

Ministry of Worship

The Ministry Team of Zion Mennonite Church, our staff, works closely with the five ministry areas: Ministry of Outreach, Congregational Care, Education, Stewardship and the Ministry of Worship, our focus for this article. Each ministry area uses a ministry leader to meet with the Ministry Team. Committees under the ministry area of worship are Worship Planning, Audio Visual, Seasonal Flower & Candle and Ushering & Parking.

Zion's vision statement, *Believing that all people are important to God, we at Zion Mennonite Church desire to grow by welcoming each person, valuing community and nurturing our relationship with Jesus Christ and one another* holds key elements relating to worship. A reading from John 4:24 supports this: *"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."* Goals of this ministry area relate to keeping our vision that people are important to God. With the support of our leadership and Church Board, the Sunday morning service has God at the center. The service has many elements - prelude music, welcoming and gathering, call to worship, praise music with a contemporary flair, prayer of the people, offertory/prayer, prayer at the cross for our youth, song of preparation, scripture reading(s), topical sermon followed by a sending song, benediction and postlude.

The various styles of worship and differing elements represent the many gifts and styles of our congregation. First Corinthians 12:14 states that the body does not consist of one member, but many. For this reason we attempt to offer elements of worship that reflect that reality. It is our diversity that makes Zion special. It is unity within that diversity that makes Christ smile – Psalm 133:1. Unity within the body is what makes Christ known – John 17:23. Unity is only possible with open loving hearts – Colossians 3:14.

Kara Tann, on staff as the Minister of Worship, works directly with the ministry area of worship and directs the Worship Planning committee. The Worship Planning committee plans each Sunday service by selecting members of the church body to lead the service as the worship leader, selects music for the service and supports the worship leader with guides for other parts of the service. Musical elements within the service can use our organ, piano, praise groups and other musical instruments, played by our members or guests from the community at large. The committee meets monthly to review the service topics or themes. The committee members that work with Kara are Edie Landis, Jenn Landis, Nancy Constanzer, Hunter Hess and the worship leaders, when possible. The group focuses and unites the elements while glorifying God and allowing one to nurture our relationship with Jesus Christ and one another, *"being one in spirit and purpose"* (Philippians 2:2).

The other areas under worship are the Audio Visual operators that support the worship service. Each week a team of operators plan and conduct the audio portion, the visual portion and the "tape ministry" needed for Zion's service. The operators use several high tech devices to run and present the service. Zion is not far behind on current needs for valuing the community and presenting the service each week live within the sanctuary, on DVD format for later viewing at local retirement communities and just recently, a live

broadcast over the Internet for viewing on a computer. Sean Hagan and Craig Tourtellott, co-chair this service with a diverse group of operators that volunteer many hours. In many ways, this is an outreach to our community.

Two other committees maintain key elements within the worship area. The Seasonal Flower & Candle committee focuses on planning events and decorating the facility over Easter, Christmas and other liturgical times. The Ushering & Parking activity provides each Sunday morning a team of ushers to help make our time in worship comfortable and open for being one in spirit and purpose.

We close this article on the ministry area of worship with a question from 1Cor. 14:26 *"What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up."* Our vision again is to *"desire to grow by welcoming each person, valuing community and nurturing our relationship with Jesus Christ and one another, and in this case through our worship of God.*