

Minutes from Meeting – 2/5/23

Attendees:

Cindi Barkley
Ed Clavette
Janice Dumont
Jim Fennell
Megan Fennell
Ellen Kingman
Kelly Thibeault

Next Meeting – Thursday 3/16/23 @ 7:00PM, hybrid (Janice will sent zoom link)

1. Jim updated the group on Kevin Graves' status in the ministry – he would like to continue being a part when he is able to participate.
2. Jim updated the group on everything our ministry does:
 - Music for services (coordinating and performing)
 - Piano tuning – 2x/year
 - Organ service – 1x/year (in the Fall)
 - Licensing for music: printed lyrics or recordings distributed – he tries to make sure we are not infringing on any copyrights
 - Recording services – Jim, Ed, and Kait know how to do this
3. We discussed how often we would like to meet as a group and communicate with each other. There was a lot of good discussion about this, and here's where we ended up:
 - We will meet as a group a few weeks prior to the start of each new "season" to toss around ideas and get organized. Meetings will be hybrid, supporting in person and remote attendance.
 - Epiphany until Lent (current season)
 - Lent (planning in progress – Kelly shared the updated Lenten bulletin and a list of Sundays with a scripture and message for each, so that we can begin thinking about music)
 - Holy Week (not its own season, but definitely needs its own planning – come up with action plan on 3/16)
 - Great 50 Days – after Easter through Pentecost
 - Post-Pentecost through Summer

- Fall (September – Thanksgiving)
 - Advent
- Janice will send bi-weekly emails to the entire group to make sure the upcoming services are all set for music (we'll assess on 3/16 if this is frequent enough).
 - As a reminder, we have a google doc [Oldtown Music Planning - Google Docs](#) that contains a list of upcoming services with music planned for each service. If someone wants to perform on a given week, please feel free to put your name down for that week (or ask Jim or Kelly or Janice to do so) along with what you will play. Janice will include the link to this document in each of her emails, so that everyone has that every few weeks and can find it easily.
 - Jim, would you please give everyone in the group authority to edit this document? Thank you!
4. We discussed how to get the congregation more involved in our ministry and discussed various ideas, concerns, etc. Here are the action items I took from this:
- Oldtown Singers – We will continue to keep this an informal group that sings the communion preparation song on the 1st Sunday of each month. Janice will start a monthly “Come and Sing” hour, starting in mid-February (will work out a date and some musical ideas with Kelly). She will have a few songs ready for whoever shows up to sing, and the group can decide which one to perform the next month. It will give the group a chance to get together and sing and be involved in the decision about what to sing. Janice will share the plan for the Oldtown Singers moving forward and our “Come and Sing” Saturdays at the next service.
 - Getting the children involved – Kelly is working on teaching the children “Jesus Makes Beautiful” with hand signing. At some point, the children may perform this during a service. Janice will also look for the piano music.
 - Soliciting ideas from the congregation – We would like to ask the congregation to think about ideas for music and submit those in the offering plate. If the deacons could pass these on to me, Janice will be happy to add them to our google doc. Then anyone who might have ideas about performing one can pursue this.
 - Idea for Sunday music – Ed told us about a song “I Will Sing Unto the Lord” which can be sung as a round. Might be fun to do some Sunday! Janice will look for this and include it as something for a “Come and Sing” Saturday so that we can get a few more members of the congregation familiar with it to lead the sections when we decide to sing it in a service. Perhaps she can coordinate with Ed for one of those Saturdays so that he can lead the singers with this.
 - Pulling in congregation members to perform – we discussed the reasons why more members of the congregation do not seem to volunteer to perform on Sundays. Janice will speak with one individual we mentioned to try to make her feel comfortable joining the Oldtown Singers. Meghan pointed out to people may not think they are “good enough” to participate and be hesitant to do so. This is something we are going to have to work on over time.

5. We voted on the chairperson for 2023. Cindi nominated Janice just to change things up a bit as some of the other ministries and church committee are doing. Jim was also willing to continue on as chairperson. The group felt we, like other ministries and the church committee, should take the opportunity to switch things up for a bit, so Janice will chair our ministry for 2023. Jim graciously agreed to continue doing all the things he has been doing to keep music running in Oldtown. But truly, we are all the leaders of this wonderful group and 2023 will be wonderful because we will work together to make it so!