

United Proclamation of the Gospel
Worship and Music Ministry Sub-Committee Report
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM

- Committee Members: Rosalie Adducie, Linda Maule, Cindy Kemp, Shirley Kulp, Marisa Deshler, Joe Boligitz, Deb Smith, Sheila Novak, Jim Long, Tony Villani, Pastors Suzanne Trump and Jerry Kulp
- Committee Charge: ***“To develop a vision paper for a new, consolidated, community of faith which would allow congregational members to vote on ‘What this new community of faith looks like, feels like, operates like, without knowing a physical location of where specifically this community of faith will be housed.’ This document would become the basis for congregational discussions, townhall meetings and eventually voting to consider formally bringing together our three communities of faith.”***
- The committee reviewed and discussed the current Virtual and In-Person Worship Schedule and recommends the following to the Transition Team and Church Councils:
 - These recommendations will begin once we resume back to in person worship.
 - Virtual – Continue to offer a Virtual worship experience on Saturday evening, which is currently being done at the three campuses. Once the new virtual streaming equipment arrives, the virtual service will be streamed live from the St. Peter’s Campus only. The target date for this is for late December in time for the Christmas services if possible.
 - In-person – Currently two worship services are offered every week at 8 and 11 AM on a rotating basis at the three churches. It was decided that for now the services will be kept during these times. (It was suggested to survey the Sunday School Teachers and the Adult Sunday School class to see if they will be attending church at either time slot.)
 - This committee would recommend that all three churches encourage families to worship together to allow for more children and young people at our in -person worship services. The number of children attending church has been very low.
 - The pastors agreed that once the pandemic is behind us, we will continue to offer “Holden Evening Prayer” on Wednesday evenings as well. This has been offered in the past at the St. Peter’s Campus.

The virtual Christmas service was made available to all church members after noon on Christmas Eve. **This was approved by the councils.** A Sunday School Christmas Eve event also took place on the Light of Christ Campus at 4 PM. These services were well received by all members and kept us all in the Christmas Spirit even though we could not worship together in person!

- A New Special Devotions has begun on Wednesdays – “Pastor’s Unplugged” – This new ministry has begun recently with Advent on a Wednesday. This new ministry will continue after the holiday season as well throughout the rest of the year.
- The committee reviewed a series of recommendations from the “Proclamation of the Word” – Sub-team report which was completed 18 months ago to see if our recommendations were in line with what this team had decided in the past. To our pleasant surprise, many of our suggestions were recommended by them and some have been implemented or achieved. (The underlined suggestions have been achieved)
 1. Worship – Four weekly offerings currently, including one Saturday, two on Sunday and Holden Prayer on Wednesdays. Pursue options to expand youth involvement in worship celebrations, celebrate worship at one campus more often, general consensus of the UPG coming together as one united church under one roof eventually!
 4. Internet – Web-based Activities – Move to one UPG / St. John’s Webpage, also, create a twitter page for sharing and feedback between church and members, we began the distribution of devices to parishoners without internet access for virtual services, audio and video streaming of the Sunday worship celebrations.
 5. RIC designation – The committee strongly recommends pursuing a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) designation for the new church as we unite as one in the future. This designation signifies that we welcome ALL to our worship services regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. This would be a congregational vote that would take place after the consolidation of the three churches.
- This committee also recommends that decisions around Service Setting Choices and consistency in service should occur among the three churches. This will occur with the ministers, together with the church organists, once the pandemic is over and we can actually sing in church again.
- Music Offerings: Choirs (Separate/ Joint), Children/Youth Choir, Special Music Offerings – will also continue once the pandemic is over.
- Discussion was held by the committee concerning the following alternative forms of worship – It is being recommended to the Transition Team that these special services

and events would continue within a new unified church. This list encompasses events from all three churches:

- Polka Worship – Second Week of June
 - Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols
 - All Saint’s Day Recognition
 - Thanksgiving Eve Worship
 - Rally Day
 - God’s Work Our Hands Day
 - Worship in the Park
 - Women’s Day, Men’s Day, Veterans Day Celebration/Recognition
 - First Saturday Night – Outdoor Worship and Dinner- Pet Blessing
 - Chancel Players – Plays as a part of worship – Drama – More Youth involvement
 - Youth Services
 - Winterfest (First Saturday in Advent)
 - Summerfest
 - Confirmation – 3rd Sunday in November
 - First Communion – Parent choice
- Bell Choir / Chancel Ringers – It is being recommended that this music ministry should continue once the pandemic is over and an invitation to participate would be extended to members in all three churches.
 - Our final task as a sub-committee was to “Dream Big”, as the Pastors called it, to come up with other areas of worship or types of worship experiences that we’d like to see in a new unified church. These are listed in no special order and discussion around these will continue as we move forward once the consolidation is decided upon:
 - Contemporary Worship “Praise Band”
 - Taize Worship – a contemplative worship experience
 - Provide the opportunity for people to ask questions during the service – more interactive opportunities during the worship service
 - “After Worship Forum” – opportunity to continue the worship experience beyond the service with the Pastors and interested congregants.
 - Explore more community-based worship – offering more opportunities for worship out in the community throughout the year –a “church without walls” concept
 - Explore more Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Worship Opportunities
 - Look to expand youth involvement in planning and participating in worship (children’s sermons, music offerings, etc.)

- Explore more ways to reach out to the local colleges in the area

This committee report is graciously and enthusiastically submitted to the Transition Team with a blessing and commitment from each and every committee member. It has been a pleasure to serve as chair of this sub-committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Villani