



Fusion2026

WORSHIP MUSIC CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

TIME	ACTIVITY
5:30 – 6:30pm	Check-in & Meet and Greet
6:30 – 8:00pm	Welcome & Opening Worship
8:00 – 9:00pm	PLENARY 1: The Future of Worship

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:15 – 8:40am	Morning Worship
8:40 – 9:40am	PLENARY 2: Bridging Traditional & Contemporary Worship
9:50 – 10:50am	Breakout / Workshop 1 (See pages 5-22)
11:00am – 12:00pm	Breakout / Workshop 2 (See pages 5-22)
12:00 – 1:30pm	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:40 – 2:40pm	PLENARY 3: Challenges & Solutions in Contemporary Worship
2:50 – 3:50pm	Breakout / Workshop 3 (See pages 5-22)
4:00 – 5:00pm	Breakout / Workshop 4 (See pages 5-22)
5:00 – 7:00pm	Dinner (On Your Own)
7:00 – 8:30pm	Worship Night

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:45 – 9:00am	Gathering Music
9:00 – 10:15am	PLENARY 4: Engaging Your Congregation for the Future
10:30 – 11:15am	Affinity Groups
11:30am – 12:15pm	Closing Worship

PLENARY 1: The Future of Worship

NELSON COWAN

Overview & Purpose

This plenary addresses the unique spot United Methodists occupy in contemporary worship as we dream of our future together. Instead of falling back on uncritical pragmatism or copying the playbook of the contemporary worship industrial complex, we need to look back at our historical, liturgical, and theological roots. By leaning into our tradition marked by creative tension, we can build a distinctly United Methodist approach to contemporary worship propelling us into a future that is theologically rich, sacramentally rooted, globally inspired, ecumenically aware, socially conscious, and holistically formative.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate how the United Methodist tradition's historical framework of creative tension provides a resilient foundation for modern worship renewal.
2. Explore the pitfalls of the contemporary worship industrial complex and the theological blind spots of importing ungrounded models.
3. Apply distinctly United Methodist hallmarks to contemporary worship contexts.

Outline

1. A Tradition of Creative Tension (10 min)
2. The Tension We Find Ourselves in Now (5 min)
3. Developing a Distinctly United Methodist Approach (10 min)
4. Opportunities and On-Ramps (10 min)
5. Facilitated Table Discussion (15 min)

Materials Needed

- 200+ Rubber bands

PLENARY 2:

Bridging Traditional & Contemporary Worship

DeANDRE JOHNSON & JACKSON HENRY

Overview & Purpose

Conversations about “traditional” and “contemporary” worship often become conversations about preference, identity, and even power. But beneath differences in musical style, instrumentation, language, and liturgical form is a deeper theological conviction: the Holy Spirit is not confined to one expression of worship. Both historic and modern forms can carry the church’s prayer, proclaim the gospel, form disciples, and awaken people to the presence of God.

In this plenary, participants will explore how pastors and worship leaders can move their congregations beyond competition between worship styles toward greater trust, generosity, and shared mission. Together, we will examine the assumptions behind our labels, consider the relationship between worship leadership and congregational power, identify essential conversations for building trust, and develop a more generous planning process that honors both the gifts of the tradition and the creativity of the present.

The goal is not simply to create a service that contains “a little bit of everything,” but to cultivate a worshipping community capable of recognizing and receiving the work of the Spirit through forms that may not always be its first preference.

Objectives

1. Name the gifts and limitations of “traditional” and “contemporary” worship categories and articulate a theological framework that recognizes the potential for Spirit-led vitality within both.
2. Identify dynamics of power, preference, and trust that shape staffing and congregational conversations about worship and employ practices that move communities from competition toward mutual generosity.
3. Apply a generous worship-planning process that draws intentionally from historic and contemporary resources while prioritizing theological coherence, congregational formation, engagement, and mission over stylistic preference.

Outline

1. Defining terms: what do we mean by traditional vs. contemporary? (10 min)
2. Redefining the congregation’s relationship to power and trust (10 min)
3. Convening Conversations for Bridging Trust (5 min)
4. A Generous Planning Process (15 min)
5. Q&A (10 min)

PLENARY 3: Challenges & Solutions in Contemporary Worship

INSTITUTE FOR MODERN WORSHIP

Overview & Purpose

This plenary invites leaders serving smaller, rural, and/or under-resourced churches into an honest conversation about the real challenges of contemporary worship — and the contextual, not formulaic, solutions available to them. Rather than presenting a single model to imitate, this session equips participants with questions, principles, and practical tools to discern what faithful, authentic worship looks like in their own context. Participants will leave with a reframed understanding of “contemporary” worship (from style to contextualization), a concrete next step for their congregation, and a shared conviction that there are multiple faithful paths forward because every church’s people, resources, and story are different.

