

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

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The Worship and Service Committee and Worship Associates continue to act as a unified group.

Worship Associates generally meet on the first Monday evening of each month during the Church year. Our discussions focus on the elements involved in Sunday morning services. A great many discussions revolve around spiritual concerns and what we feel may be the needs of our congregation as a whole. We look at the order of all elements in our Sunday services and determine their effectiveness in the overall outcome of each service.

The Associates take over any role necessary: hosting a guest minister, helping out with any service elements necessary, doing the whole service if needed. We take turns at offering Words for Reflection and/or Chalice Lighting. Our participation fits in with the belief that having members of the congregation in visible roles during the service helps to create a unified and comfortable ambience to each service.

As Worship Associates, we are not only evaluating Sunday service quality; we participate by taking active roles in the service as needed by our minister Rev. Steve Edington. This being Steve's final year with our church, much of our focus was on the elements of the services he would offer to prepare everyone for his retirement.

The Associates hosted two services:

The first "WHY AM I HERE" focused on the life circumstances and/or reasons we found our way to this church;

the second "WHAT DO I BELIEVE" focused on our individual spiritual beliefs and ideals. Both services were offered to give our fellow congregants some insight into the diversity of spiritual paths and directions of the Associates. As a group, with Steve's support, we felt the services may inspire our fellow congregants to consider their own personal stories and perhaps share them with each other in fellowship.

We will be meeting with the Interim Minister in August to introduce our selves and to offer our services to her in any capacity she may need.

Volunteers have been found to lead our summer services. Some past leaders will be returning with new offerings as well as some new additions. We are looking forward to a great line up of offerings beginning on June 10th.

We remain sensitive to the needs and desires of our Church community, especially in facing our time of transition. All Associates are available to church members if there are any suggestions or concerns surrounding our worship services and the changes that will be occurring in the Fall.