

Liturgy and Worship Committee

Wednesday, October 8, 2003
Meeting Minutes

The meeting began shortly after 6:30 p.m. Chairman John Bitterman presided.

The following were in attendance:

Staff:

Don Crean
Ray Frost

Other Parishioners – Worship Commission

John Bitterman
Kevin Boden
Maria Boden
Geraldine Cole
Bill O'Neill
Victoria Siu
Stephen St. Marie

Opening Prayer. Gerry Cole offered a prayer.

Secretary. In the absence of Howard Case, who is traveling, Stephen St. Marie volunteered to prepare minutes.

Minutes of August 13. Kevin Boden moved for the acceptance of the revised draft minutes of August 13. Vicki Siu seconded. Approved by the committee.

All Souls Day, November 2. Don Crean reported.

- All Souls Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 2.
- All Saints Day, is not a holy day of obligation this year because it arrives on a Saturday.
- There will be a special alter set up for All Souls on the Joseph side of the church in the second side alter. That alter will stay in place until the beginning of Advent. There will be a basket for the collection of intentions to be written on sheets of paper provided for that purpose.
- The motet choir will do motets from a requiem mass at the 11:00 a.m. service. Don indicated he would soon coordinate the music with Tim for the 9:30 mass and the 5:00 p.m. mass. Most likely the music at those masses will include Becker's Litany of the Saints. There are other music options: The USF students will do a Latin-sounding bi-lingual mass that incorporates the Day of the Dead.
- Masses on All Souls Day may include a moment of silence or a ringing of a bell during the prayer of the faithful.

Feast of Christ the King, November 23. Don Crean reported. This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. The music will be appropriate to the theme. But there will be no other special liturgical events.

Thanksgiving, November 27. Don Crean reported.

- The music will consist of a simple cantor and organist.
- We will also have a “gifts for the poor” process, which is still to be worked out.
- Traditionally this mass has been scheduled at 11:00 a.m. Vicki suggested 10:00 would be more convenient. After discussion, Vicki moved that the Worship Commission recommend to the pastor that 10:00 a.m. would be a superior time for this mass. Gerry Cole seconded. The motion carried. Don indicated that he would carry this news to the staff and pastor.
- Don noted that due to scheduling requirements the Advent wreath will be hung on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. It will be in place undecorated.

Advent Follow-up. Don Crean reported.

- As indicated above, the wreath will be placed in the church on November 26.
- Advent begins on the weekend of November 29-30.
- Each Sunday, there will be a Gathering Rite at the center of the church with the singing of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
- John suggested that at the 8:00 a.m. mass, which suffers without musical accompaniment, the hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel be sung without accompaniment.
- An Advent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. That is directly preceding the 5:00 p.m. mass.

Christmas Planning. Don Crean Reported.

- Last year there was a children’s choir that sang at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas vigil mass. About 80 kids. This year we do not have a budget for that at this time. The Committee discussed the idea of a materials fee or donation per child to participate. The discussion considered the appropriateness of fees for participation in church liturgies. Chairman John Bitterman indicated that his first impression is that it would be a bad idea to charge. (Later, John e-mailed the Commission members indicating that after a discussion at home he had changed his mind and endorsed the concept as long as the payments are voluntary and no one is turned away for lack of money.)
- The 8:00 p.m. mass was a big success last year, and will be repeated this year. The Contemporary Ensembles will provide the music for that celebration.
- The Midnight Mass begins with music from the Motet Choir at 11:00 p.m.
- On Christmas morning there will be an 8:00 a.m. mass with cantor and organ, a 9:30 mass with the Contemporary Family Mass Choir, and an 11:00 a.m. mass with the Motet Choir.
- The Christmas Decoration budget is tight. The parish will ask for donations specifically for this purpose.
- Mr. Caswell, who has been donating his time and talent as well as money for the Christmas tree display, will require assistance this year. In addition, Don suggested that the Worship Committee work to develop an environment committee that would assist in taking down those trees after Christmas.
- Vicki asked: Do we need to have very fancy decorations for Christmas? The answer is that, of course, we do not need them for the liturgy itself. However, it

was recognized that many people come to our church at Christmas because of the beauty of the church and its decorations.