Objectives

1. Participants will be able to reframe “contemporary worship” from a stylistic checklist to a question of authentic contextualization — worship that fits the people, resources, and culture of their specific congregation.
2. Participants will identify their own leadership posture (learn / lead / reimagine) based on tenure, and name one concrete way that posture should shape their next step.
3. Participants will leave with a specific, faithful next experiment for their congregation — something to preserve, something to reconsider, and something to try.

Outline

1. Naming the Challenge
 - a. Explore what “contemporary” actually means (style vs. contextualization)
 - b. The shift from resource deficits to assets
 - c. Bi-lingual metaphor for congregations that participate differently than expected.
2. Applying the Challenge
 - a. Leadership posture by tenure
 - i. New leaders learn
 - ii. Established leaders lead
 - iii. Long-term leaders reimagine
 - b. Discussion Exercise
3. Preserving, Reconsidering, and Trying (Contemporary → Contextual)

Breakouts/Workshops Information

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

SESSION 1 9:50–10:50am		
WORKSHOP	LEADER	LOCATION
Building a Band	Kiersten Rose	Sanctuary
Arranging Hymns to Bridge Styles	Jackson Henry & Ben Shaw	Chapel
Pastor and Worship Leader Relationship	R. DeAndre Johnson	Room IRIS
Songwriting for Worship	Sofia Friedley-Fernandez	Choir Room
Creative Liturgy Writing for Worship	Lindy Thompson	Room 226
Leading Through Change	Jeremy Hearn	Room Parker
Copyright, Worship and the Contemporary Church	Diana Sanchez-Bushong	Room 124
Wesleyan Theology for Worship Leaders	Nelson Cowan	Room 120
SESSION 2 11:00am–12:00pm		
Running Effective Rehearsals	Kiersten Rose	Sanctuary
Practicing Intergenerational Worship	Nelson Cowan	Chapel
Cultural Fusion in Worship	R. DeAndre Johnson	Room IRIS
Harnessing AI for Good	Scott Hughes	Choir Room
Worship Ethics	Sofia Friedley-Fernandez	Room 226
Integrating Modern Elements in Worship	Jeremy Hearn	Room Parker
Basics of Worship Technology	Ben Shaw	Room 124
Inclusivity and Accessibility in Worship	Matthew Webb	Room 120
SESSION 3 2:50–3:50pm		
Arranging Hymns to Bridge Styles	Jackson Henry & Ben Shaw	Chapel
Pastor and Worship Leader Relationship	R. DeAndre Johnson	Room IRIS
Understanding and Reading Music Charts	Kiersten Rose	Choir Room
Harnessing AI for Good	Scott Hughes	Room 226
Integrating Modern Elements in Worship	Jeremy Hearn	Room Parker
Copyright, Worship and the Contemporary Church	Diana Sanchez-Bushong	Room 124
Wesleyan Theology for Worship Leaders	Nelson Cowan	Room 120
SESSION 4 4:00–5:00pm		
Practicing Intergenerational Worship	Nelson Cowan	Chapel
Cultural Fusion in Worship	R. DeAndre Johnson	Room IRIS
Worship Ethics	Sofia Friedley-Fernandez	Room 226
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Arranging Hymns to Bridge Styles

JACKSON HENRY & BEN SHAW

Outline

1. Introductions
2. FUMC: How a “Third Way” Came to Be
3. A Creative Vision of Simplicity
4. The Songs
5. Discussion/Q&A

Basics of Worship Technology

BEN SHAW

Overview & Purpose

An introduction to the basic tools and principles of worship technology, centered around one guiding idea: Our job is to create a distraction-free environment for worship.

