

Worship SLG Report

Submitted by: Richard Kalwaic

Please list the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team.

- ❖ Yiwola Awoyale, Richard Kalwaic, Tony Merlo, Laura Spencer, Holly Phares, Joanna Robinson, and Michael Caine.

Please list the goals of your group for 2019.

- ❖ We hoped to embrace our role in the shaping and discerning of the design of the worship service.
- ❖ We considered the necessary changes for the Crèche display and how it would impact the future building plans.
- ❖ We agreed that a primary focus for our team was to increase inclusivity.
- ❖ We hoped to enhance the visual aspects of the worship space through being mindful to decorate the sanctuary appropriately with various visual elements (paraments, flowers, banners, objects on the Communion table, for example) to create a more visually interesting and appealing atmosphere.

Were you able to achieve your goals for 2019? Please be as specific as possible.

- ❖ We felt our goals (as listed above) achieved different levels of success.
 - We made small, incremental changes to the order of worship when appropriate, as well as added in the lyrics to the Doxology, based on feedback we had received from various parishioners.
 - After much thoughtful and meaningful discussion and discernment, we decided to create additional wooden characters to flesh out the crèche, in lieu of no longer having live animals. We also decided to approach the crèche display from the perspective of what each “character” was thinking about this extraordinary birth. We abandoned the idea of having audio capabilities and stuck with laminated posters displayed that articulated the thoughts. These were posted securely around on the parameters of the courtyard in the hopes that onlookers would stop to read and reflect. We felt that the changes in the crèche were a necessary compromise given the circumstances that were presented to us. Yet the crèche turned out very well and attracted perhaps a different set of admirers from those that were attracted with live animals.
 - Inclusivity and diversity improved considerably, but we still feel we can continue to improve in this area. The Lenten goal that we suggested to add “special” donations could have gone further, although there was some success.
 - There were some palpable improvements throughout the year in regards to enhancing the visual aspects in our worship space. Pentecost and Thanksgiving were two seasons/services, in particular, that felt particularly lovely, more so than usual.

Where is the group stuck? What is your group or ministry pondering?

- ❖ At one of our meetings, particularly the one concerned with Reformation Sunday, a group member posed, “In the spirit of Martin Luther, how would we reform the Church today?” We feel that this is the “sticky” point. To make any comments beyond suggestions would require a much greater diversity of opinions and suggestions. We are pondering inviting congregants to come forward and share (for lack of a better phrase) a Personal Story Moment. Pastor Michael would like to tap into the latent or potential spiritual energy of the congregation.

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming year 2020?

- ❖ We would like to offer congregants the opportunity to share their own personal story of their spiritual journey. Beyond that we would like to continue to expand upon the effort to be more inclusive and diverse in our worship leadership and lay participants.

What are the ways that the church can support your team?

- ❖ We are open to input from all participants in the church life. We encourage anyone interested to come to our meetings. The more the better.

The church will be 300 years in old in 2027. How do you see your ministry evolving in the next seven years? What will it take to achieve those goals?

- ❖ We hope that inclusivity and diversity will continue to evolve so that the church will continue to increase in the number of congregants who embrace participation and ministry. Pastor Michael hoped that he could tap into the spiritual energy of the church. We ask the church to join us in achieving this goal.