

Music Director's Report 2022-2023

Music Committee Chair: Sandra Loy (de facto)

Music Committee Members: Chuck Young, Nanno Rose

Music Staff: Sandra Loy, Alex Frazier

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, music committee meetings have been suspended indefinitely since March 2020. The Music Director now works closely with the Worship Committee to ensure the smooth integration of music with multiple service providers and various worship elements.

From summer 2022 through the end of the year, the music staff continued with prerecorded songs and hymns, working with our new ministerial team to include new perspectives from their respective traditions. During this time, the Music Director also worked with our newly hired tech staff to transition from prerecorded to live music in mid-January.

Beginning in summer 2022 the Music Director consulted with the Worship Committee, the Regathering Team, the Hospitality Team, the Board President and others regarding needed air quality improvements at the BHK meeting space. A team was formed to build three air purifiers, to provide filtered air with greater efficiency and lower cost than similar commercially built units. A CO₂ monitor was purchased to gauge the amount of fresh air entering the meeting space, along with temperature, humidity and other factors affecting air quality. Detailed records are maintained for each Sunday service and these are available upon request.

Coinciding with the end of the public health emergency on May 11, 2023, new ventilation guidelines were issued by the CDC, as well as a public review draft from ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) proposing the first-ever standard for mitigation of airborne pathogens. This includes specific goals for places of religious worship. **The music staff considers these efforts integral to the broader goal of social justice, and we will continue to monitor these new standards as they are developed and strive to meet them in the interests of equity and inclusion.**

In spring 2022 a board proposal and forum Sunday were focused on calling for a voluntary "reparations" program based on our congregation's extensive use of music of African American origin. This idea is based on a pilot program from the Center for Congregational Song (The Hymn Society). The Music Director and Board President remain engaged with this important work, and have been attending interfaith meetings to learn more about developing and implementing such a program at KUUF. We plan to pursue this further in the coming year.

In summer 2022, an outdoor singing activity was held at John's Trail Outdoor Classroom. Participants learned several selections from the Justice Choir Songbook. Additional music activities are in development for summer/fall 2023.

In spring 2023 the Music Director and Worship Committee purchased a WORSHIPcast streaming license through Christian Copyright Solutions to expand our selection of songs and hymns for use in online services. This license covers millions of songs found in the ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC catalogs, and requires annual renewal.