Outline

1. Technology That Serves Worship
 - Evaluating technology within your church's context
 - Recognizing and removing distractions
2. Sound
 - Basic audio principles
 - Equipment, volunteers, and training
3. Media and Lighting
 - Lyric presentation and readable slide design
 - Lighting for the room and worship environment
 - Copyright and licensing awareness
4. Tools for Worship Teams
 - Worship-planning platforms
 - Tracks, click tracks, and rehearsal resources
 - Choosing tools that fit your team
5. Planning for the Future
 - Building and training a technology team
 - Identifying current and future equipment needs
 - Developing one, three, and five-year technology plans
6. Questions and Discussion

Building a Band

KIERSTEN ROSE

Overview & Purpose

This hands-on workshop demonstrates how to assemble a worship band using any combination of vocalists and instrumentalists. We will explore configurations from small duos to full ensembles, showing you how to maximize your volunteer talent and adapt arrangements to fit your church's culture.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate effective ensemble configurations for various team sizes
2. Explore how rhythm, melody, and harmony interact in a modern band arrangement
3. Apply strategies for developing volunteer musicians within your worship ministry

Outline

1. Foundations of Ensemble Sound
 - a. Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony (Interactive “drum circle” exercise)
 - b. Painting a Musical Picture: Dynamic contrast and space (handout)
2. Maximizing Your Current Resources
 - a. Assessing your ministry's current style and musical culture
 - b. Creative arrangements for non-standard setups (“Thinking outside the box”)
3. Expanding and Elevating the Team
 - a. Identifying rhythm and timing skills in volunteers
 - b. Keep it simple
 - c. No one part is greater than the other
 - d. Advanced ideas (using tracks to support, doubling instruments, non-traditional instruments, etc.)
4. Q&A & Key Takeaways

Copyright, Worship and the Contemporary Church

DR. DIANA SANCHEZ-BUSHONG

Overview & Purpose

Designed for worship leaders, musicians, pastors, and tech teams, this practical workshop introduces the copyright issues most commonly encountered in contemporary worship. Participants will learn the differences among performing, copying, projecting, arranging, recording, sharing, and streaming music, and explore how licenses such as CCLI and ONE LICENSE apply to different church uses. The goal is to help churches develop copyright practices that both protect the congregation and honor artists' creative work.

Objectives

1. Understand the basic rights protected by copyright and how they apply to church music.
2. Distinguish between performing music and copying, projecting, arranging, recording, distributing, and streaming it.
3. Understand the basic purposes and limitations of church licenses such as CCLI and ONE LICENSE.
4. Recognize common copyright mistakes made by contemporary worship ministries.
5. Develop simple practices for creating a copyright-healthy worship ministry.

Outline

1. Copyright 101: "We Bought It. Can We Use It?"
2. Understanding the Church Worship Exemption
3. What Does Our License Actually Cover?
4. Contemporary Worship's Copyright Danger Zone
5. "Can We Do This?" Small-Group Exercise
6. Seven Habits of a Copyright-Healthy Worship Ministry
7. Closing: Copyright as Christian Practice

Creative Liturgy Writing for Worship

LINDY THOMPSON

Quotes on Creativity

The creative process is a process of surrender, not control. – Julia Cameron

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have. – Maya Angelou

The most important thing about art is to work. Nothing else matters except sitting down every day and trying.
– Steven Pressfield

Inspiration usually comes during work, rather than before it. – Madeleine L'Engle

I write only when inspiration strikes. Fortunately it strikes every morning at nine o'clock sharp.
– W. Somerset Maugham

The greatest killer of creativity is interruption. – John Cleese

Creative work is not a selfish act or a bid for attention on the part of the actor. It's a gift to the world and every being in it. Don't cheat us of your contribution. Give us what you've got. – Steven Pressfield

Creativity comes from accepting that you're not safe, from being absolutely aware, and from letting go of control. It's a matter of seeing everything - even when you want to shut your eyes. – Madeleine L'Engle

Even in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth...you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it. – C.S. Lewis

Our truest response to the irrationality of the world is to paint or sing or write, for only in such response do we find truth. – Madeleine L'Engle

Draw the art you want to see, start the business you want to run, play the music you want to hear, write the books you want to read, build the products you want to use—do the work you want to see done. – Austin Kleon

The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been. – Madeleine L'Engle

We need to write, otherwise nobody will know who we are. – Garrison Keillor

Favorite Authors & Books

- *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron
- *The Artist's Rule* by Christine Valters Paintner
- *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott
- *The War of Art* by Stephen Pressfield
- *The Practice* by Seth Godin
- *Steal Like an Artist* by Austin Kleon
- *Creativity: A Short and Cheerful Guide* by John Cleese

Cultural Fusion in Worship

R. DeANDRE JOHNSON

Overview & Purpose

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.

