

The Roberts Chapel Pledge on Music (1846)

Going through church records of our forefathers can be quite interesting, but at times it can be rather alarming, as demonstrated by THE PLEDGE ON MUSIC adopted by the Roberts Chapel members and trustees. (Roberts Chapel was constructed at the northeast corner of Market and Pennsylvania Streets for the Eastern Charge of the Indianapolis Methodist Congregation. The congregation moved into the building September 21, 1845, but the building was not completed until the summer of 1846.)

The Preamble and Resolution, adopted by the Quarterly Meeting Conference that was first held after the dedication of Roberts Chapel in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 21, 1846, included this declaration:

“Whereas we the undersigned Members of the Methodist Church Roberts Chapel Quarterly meeting Conference and Trustees of said Roberts Chapel believe that instrumental music and choir singing in public worship are prejudicial to the worship of the Lord our God.”

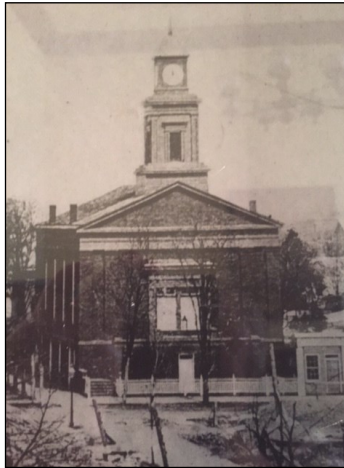
Well, I am not quite sure why the forefathers would think

that music was harmful to worshipping God. Evidently, the Roberts Park Chapel members and trustees did not have a Jason Fishburn or Jerry Gillooly as spirited and scholarly associates!

The resolution goes on to say that the “scriptures require sacred music to be made with the human voice by singing with the spirit and with the understanding also.” Interpretation of this declaration is problematic, considering the previous proclamation and the next declaration in the resolution.

“Resolved that instrumental music and choir singing in Public Worship shall never be introduced into the congregation attending said chapel with our consent while we are permitted to be members of said Chapel Congregation.”

Another part of the resolution declares “Resolved that we most sincerely request all our successors to the offices we now occupy to adhere strictly to the principles contained in the Preamble and Resolution so long as it may please a Kind Providence to let said Roberts Chapel Stand.”



Roberts Chapel, at Market and Pennsylvania Streets, 1846—1868

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Getting Connected at Roberts Park

Studies show an overwhelming majority of new people in a church leave within the first year if they do not begin volunteering or join a small group. This emphasizes the importance of connecting new people into relationships in the church as soon as possible.

With the help of the Nominating Committee, we are connecting people, including recent members, with volunteer opportunities within the church (you may have noticed some new people serving as liturgist recently). A small church should have 80% of its active members serving in some capacity, and for a medium sized church, the percentage should be 65%. As part of our efforts to connect people with opportunities,

we have listed all ‘active’ people and the activities in which they are involved. By ‘active’ people, we mean all who attend services, either regularly or occasionally, or are connected with the church with monetary giving or are members unable to attend due to health or mobility issues. **Of the ‘active’ people, 71% are involved in one or more volunteer or small groups.** We believe we are a small to medium sized congregation, so this level of participation is encouraging. Of those participating, the average number of areas involved is 3 per person. The list of activities is longer than you might think. The areas and number involved are:



- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Governing Board (13) | Building Décor (2) | Altar Prep (9) | Hospitality TF (8) |
| Nominating TF (5) | Missions TF (10) | Altar Flowers (2) | Young Adults (12) |
| Communication TF (4) | Soup's On (12) | Chancel Choir (15) | Book Club (9) |
| Website (5) | Kairos (3) | Acolyte (2) | Hook & Needle Club (4) |
| Education TF (8) | Neighborhood Assist (1) | Coffee Hour (1) | Pot Belly Group (4) |
| Christian Ed for Adults (9) | Shalom TF (6) | Liturgist (23) | Music Advisory TF (7) |
| Finance TF (7) | Worship TF (9) | Worship & Wonder (12) | Gray Fellowship (10) |
| Staff-Parish TF (6) | Communion Stewards (13) | Messy Church (11) | Archives & 2021 Committee (6) |
| Trustees TF (10) | Ushering (15) | Member Care TF (9) | |
| Property Development (11) | Greeters (20) | Fellowship Hour (11) | |



August 2017



Jason Horner	8/1
Tony Niemann	8/1
Melvin Bell	8/2
Janet Wright	8/2
Rosie Wenzlaff	8/3
Gordon Hendry	8/4
Jennifer Wagner	8/4
Carol Stafford	8/6
Jill Eikenbary	8/6
Lisa Pryor	8/9
Don Stafford	8/9
Lynn Francis	8/14
Stephen Lewis	8/16
Paul Egan	8/17
Mary Sue McAlister	8/18
Candyce Hawkins	8/19
Stephanie Stubbs	
-Harmon	8/19
Andra Sudler	8/21
Marylou	
McCullough	8/28
Ashley Marks	8/28

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
			12:10 p.m. 20 Minutes for God 12:30 p.m. Gray Fellowship	1:00 p.m. Hook & Needle Club		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	5:00 p.m. Education Task Force	6:30 p.m. Book Club 6:30 p.m. Fi-	12:10 p.m. 20 Minutes for God 4:30 Shalom	6:00 p.m. Staff-Parish Task Force		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			12:10 p.m. 20 Minutes for God	1:00 p.m. Hook & Needle Club		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11:45 a.m. Worship Task Force	6:30 p.m. Governing Board		12:10 p.m. 20 Minutes for God			
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
			12:10 p.m. 20 Minutes for God 5:30 p.m. Messy Church			