

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship v03  
Minutes of the Worship Committee  
November 10, 2004

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Attendance

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

Staff: Mark Gallagher, Minister

1. Meeting Begins at 7:00 pm.

- Kate provided the opening reading.
- Group reading of the Process Covenant.
- Check-in.

2. Minutes of October Meeting

The minutes and highlights of the October 13, 2004, meeting of the Worship Committee were approved (with one correction of a typographical error).

### 3. Successes (Things we done good)

- With the new program for training worship leaders, the leading of services is going more smoothly.
- Since Marilynn Hall assumed responsibilities for Logistics Coordinators, that part of Sunday morning has been working smoothly.
- Our thanks to Tracy Kelly and Marilynn Hall who recently joined the Worship Committee. It's a pleasure to have new members who come ready to take on responsibility.

### 4. Change for the World

Nora got the materials Leslie had prepared when she coordinated Change for World program. Marvin and Kate will revise and extend Leslie's work to produce a job description for the coordinator. They will report at the December meeting.

### 5. Upcoming Services

Jack Slingerland will preach at MSUUF on February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday of the PNWD Annual General Meeting Portland.

The next opening after that is March 20<sup>th</sup>. We brainstormed ideas for that service.

- Something related to St. Patrick
- Something based on the Green Man story
- "West Hills music service" (Nora will get Jack information on this service.)
- Rev. Chip Wright, minister of the UU Church of Yakima.

Jack encouraged people to send him ideas for services.

### 6. Holiday Services

Christmas Eve Collection: Nora has received approval from the Stewardship Committee for our selection of charities: MLK Elementary, McLaughlin Middle School, and the YWCA's Safe Choice (shelter for battered women). Mark agreed to submit an invitation to the Christmas Eve services to the printed in the December Servetan. (We agreed that last year's was just fine.)

Christmas Family: In the past recent MSUUF has collected gifts for a needy family. Are we doing it this year? It was clarified that this was never a Worship Committee project.

January 2<sup>nd</sup> Candle Lighting Service: Clancy will not be available on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Christina Dodds will assist Tracy with this service. We need to check with Tracy at the December committee meeting to be sure everything is on track.

### 7. Infrastructure

Ushers: Ambra called needing more volunteers for ushers. Nora gave her a list of names and that seems to have resolved the issue.

Logistics: We need help with the 1<sup>st</sup> service. Nora has been handling the ropes (blocking off the back rows), but she can't do this on Sundays the choir sings. We need to shift responsibility for the ropes to the logistics person.

Worship Leader: The focus on worship leading as a ministry seems to be making a difference in the quality of pulpit presence. The program is going well.

Joys & Sorrows: We discussed some particularly frequent participants and what might be done to achieve a better balance.

Ministerial: Attendance at regular services is up. Second service is consistently full. Mark reported the following average attendance for regular services in the fall:

2004	168
2003	143
2002	147
2001	161
2000	163
1999	128

Third Service: In light of Mark's report, we brainstormed how we might approach having a third service. Mark noted that his time is already totally committed, so he didn't see himself participating in a third service unless there were major changes in his other responsibilities. However, in his role as the person responsible for worship, he did expect to be "very involved" in what was planned. He also suggested that we would need "substantial paid resources" to support a third service.

The Worship Committee needs to come to grips with how we might add a third service so that we can provide leadership as the congregation's strategic plan is developed next spring. Without a specific proposal, we added the topic to the BIN.

## 8. Summer 2005

Jack gave a report ( [Appendix I](#) ) listing learnings from last summer's services

Growing out of the recommendation that summer services be organized around a theme, some possible themes for next summer were suggested:

- Jesus
- Great Spiritual Leaders (Maybe restricting it to "Jesus" made the theme too narrow.)
- Moral Values - UU Style

We agreed to further consider possible summer themes again at our December meeting.

## 9. Strategic Planning

Mark urged the Worship Committee to dedicate a significant portion of the December meeting to generating strategic plans.