Objectives

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

Outline

1. Whose Worship Is It?
 - Worship as God's gift and the church's response, rather than simply an expression of congregational preference.
2. Understanding Cultural Fusion
 - 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.

Harnessing AI for Good

SCOTT HUGHES

Overview & Purpose

This session will be a conversation for musicians and worship leaders about artificial intelligence: what it is, where it already shows up in ministry, and how we think about it well together. Come with your questions and your own experience with these tools.

Outline

1. What We Are Finding: AI in the Church Today
 - Survey data on how pastors, worship leaders, and church staff are already using AI
 - Where AI is showing up in ministry right now, and what people are saying about it
2. Facing Our Fears
 - A look at which fears about AI are overblown and which deserve real attention
3. AI: What It Actually Is
 - A plain language explanation of what AI is and how it fits into the tools you may already use
4. A Basic Glossary of AI Terms
 - Quick, plain definitions of the terms you will keep hearing, AI, LLM, prompt, hallucination, and more
5. AI Tools for Music and Worship
 - A look at tools musicians are actually using for songwriting, arranging, and production
 - What each tool is good for, and where to use caution
6. How AI Actually Works
 - A simple explanation of what happens behind the scenes when you use an AI tool
 - Why it can sound so human, and what that means for how we use it
7. AI as a Mirror: What It Reveals About Us
 - How AI reflects the data and assumptions of the people who built and trained it
8. Biblical and Theological Reflection
 - Grounding this conversation in scripture and a Wesleyan understanding of who we are
 - Why our identity and our relationships matter more than what any tool can produce

Inclusivity and Accessibility in Worship

MATTHEW WEBB, DMA

Overview & Purpose

Creating a worship ecosystem that is welcoming through examining ways that worship can marginalize people, finding new language that encompasses and magnifies the voices of the marginalized, and making inclusivity in worship a way of life in our faith communities.

Things to Consider

- Our personal preferences considering privilege and marginalization
 - » Personal preference
 - » Who has historically experienced privilege?
 - » Intersectionality
- Worship environs
- What does accessibility look like in:
 - » Liturgy
 - » Space
 - » Programs
 - » Screens, Programs
 - » Lighting
 - » Restrooms
 - » Greeters/Ushers
 - » Signaling
- Language in our communal liturgy
 - » How do we refer to God?
 - » How do we refer to those around us?
- Music
 - » Language & theology of our music – communal, choral, solo
 - » Who wrote the music? Whose voice is being magnified?
 - » How accessible is our music to our community?
- Prayer
 - » Lex orandi, lex credendi – “the law of prayer is the law of belief”
 - » Current events, concerns, struggles
 - » How have we sinned? What groups are being sinned against?
- Being Consistent
 - » We can’t just do it from time to time – it has to be a part of our DNA
 - » Requires thoughtful reflection and choices

Integrating Modern Elements in Worship

JEREMY HEARN

Overview & Purpose

In this workshop Jeremy will share ideas and ways of incorporating specific elements that may help to enhance your worship.

Objectives

1. Emerging trends of unconventional and non-traditional forms of worship
2. Enhancing your worship experience
3. Creating a new stand-alone worship gathering

Leading Through Change

JEREMY HEARN

Overview & Purpose

In this workshop, Jeremy will share best practices for leading through two of the most common change scenarios—change that is out of our control, and change that we are being called to help implement. At the core of both scenarios is trust equity. How much trust equity is in your trust bank?

Objectives

1. Discover practical ways to add more to your trust equity during this session.
2. Learn how to navigate your next chapter of change with more confidence and ease.

Pastor and Worship Leader Relationship

R. DeANDRE JOHNSON

Overview & Purpose

Pastors and musicians share one of the most visible leadership relationships in the life of the church. When that relationship is healthy, collaborative, and grounded in mutual trust, it will both strengthen worship and model servant leadership for the congregation. This workshop will explore six key conversations that can help pastors and musicians move beyond simply coordinating Sunday morning tasks toward cultivating a genuine ministry partnership. Together, we will identify common tensions, name healthy practices, and engage critical conversations that can strengthen trust, collaboration, communication, and shared vision.