- The details of the Christmas masses and the Christmas season will be discussed at the next meeting of the Worship Commission.

Giving Campaign. Don Crean reported.

- The parish would like to have testimonial presentations from parishioners for the giving campaign on the theme of stewardship. Several members of the Commission spoke in favor of the idea. Kevin Boden pointed out that it provides an example to those who have not realized how their participation in the parish is needed. Bill O'Neill indicated that it shows the involvement of the laity in parish affairs. However, as Kevin noted, testimonials are the most difficult types of speeches to give. He volunteered to help prepare people.

Worship Commission Membership and Chairman Rotation. John Bitterman reported.

- The Pastoral Council system is that members serve for two-year terms with four to five people – half – rotating out each year. The chairman serves a two-year chairmanship, the second year of which is a third year on the Council. The Pastoral Council has two other officers: a Co-Chair and a Secretary.
- John reported that he took a survey of members of the Worship Commission to determine the interest of current members in remaining on the Commission and in being officers. Not surprisingly, no one volunteered to be an officer. Most members wish to roll off the roster in one more or two more years.
- John himself will finish his term as chairman in March. Soon there will be a vacuum in our committee.
- We need new members, Don pointed out, for the life of the community.
- Don indicated that the bulletin would have an announcement asking for volunteers.

Without setting a motion in place, the committee discussed the structure of the Worship Committee, which is different in form and function from the Pastoral Council. The group centered on the following:

- The Worship Commission should consist of about 15 people.
- There should be three-year terms or three-year-plus-two-year terms.
- It is not necessary to have a strong formal structure, but it is necessary to have officers who can be depended on to run meetings, take notes, and to step into leadership roles as needed.
- There needs to be a continuing membership with rollover of only a portion of the members each year so that there is trust built up among the members, for they are bound to disagree and must be able to do so in a good and trusting atmosphere.
- Don and other staff help the committee to function. (An outpouring of thanks was offered to Don at this point.)
- Don should set up a process to solicit new membership in the Committee.
- The Committee chair should serve for two years. There should also be a co-chair. And there should be a secretary, whose term should be six months. (Howard Case

has been serving as secretary. Stephen St. Marie volunteered to serve as secretary when Mr. Case's tenure is completed.)

Church Pamphlet. Ray Frost reported. Fr. Jim Blaettler has taken over the responsibility for writing a pamphlet about the church and its architecture and art. There is no report on its progress.

Outdoor Street Sign. Ray Frost reported. This is still a work in progress, and the effort needs a new chairman. Kevin Boden volunteered and will coordinate with Fr. Charlie Gagan.

New Flooring Committee. Gerry Cole reported that progress continues. No other news to report at this time.

Sound System Committee. Kevin Boden reporting.

Howard Case has done much work and has concluded that vendors are bad sources of recommendations for they are mostly interested in selling their own products. Therefore, Howard and Kevin and the members of the committee have formed the following recommendation:

- The church should hire a consultant who is knowledgeable about the sound business and is sensitive to the architectural structure of our church. This person would be paid for advice – not for equipment.
- Through the offices of Jim Blaettler, we have found a person from THX who can offer a second opinion on the recommendations of the consultant.
- There is another parishioner who has stepped forward who can also act as an advisor.

Kevin indicated that he has been negotiating a contract with the proposed consultant and is working with the pastor on that process.

Stephen moved that the Worship Commission endorse the recommendation. Gerry seconded that motion. It carried.

Preparation for the November Meeting. John asked when and how does this committee hand back to the professionals the responsibility for the flooring project and the sound system. It is a rhetorical question, but the point is that the Worship Committee is not competent to choose or install a sound system. Nor is this committee competent, by itself, to choose or install new flooring materials in the church.

Preparation for the December Meeting. Chairman John Bitterman reported that the December meeting will be in the form of a Christmas Party, time and place to be announced later.

John also announced that this is our third-anniversary meeting. Congratulations to all. Don indicated that the pastor's appraisal of this committee's work is very positive. And Don expressed thanks to John.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Minutes reported by Stephen St. Marie

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