

Subgroup 1: EXCELLENCE IN WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS

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1. RESERVE THE SANCTUARY FOR WORSHIP SERVICES.

Make the sanctuary truly sacred space by reserving it for worship services, making it a place for calm reflection, regeneration and personal growth for a congregation of multiple spiritual backgrounds. (This may be more possible once the new Fellowship Hall is built.)

2. EXPAND OUR MUSICAL REPERTOIRE.

- Introduce a wide variety of music to be sung by the congregation, songs not found in the UU hymnal but that may be familiar to people, including plainer, folk-based music.
- On a related note, make the first hymn more child oriented -- or make it a simple affirmation (e.g, a gratitude prayer).
- Develop our own RRUC song book!
- Incorporate more instruments into services, including bells and more appropriate use of a Tibetan singing bowl.

3. EXPERIMENT WITH WORSHIP SERVICES.

This could include developing 2 or 3 different kinds of worship services to meet different needs, and offering them at times other than Sunday morning, e.g, a contemporary Sunday evening worship service.

- Devote a year, or some lesser period (2-3 months, for example) to experimenting with worship service format, music, meditation, and other elements -- coupled with feedback from the congregation. Some preliminary notions:
 - incorporate more ancient texts and sources of wisdom
 - introduce liturgical dance
 - try centering exercises, in words, music, and silence
 - reduce the time spent in greeting one another
 - introduce more touch, such as joining hands on occasion
 - experiment with decorations: a ladder, a painting, a collection of dramatic objects, as well as a beautiful or offbeat floral arrangements, colorful cloths, etc.
 - offer the opportunity to hear other ministerial voices (e.g, guest ministers)
 - encourage lay-led worship services to be more creative, to push the envelope!
 - surprise us!
- Hold periodic youth worship services in the Fellowship Hall.
- Re-orient joys and concerns to encourage sharing at a deeper personal and spiritual level, in addition to requesting support from the congregation in times of personal crisis.
- Auction the chance to choose a sermon topic at the next Spring Services Auction.

Note: Questions we asked ourselves: What is the compelling reason we come to church?
What is the role of the laity in worship?