Six Key Conversations

1. What Are We Trying to Do?
 - *Developing a shared theology and vision for worship.*
2. Can I Trust You with Your Part?
 - *Building mutual respect for expertise, responsibility, and leadership.*
3. Do You Know Me Beyond My Work?
 - *Understanding identity, vulnerability, ego, and affirmation.*
4. Are We In This Together?
 - *Moving from coordination to genuine collaboration.*
5. What Can We Realistically Expect?
 - *Navigating time, capacity, communication, and church context.*
6. How Will We Disagree?
 - *Developing healthy patterns for conflict, feedback, and repair.*

Participants Will Leave With

- A clearer understanding of the relational dynamics that shape worship leadership
- Practical conversation starters for pastors, musicians, and lay leaders
- Tools for strengthening trust, communication, and collaboration
- Strategies for navigating differences in style, expertise, expectations, and availability
- A framework for developing healthier worship leadership teams

Guiding Conviction

The relationship between pastors and musicians is more than a working relationship. Healthy pastor-musician relationships are not simply a prerequisite for good worship; they are themselves part of the Spirit's work of forming the church through mutual submission, shared purpose, and the honoring of distinct gifts.

Practicing Intergenerational Worship

NELSON COWAN

Overview & Purpose

Why should we care about being more intergenerational in our worship practices? In this workshop, we will define some key terms, develop our ultimate theological and practical “why” for becoming a more fully intergenerational church. We’ll discuss barriers to intergenerational worship, while also working together to develop some practical on-ramps for better engaging young people in our worship services. Participants will leave with new frameworks for worship, supported by implementable plans.

Objectives

1. Distinguish between multigenerational and intergenerational worship, establishing a clear theological and practical foundation for engaging young people in corporate worship.
2. Identify and dismantle common barriers to intergenerational participation.
3. Collaboratively design practical intergenerational worship on-ramps across key areas of worship services.
4. Formulate a concrete next-steps plan to introduce and sustain these practices within local ministry contexts.

Outline

1. Introduction and Defining Terms
 - a. Multigenerational vs Intergenerational
 - b. Doing it for the right reasons
 - i. Counteracting transactional models of ministry
 - ii. Cultivating lifelong faith, creative resilience, leadership, and connecting Sunday to Monday
2. Group Discussion
 - a. Why are we not involving children more frequently in worship?
3. The idolatry of “excellence”
4. Flow vs Fabric: Working toward a Better Metaphor
5. Working Groups: Intergenerational Worship On-Ramps
 - a. Song selection
 - b. Leadership
 - c. Liturgies/Prayers
 - d. Worship planning
6. Planning next steps
7. Conclusion/Prayer

Running Effective Rehearsals

KIERSTEN ROSE

Overview & Purpose

This interactive workshop equips worship leaders to run engaging, efficient, and growth-oriented rehearsals. Through live demonstration, you will learn to structure rehearsal time, navigate song transitions, troubleshoot live tech issues, and build confidence in your team.

Objectives

1. Map and execute an efficient, structured rehearsal agenda.
2. Practice leading transitions, dynamic changes, and whole-band flow.
3. Develop strategies to troubleshoot unexpected stage failures and grow volunteer skill sets.

Outline

1. Setting the Plan & Expectations (Handout)
 - a. Communicating goals and agendas before rehearsal
2. Approaching a New Song
 - a. Identifying the lead element (vocal/instrumental)
 - b. Setting groove, balance, and dynamic arches
3. Transitions and Endings
 - a. Rehearsing heads and tails (intros/outros) for smooth flow
 - b. Utilizing the entire team during vocal/speaking moments
4. Live Run-Through & Troubleshooting (“Expect the Unexpected”)
 - a. Sunday Morning Run-through
 - b. Managing stage surprises: Battery failures, missed cues, and emotional overruns
5. Wrap-Up & Q&A

Songwriting for Worship

SOFIA FRIEDLEY-FERNANDEZ

Overview & Purpose

This workshop offers a practical approach to writing liturgy for your own worshipping community. We'll explore how songs, prayers, calls to worship, invocations, benedictions, and other liturgical elements can work together to tell a story.

Objectives

1. Equip attendees to think of a worship service as one long story (focus on transformation, not just participation)
2. Consider the various ways to contribute creative writing in worship.
3. Participate in creative writing exercises.

