslie will provide the opening and closing. (NOTE: Leslie is the last person on the sign-up sheet for opening/closing. We need to circulate a new sheet.)

12. Closing

Jack read a benediction by Presbyterian poet Frederick Buechner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

13. For Specific Future Agendas

- **August, 2004:** Mark will present graphical representation of our liturgical year as it currently exists.
- **August, 2004:** Consider Beth Brown's concerns about possible inconsistencies in our use of language in the liturgy. [Deferred to August so that Mark would be present.]

14. 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. Discussed July 2004. Next expiration January, 2005]
- 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]
- Extension worship services in outlying areas as a way of strengthening ties between remote Servetans and MSUUF. Discussed at the July, 2004, meeting. Placed in BIN pending plans being developed for the Next Big Thing. [Placed in BIN in July, 2004. Expires January, 2005.]
- Survey Servetans who live in outlying areas as to how MSUUF could better serve them. [Placed in BIN in July, 2004. Expires January, 2005.]