

Wesleyan Theology for Worship Leaders

Fusion Workshop
Led by 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