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Quick Teaching
3. Writing
4. Sharing
5. Contextualization
 - Think of the worship service as one long story (focus on transformation, not just participation)
 - Things you can write for worship: songs, prayers, call to worship, invocation, benedictions, other liturgies
 - Great way to involve youth ministries
 - Who are you talking to?
 - What is the goal/topic/theme of the service?
 - Where are you now in relation to your goal?
 - Who do you need to become in order to achieve it?
 - How can this liturgical element help you take one step in the right direction?
 - Avoid generative AI
 - Write in community

Understanding and Reading Music Charts

KIERSTEN ROSE

Overview & Purpose

Designed for sight-readers and classically trained musicians, this breakout session bridges the gap between traditional sheet music and modern chord charts. Attendees will learn basic chart notation, harmonic theory, and essential worship accompaniment styles for keys and guitar.

Objectives

1. Decode the core structure, form, and symbols of modern worship chord charts.
2. Apply basic rhythm and voicing patterns on keyboard or guitar.
3. Participate in a live group play-along over a backing track.

Outline

1. Deconstructing the Chord Chart (Handout)
 - a. Chords - basic to complex harmonic options
 - b. Sus and slash chords
 - c. Reading roadmap markers (Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Interludes)
2. Instrument-Specific Application (Handouts)
 - a. Keys: Left-hand vs. right-hand roles, inversions, voice leading, and pad sustains
 - b. Guitar: Open/barre chords, capos, palm muting, and fingerpicking rhythm
3. Live Band Exercise
 - a. Interactive play-along with an 8-bar drum/backing track
 - b. Focus on dynamic balance, restraint, and listening to the room

Wesleyan Theology for Worship Leaders

NELSON COWAN

Overview & Purpose

In this interactive workshop, we will learn dimensions of Wesleyan theology through the lens of congregational song, explore relevant worship planning resources, and practice strategies for song vetting that move us beyond merely pragmatic approaches and further towards habits that are holistic, community minded, and just.

Objectives

1. Understand core dimensions of Wesleyan theology through congregational song.
2. Evaluate existing worship planning and song selection resources.
3. Develop holistic, community-minded, and just song vetting strategies.

Outline

1. A Wesleyan Framework for Evaluating Congregational Songs
 - a. Key Dimensions
 - i. Love
 - ii. Time
 - iii. Incarnation/Atonement
 - iv. Means of Grace (and Justice)
 - v. The Role of the Holy Spirit / Sanctification
 - b. Theological Functions of Songs
 - i. Songs to God
 - ii. Songs about God
 - c. Balancing the Personal and Corporate
 - d. Localizing / Contextualizing Songs
2. Exploring existing resources
 - a. General
 - i. CCLI SongSelect, Multitracks, Music Streaming Platforms, etc.
 - b. Community/Crowdsourced
 - i. Social media groups
 - c. UMC-Specific
 - i. UMC CCLI + Beyond Projects
3. The important limitations of congregational song
 - a. What songs can do and can't do
 - b. Creating a healthy song diet
4. Applying Vetting Strategies
 - a. Sample exercises
 - b. Managing stage surprises: Battery failures, missed cues, and emotional overruns
5. Wrap-Up & Q&A

Worship Ethics

SOFIA FRIEDLEY-FERNANDEZ

Overview & Purpose

This workshop/breakout explores worship as a form of moral formation, asking not only what we believe about God, but who our worship practices are shaping us to become. We'll look at worship in the context of post-evangelicalism and Christian nationalism, introduce foundational principles of Worship Ethics, and consider how trauma-informed worship can help create spaces of healing, dignity, and restoration.

Objectives

1. Equip attendees to think not only theologically, but also ethically.
2. Stewarding our artistry, leadership, and innovation in a way that dignifies everyone's humanity, reduces harm, provides healing and restoration, and participates in the kin-dom of God.
3. Develop an understanding and awareness of trauma-informed worship.

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Liturgy as moral formation
3. Post Evangelicalism/Christian Nationalism
4. Three I's
 - a. Emotionally Intelligent
 - i. How do we deal with the reality of emotional manipulation in worship?
 - b. Led with Integrity
 - i. Who has the power?
 - c. Intentionally Patterned
 - i. Who are we becoming? ("Who am I becoming" is a part of this question)
5. Trauma Informed Worship
 - a. Creating safe spaces of healing and restoration
 - b. David in the King Saul's court
 - c. Ministry with the vulnerable:
 - i. Homeless/extreme poverty
 - ii. Teens
 - iii. Religious harm
 - iv. Adults with disabilities
6. Wrap Up, Q&A