THE LILLY/CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE PROJECT, 2018-19

SAINT. MICHAEL EPISCOPAL CHAPEL 7:30 A.M. SUNDAY RITE I LITURGY

An Exploration of How Music Can Enhance a Treasured Liturgy

“Those who sing, pray twice.” – Attr., St. Augustine

Background: As the Church Music Institute (CMI) anticipated its move to the Saint Michael campus in 2017, questions were asked about how music might be added to the 7:30 a.m. Sunday service which had been without music for a long time. Music was added in the fall, 2017. During the past year the Lilly Endowment Inc. of Indianapolis has awarded CMI a grant, part of which includes a congregational project to study how music can work effectively to support congregational worship. SMAA’s 7:30 service is the beneficiary of a portion of this grant.

Rationale: Liturgy = “Leitourgia,” a Greek word loosely translated as “the work of the people.” Thus, as change is made to liturgy, in this case the addition of music, it needs to be done with not only theological and musical integrity, but also with understanding of how it can help the people to do their work. Hence, involvement of the congregation is sought to explore how best to preserve the treasured aspects of the 7:30 liturgy while considering how addition of more music can enrich the liturgy further, deepening the prayer and praise of the people.

GETTING STARTED

To help us think about how music has been connected with our faith experience, consider these questions.

“What music speaks deeply to you?”

“What memory does it stir?”

“How does that memory connect to one of your deepest held values?”

*“The juxtaposition of the Divine and music is, even after thousands of years, a yet to be fully tapped power for transformation.”* Rev. Dr. Tim Shapiro, Center for Congregations, St. Michael Chapel, June, 2018.