

MUSIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY, July 7th, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Brock (Chair), Heather Cooper, Leslie Lord, Camille Haberland, Alan Payne, Pat Hilbrink, Erin Martin, Marty Draper

ABSENT: Ian Lane, Rob Aughtry, Laura Zotian, Carolyn Petersen, Betsy Wilusz

Linda Brock called the meeting to order and offered a word of prayer.

Directors' Reports:

Dave basically said that he, Ian and Rob are all happy with the year's end and are preparing for next year. He is in the midst of trying to prepare his budget request for 2009. Discussion of this was tabled until later in the meeting.

Camille is looking forward to Music Camp which will run from August 4th - August 8th. This year there are approximately 50 children signed up. There are some funds left over from last year but they will not cover all that is needed to successfully provide for a good music camp experience.

New Members to the roster: Erin Martin and Betsy Wilusz have been submitted to the staff committee. Their approval is expected later in the month.

Fairfax 4th of July Parade: Was well attended. FISH, Lamb Ctr, Evangelism, Music, FACETS, ESL UMM, Scouts and UMW were all represented. 450 flashlights were handed out (these were leftover from last year's stewardship campaign. The question was raised how many were purchased and what the cost in a year when the budget could not be covered)

Contemporary Worship Service: It is now being called "Open Doors" and is drawing an average of 90-100 worshippers.

2009 Endowment Requests: Were submitted on time. Our hope is that all three will be approved but the reality is that none may be.

Once the old business was covered the discussions turned to the budget for 2009 and the proposed Music Series. For those who were not able to attend the June meeting, David reviewed the cost of maintaining the various instruments (organ, tympani, bells, pianos) which when totaled amounts to approximately \$9,000.00 per year. The current line item for maintenance in the music budget is \$1300.00.

Tuning of one piano \$150.-200.00 per time at 2x/yr (the church has upwards of 15 pianos)

Tuning/maintaining the organ \$700.-800.00 per time at 3x/yr-has not been done in 2008, yet.

Hand Bells \$1000.00 yearly (this year est. \$4000.00 because the bells have not been maintained since we were given them)

Timpany/Harpsicord as needed cost varies

Currently we do not have the funds to tune any of the instruments. We are not being good stewards of the gifts we have been given

Dave explained how difficult it is to present a realistic budget because ever since he came to Fairfax, the reality is that the budget needed to support the programs and services of our church has never been sufficient. He has always, with the exception of the new organ fund (now depleted) needed "extra" money for "extras". All special event music has been underwritten by generous donations; some known and some anonymous. This has given the "illusion" that the Music Department "is alright" and can "take care of itself". The directors have over the last three years supplemented the music budget by using their own money to buy music and supplies for all programs from choir meals to supplies for the music camp and children's musical as well as covering their travel expenses and fees for attending music conferences. They are not currently expecting to be reimbursed. The committee acknowledged their dedication but stated this is not right. (It was mentioned that this "symptom" follows thru in other purpose areas as well.)

Marty Draper (Worship) suggested that a true and realistic budget outline be submitted, even as the expectation is that it will be denied and reduced. His reasoning is that the congregation is largely unaware of the cost of presenting the kind of dramatic, high-quality music that they have come to expect from the FUMC Music Dept. He feels he cannot submit the realistic amount of \$32,000.00 because of the state of the economy and the state of our church's financial situation.

When asked David illustrated the costs to present several of our past programs: Christmas Celebration of Rutter w/orchestra and choirs \$13,000.00, Handel's Messiah w/soloists and orchestra \$10,000.00, Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ \$2,000.00. This year's Christmas Concert will feature our choirs without any "extras". David is fearful of disappointing the congregation.

The committee will support David if he submits a "realistic" and detailed budget when it comes time to justify his submission. A basic feeling is that during the Stewardship Campaign we find a way to "educate" the congregation in the business of being true "stewards" of our church buildings and programs.

The discussion of the Music Series was lively and varied. A serious concern is that the series be viewed as a "Whole Church" presentation focusing on outreach and education and not a Music Department creation that ultimately would be funded by the Music Department. A tentative schedule is being created with a variety of organizations already engaged (refer to the Endowment Request). A voiced concern is the "donations" aspect of the music series. That being, we don't want to ask our parishioners to be the supporters or underwriters of the series a la Kennedy Center or Wolf Trap or many other cultural groups who depend on "sustainers" to pay the expenses of advertisement, paying the artists/groups, printing, etc. It may be that some will WANT to be supporters. This type of community event will bring non-members inside our church and it is an exciting idea that Fairfax could manage to do this. Questions arose on the cost of printing and advertising. Linda, Heather, Camille, Alan and Dave are working on how to manage this without spending much money. Nothing was decided, but a hope was expressed to have a brochure ready for Faith Feste and for the sanctuary pews and eventual mailing.

Faith Fest was briefly discussed. Heather said that the theme is "Patriotic"...our participation will be much as it was last year, encouraging full music dept. participation. Further discussion and planning will happen at our next meeting on Monday, August 25th once David has returned from England.

The meeting was closed with prayer and hope.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Brock