

Executive Summary – Worship & Music Arts Committee Meeting (April 21, 2026)

1. Devotion & Opening

- Jackie offered a brief Earth Day–themed reflection on stewardship, grounding the meeting in the reminder that “the Earth is the Lord’s, and we are caretakers.”
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2. Worship & Music Staffing Update

WMA Task Force Recommendation (already submitted to Council by Karen Smith, Task Force Chair):

- Hire **two positions**:
 - **Full-time Worship & Music Director** (successor to Jared): strategic leadership, liturgical planning, organ proficiency preferred.
 - **Part-time Assistant**: administrative support, redundancy for illness/travel, ability to cover services.

Key Notes:

- Job description is being finalized by HR; not yet posted.
 - Skill expectations are broad; actual hiring sequence will depend on the applicant pool.
 - Organ proficiency is requested but may require flexibility depending on candidates.
 - There is congregational interest in retaining **Katie** as choir director; Music Monday grant request was updated to fund her summer work for Music Mondays.
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3. Verona Campus: Paraments & Candles

- Grant submitted; decision expected **first week of May**.
 - Candles delivered; one candlestick needs minor repair.
 - Paraments order will be placed immediately upon grant approval.
 - Music Mondays grant revised to include musicians, security, and compensation for Katie.
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4. Organ: Repair, Maintenance, and Assessment Needs

Current Situation

- The Holtkamp organ is ~30 years old.
- Recent tuning is **not holding**, indicating deeper mechanical issues.
- Several components are failing or unstable:
 - Tuning slides
 - Mixtures (Great & Pedal)
 - Swell shades
 - Mechanical key coupler
 - Pommer (16’ stop)
- Many color stops are unreliable; only foundational stops are consistently stable.

Historical Estimate (2025)

- Previous assessment (Nolte) estimated **\$26,500** for essential repairs.
- Given inflation and worsening condition, this estimate is likely outdated.

Expert Input (Bruce Case & others)

- Holtkamp instruments of this era commonly require ongoing maintenance every ~2 years.
- Acoustic limitations of the chamber and building design contribute to tuning instability.
- Some repairs may require removing ranks and transporting them off-site.

Next Steps (Committee Direction)

- Obtain **a new professional assessment** to determine:
 - Current condition
 - Updated repair costs
 - Prioritized repair sequence
 - Ongoing maintenance schedule
- Potential evaluators:
 - **Dean Christian** (Chicago; services Luther Memorial & Queen of Peace). Visited GSLC on Friday, 5/8. Evaluation pending.
 - **Chris Holtkamp** (Cleveland)
 - **John Miller** (Milwaukee; difficult to reach)
 - **Berkhouse** (Chicago; no response yet)
 - **Scott Rydell** (Milwaukee; difficult timeline; has worked on Holtkamps in the Madison area)

Board Request for Committee:

Provide a recommendation and cost estimate for the assessment itself.

Budget Status:

- Paul Hutson has set aside **\$30,000** for organ work pending updated assessment.

5. Music Mondays & Community Engagement

- Strong positive feedback from both campuses.
- Plans underway to bring residents from Badger Prairie Healthcare to at least one event.
- Verona appreciated being included in the organ celebration and display.

6. Future Organ Programming

- Interest in:
 - UW organ student recitals
 - A potential return visit from Jared for a recital
 - Broader community engagement once the organ is stabilized

7. End-of-Year Music Celebration

- Historically a potluck; typically choir-organized.
- Committee will take the lead this year to support Katie, Rachel, Wes, Tracey, and other music leaders and musicians.
- Tentative plan: **early June**, under the tent at Verona campus.
- Invitation to include **all music ministries** (Madison + Verona).

8. Committee Summer Schedule

- No regular meetings in **June or July** unless urgent business arises (e.g., organ assessment developments or staffing updates).

9. Additional Notes

- Interest in reviving congregational drama ministry; may explore gauging congregational interest.
- Anticipation of Pastor Ben's arrival and his collaborative, relational leadership style.