

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

Worship Committee Meeting

March 8, 2017

MINUTES

Present: Tim Martin Johnson (presiding), Sarah Gotwals Rody, Tim Schellenberg, Peter Horst, Lorie Hershey

Absent: Carey Davis

1) Opening Prayer led by Tim MJ

2) Reflections on recent worship

The anger series went very well. The theme song, which came from the Laurelville workshop was a good connector between the weeks. Ken Beidler suggested we write up the services and submit them to MCUSA for possible use by other congregations. Lorie will check with Anne Yoder to see if she would have interest in putting this together.

3) Hymnal Project update

Peter reports that the target date for a new hymnal, which would replace the “blue” hymnal, is 2020. Sing the Journey and Sing the Story were in part attempts to test songs for possible use in this new hymnal. There may be an electronic component, but the shape of that is not yet known. There are two surveys now available for interested people to take. One is for everyone, asking which are your “heart songs”, and the other longer survey is for worship and song leaders and pastors. Lorie will ask Dorianna to put links to these surveys in the email blast.

4) Follow-up on workshop

Lorie took some notes from our workshop and will also add information from Peter’s email, and will send the notes around to people who were not at the workshop. Much of what is on it is now also on the website.

5) Children’s bulletin

We discussed finding other materials to hand out at Children’s Time, since what we use now rarely corresponds to what we are talking about in church. We decided that finding an alternative that matches better would be a challenge, with probably not a great payoff. Tim will talk to Laurie Callan, who raised this issue, and invite her to find materials for certain occasions if she wishes. Also, Tim will indicate to Children’s Time leaders that they are welcome to find other materials if they wish, but if they are doing so they should let Dorianna know before Thursday, when she usually prints them.

6) Website

We looked over the website section on worship planning and made several suggestions which Lorie will pass on to Dorianna. Tim and Tim will look at the Song Leader section and may give additional text to Dorianna for inclusion. Lorie and Sarah will do the same for Children's Time.

- 7) Holy week events
- Maundy Thursday Lorie and Tim S will plan
 - Good Friday Lorie will talk to Carey to see if she wants to do something with this. Otherwise we will not plan something
 - stations of the cross Lorie will be here and will have papers available to people interested in doing this prayer walk around the neighborhood
 - sunrise service 7:00am joint with Calvary. Tim MJ and Lorie will talk about providing coffee and snacks at the church afterwards. We will not have breakfast with Calvary this year. We will have our traditional Easter brunch, and there will be no Sunday School

8) Worship and political landscape

There is some diversity of opinion in the congregation about what is the appropriate level of political discussion in the worship service. We discussed this for a while and decided it would be good to broaden the conversation. Tim will ask Anne Y and Sherri M if we can have a Sunday in late April or May to have a conversation.

9) Future worship services

The Elders have suggested a series of some length in which we would focus on Bible stories. We discussed this and came up with the idea of focusing on stories of women in the Bible. We propose doing this in May and June, and perhaps beyond. Lorie will take this back to the Elders for more processing and planning.

10) Next meeting – Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 in the church office