

## **Worship Standing Leadership Group**

Submitted by: Richard Kalwaic

*List of the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team:*

Tony Merlo, Joanna Robinson, Holly Phares, Yiwola Awoyale, Michael Caine, Laura Spencer, Richard Kalwaic

*As you look at the goals you had planned for 2021, what were you able to accomplish? Please be as specific as possible.*

The Worship SLG has been pursuing the goal of personalizing worship as well as tapping into the spiritual energy of the congregation. We implemented a program of outside Worship Service (masked and socially distanced) to provide for at least some direct contact. The zoom service also took place shortly after the outside service.

We used the warmer months to take advantage of being outside until sometime in the fall of 2021. In particular, we have implemented the use of masks for outside services. The outside services have necessitated the changing of worship times which we established as well as how to structure the Time for Children during the outside service. We considered the use of the Social Hall if inclement weather made the outside service a problem.

Additionally, we arranged a Christmas Eve service outside in front of the church. Our zoom service continues into this year. We initiated the sending of palms in the mail to members in Holy week. We discussed the workload of our staff and the quality of the music in worship.

I would like to commend our group for its creativity and dedication in several areas.

- ❖ Finding activities with restrictions that enabled some direct contact.
- ❖ Utilizing patience and dedication to overcome the limitations inherent in a two-dimensional, online format.
- ❖ Creativity in envisioning upcoming “hybrid” services as our church becomes available in the coming months.

*How has your ministry’s or leadership team’s work and goals shifted throughout 2021 (due to COVID or other events)?*

The COVID pandemic and the shift to Zoom continues, with meetings in small groups and regular chat groups. We believe that online gatherings are still the safest arrangement until the church has been fully renovated.

*Where is your group or ministry area stuck? Do you need help in discerning who to ask to join your group or to get more involved?*

We don’t believe we are “stuck” in the sense that we don’t know what to do. We are constantly challenged. Our desire is to be as inclusive as possible. We would welcome and eagerly seek outside expertise, particularly with the issues coming up in 2022.

*What do you anticipate will be different in 2022 (because of COVID? – because of the new building project? -- because of other upcoming changes)? Do you anticipate any shifts or changes in the needs or focus for your ministry and team?*

We anticipate that 2022 will be a year of eventually moving back to the sanctuary, although it isn't clear when it will be safe enough. When we do move back, we believe that Worship will be of a "hybrid" type. There will be a combination of in-person worship as well as online participation. The details are still being discussed. We welcome outside help on the technical problems this would present.