

Hand in Hand: Pastors, Musicians, and the Work of Worship

R. DeAndre Johnson | Fusion Conference 2026

Workshop Overview

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.