

Cultural Fusion in Worship

Overview

The question is not whether culture shapes worship, but how faithfully we recognize, receive, and engage the cultural gifts present within the body of Christ. This interactive workshop explores cultural hospitality as a theological and practical framework for worship leadership. Participants will consider how congregations can move beyond simply adding diverse songs or practices toward worship shaped by relationship, mutuality, and a genuine openness to the gifts of the wider church.

Participants Will

- Develop a theological framework for cultural diversity rooted in grace, the body of Christ, and the global church.
- Recognize the cultural assumptions already shaping their congregation's worship.
- Explore the movement from multicultural representation toward intercultural relationship and mutual transformation.
- Distinguish between cultural appreciation, cultural exchange, and cultural appropriation.
- Identify practical ways to receive the worship practices of other cultures and traditions with respect, context, relationship, and authenticity.
- Develop next steps for cultivating cultural hospitality within their own worshipping community.

Six Key Conversations

1. Whose Worship Is It?

Worship as God's gift and the church's response, rather than simply an expression of congregational preference.

2. What Does Our Worship Sound Like?

All worship is culturally located and examining the traditions, assumptions, and voices already shaping congregational worship.

3. From Diversity to Cultural Hospitality

Moving beyond representation toward participation, relationship, and mutual transformation.

4. Receiving the Gifts of the Wider Church

How to engage unfamiliar songs, practices, languages, and traditions faithfully rather than treating them as novelty or decoration.

5. Multicultural → Cross-Cultural → Intercultural Worship

How congregations can move from having multiple cultures present to allowing those cultures genuinely to shape one another.

6. Practicing Cultural Hospitality

Sustainable practices of listening, relationship, learning, risk, and commitment that expand a congregation's worship vocabulary over time.