



Worship Committee Report – Lorenza Acker

The Worship Committee has the responsibility of supporting the ministry of First Unitarian Universalist Church Detroit by providing volunteers and paid participants to build the service with the Minister.

Annual Retreat: The committee participated in a retreat in August, 2007 to plan the work of the committee for the coming year.

The Sunday Service

Music Program: Music is an important element of each Sunday Service and Christmas. Under the able leadership of the Music and Choir Directors, the program plan, direct, coordinate and perform organ and piano music, monthly choir appearances and guest musicians.

Worship Assistants- recruiting and training and service. The Worship Committee has worked with the minister to shape the service by recruiting and training Worship Assistants who participate with the minister (or pulpit guest) every Sunday.

Worship Coordinators provide pulpit guests for the Sundays when the minister is away. They shepherd the guest speakers through the service planning process.

Ushers: The Head Usher continued to recruit, train and coordinate the ushers. This includes four ushers (two for the summer) per service for each Sunday Service.

Sound: The Sound Subcommittee runs the sound system during the service and copies and sells CDs of the service during Coffee Hour.

Summer Services: Ten pulpit guests are recruited for the ten summer services.

Coffee Hour: While Coffee Hour is not a formal part of the Worship portfolio, the Committee has assisted Faye Colling in recruiting the volunteers who set up, clean up and provide the refreshments after the Sunday Service. All groups of the church participate along with staff, in making Coffee Hour a pleasant way of ending our time together.

Worship Committee Chair: Dan Secret

Music Director: Todd Ballou

Choir Director: Gwen Foss

Head Usher: John Angry

Sound Subcommittee: Glenn Maxwell

Music Subcommittee: Lee Thume and staff

Leonard S.-Staff for Sunday Coffee Hour



Music Program Report – Todd Ballou

Music Department Including Choir

1) What is working well in your committee or group

The music budget is supporting the work of the music department very well. With a little rearranging, we were able to obtain a new set of conga drums, replace the well-worn hymnal used at the organ, purchase the hymnal supplement for the choir, and purchase a Braille hymnal for Lee Thume.

The relationship with and leadership of the worship committee is continuing to improve. This year, I have seen many services planned in advance enough that there is time and energy for development and improvements to be considered.

2) What would you like to change?

The choir continues to seek its full potential, and I'd like to continue trying new approaches, and take a more direct role in the choir leadership. This has become a priority for me, and I have devoted much time to planning that will be implemented in the 2008-09 church year. I would also like to find additional ways Gwen's beautiful voice can benefit the church & choir.

c. **Added tasks? As music director, I've taken a more active role in budget planning, and spending/ check requests. I've expanded my knowledge of the organ and have achieved some success with minor tuning and repairs.**

d. **Discontinued tasks? (Shifted to someone else?)**

3) How are communications working? Could you improve?

I'm happy with communications with Drew, Gwen, and the worship committee. Improvements could be made within the choir.

4) What changes do you suggest?

Communications with the congregation could be improved, such as newsletter announcements about the choir, the organ, and other musical news.

5) What are your goals for the near future?

Last year's goal of an organ recital was postponed, and I'd like to continue working toward that goal, targeting October of 2008.

6) Comments on review process?

I love the frequent support and review provided by Drew this year. It has helped me with my responsibilities of providing support and review for our choir director, Gwen.