

## **Worship and Music Committee Meeting Minutes**

*September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022: 6:30pm (Madison)*

*Attendees: Mike Harper, Sarah Iverson, Ronda Beggs, Keith Osterman, Jared Stellmacher, Joanne Zastrow, Barb Bredel, Barb Friberg, Judy Kalan, Karen Smith, Pr. Chris Enstad*

### **Meeting Notes:**

Meeting start- 6:35pm

1. **Devotion- Question: “Why do you come to worship? Do you have certain expectations coming to worship?”** (Mike Harper)
  - a. To praise God, to sing uplifting music
  - b. It’s a routine
  - c. To be inspired by the Holy Spirit
  - d. To be reminded or challenged for the week ahead
  - e. To see and be with our community
  - f. Curiosity of the unexpected
  - g. To participate in rituals, prayers, and songs
  - h. To learn what is going to wake up that has fallen asleep
  - i. The reverence and peacefulness of being in the Lord’s house
  - j. Being spiritually renewed
  - k. Being prepared to lead worship; being fully engaged
  - l. To stay out of God’s way to let the Holy Spirit do its work
2. **“Prayground” at Madison Campus** (Joanne Zastrow, Director of Children’s Ministry)
  - a. Beginning Sunday, September 18, Children, Youth and Family proposed to have a “prayground” installed at the Madison Campus similar to the one at the Verona Campus.
  - b. To be placed at the back of the sanctuary by removing two pews. This will be a special space in our sanctuary for young children with toys, coloring materials and room to sit, crawl or dance with their parents.
  - c. This is another way we “welcome” young children among us at worship in their own way and help them learn what it means to worship God. It also gives parents the opportunity to sit with their children and other parents forming community together.
    - i. Discussion: concerns about noise levels being distracting to other worshippers.
      1. Rarely an issue. Non-noisy soft toys are included to cut down on noise. We all know children sometimes make noise already, it is a part of our life together and kids are an important part of the Body of Christ.
      2. The “prayground” is a “welcoming” addition to our Madison worship space. Having them available at both campuses aligns with our mission, vision, and strategic plan.
      3. Any noise related issues, should there be any, will be addressed by staff, if necessary.

3. **Fall Worship updates and discussions, tracking attendance (do we share with the congregation?) and Virtual Worship discussion** (Jared Stellmacher)
  - a. Jared shared both in-person and online worship attendance numbers for July 3 through September 11, 2022, in comparison to January 5 through March 8, 2020.
    - i. Summer 2022 weekly worship attendance averages 650.
    - ii. Winter 2020 (right before the pandemic) weekly worship attendance averaged 613.
      1. Conclusion: our worship numbers remain stable.
      2. 58% of our weekly attendance at Madison Campus worships online.
      3. 49% of our weekly attendance at Verona Campus worships online.
        - a. These are considerable numbers. A large part of our community worships online!
          - i. Questions to ponder...
            1. How do we effectively minister and engage with our online community?
            2. Who are these worshippers?
            3. How can we make our worship more welcoming for our online community?
4. **Associate Director of Worship and Music Update** (Jared Stellmacher)
  - a. Matt Skibo was recently hired as our full-time "Music Coordinator" focusing on Children's and Youth music and administrative responsibilities. His first day will be Monday, September 26.
  - b. Matt's role frees up some of Jared's time, so he can give Verona bands and worship more attention and direction to help more clearly discern what our resources and needs are as we grow.
5. **Strategic Planning: follow up and continuation of discussion** (Mike Harper)
  - a. Committee chairs and members have been invited by Sarah McCormack and the Strategic Planning team for an overview/implementation dinner/discussion scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Verona Campus.
6. **Volunteers: Training and Recruiting** (Ronda Beggs)
  - a. Training sessions rescheduled
    - i. Verona Campus: Sunday, September 25 (before worship)
    - ii. Madison Campus: Sunday, October 2 (after worship)
7. **Closing Prayer** (Sarah Iverson)

Next meeting: October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Verona Campus: location to be determined.

Meeting End- 8:00pm