## 10. Service Proposal Protocol

How does one go about proposing a possible worship service for MSUUF? In the past we've talked about an "application" process, but that word suggests a bureaucratic and hierarchical process that doesn't reflect our reality. Finally, Mark suggested we talk about a "protocol" for service proposals. At last, we've identified a term that doesn't seem pejorative.

The format of a proposal was considered. Options ranged from a fairly detailed "fill in the blank" form to a set of open-ended questions. In a similar vein, it was suggested that we could just list the criteria to be addressed and let people respond in their format of preference.

Are all proposals the same? We listed the categories of proposals that historically have come before the Worship Committee:

- Unsolicited "I'll be in your area and I'd like to present a service" proposals are common. Jim Scott, traveling UU musician is typical of this category.
- From a knowledgeable Servetan who wishes to provide a service. (The proposal is by someone who understands both our congregation and our liturgy.)
- From a Servetan who is advocating for a particular person. "I heard so-and-so talk about X and I think they'd provide an excellent Sunday morning service."
- Finally, there is the vague, topic-oriented proposal. "I wish we had more services that emphasize the role of nature in religion."

Can we expect the same level of detail in proposals from each of the above categories. In short, "No". But we need those details. As a practical matter, it seems that proposals that lack the desired level of detail require an "advocate", someone on the Worship Committee who is willing to flesh out the proposal to provide the requisite information. Without this champion, a proposal is likely to simply languish for lack of the information required to proceed.

This process seems a harsh triage, but we saw no practical alternative.

Marilynn volunteered for her and Tracy (she said she had Tracy's approval) to develop a written protocol and present it to the Worship Committee at the January meeting.

## 11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the second Wednesday of the month, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004, in the MSUUF Library. Jack will do the opening and closing. Marvin will lead the meeting.

## 12. Closing

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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### 13. For Specific Future Agendas

- **December, 2004.** Kate and Marvin to present draft of job description for Change for the World Coordinator.
- **December, 2004.** Jack to present draft of job description for Outside Speaker Recruiter.
- **December, 2004.** Check with Tracy on the status of the January 2<sup>nd</sup> service.
- **December, 2004.** Consider possible themes for summer 2005 services.
- **December, 2004.** Work on strategic planning ideas in the congregation's strategic planning.
- **January, 2005.** Marilynn and Tracy present draft protocol for service proposals.

### 14. BI N: Maybe We'll Get to It Sometime. Expires After 6 Months

- Recognition of Birthdays. [Introduced January; Placed in BI N 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 BI N pending plans being developed for the Next Big Thing. [Placed in BI N in July, 2004. Expires January, 2005.]
- Survey Servetans who live in outlying areas as to how MSUUF could better serve them. [Placed in BI N in July, 2004. Expires January, 2005.]
- Consider Beth Brown's concerns about possible inconsistencies in our use of language in the liturgy. [Deferred to August, 2004, then not considered. Expires January, 2005]
- How might we provide a third weekly worship service? [Placed in BI N in November. Expires May, 2005.]

## Observations on Summer, 2004

Jack Slingerland

This is an informal report on our experience in planning and coordination the services for the summer of 2004. I have discussed the general content of this report with Kate Rae, who shared responsibility for last summer's services. However, she has not seen this document and may have her own perspective to report.

Some highlights:

- Attendance, while good, does not justify going to two services.
- The plan ("Proposal for Summer Services in 2004" dated November 12, 2003) was a useful tool – more so in starting the process than later on. (We tended to ignore dates called for by the plan – sometimes at our peril.)
- I recommend keeping the same person dealing with arrangements for outside summer speakers as does that job during the school year. We had a different coordinator for summer 2004 and some items (like ordering checks to pay speakers) got overlooked.
- Having a theme seems to facilitate planning the summer.
- Asking people to speak on a fairly narrowly defined topic of our choice actually worked. When we were careful in what we asked, people were willing to take the extra effort called for. Let's not be reasonable, but not timid. People rise to our expectations of them – which is good for both us and them.
- The generic order of service (with a list of summer services), supplemented by a weekly bulletin, seems to work.