

General Board of Discipleship of
The United Methodist Church
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THE GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*This is a periodic newsletter to resource
FaithQuest congregational leaders.*

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Recommended Websites

www.umcworship.org

The extensive General Board of Discipleship worship website is for anyone involved in local church worship and music. Divided into three main sections—Preaching, Worship, and Music—it features a host of resources: weekly lectionary readings and helps in sermon/worship planning, articles, downloadable music/hymns, resource lists, book reviews, upcoming events/training opportunities, music employment links, networking links, worship services, FAQs on many topics, and a discussion room.



www.SimpleLiving.org

Alternatives for Simple Living is a nonprofit organization focused on equipping people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly, and celebrate responsibly. They publish an annual resource for Advent and Christmas, *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?*, as well as similar resources for Lent and Easter.

FQ

Order FaithQuest
materials toll-free:
877-899-2780,
Ext. 7674.

NEW ADDRESS?

Help us keep you in
the FaithQuest network.
Send your new email or
ground mail address to
jnewell@gbod.org,
Joan Newell,
General Board of
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Box 340003, Nashville,
TN 37203-0003.

FQ

NEWS & NOTES FOR FAITH QUEST

W O R S H I P

THEME:
WORSHIP FOR
ALL LEADERS
(add to Tab N, Worship
and Devotional in your
Leader Notebook)

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER 2001

Keeping Christmas & Easter Holy

How many times have you, as a church leader, vowed “this year the holidays will be different”? How many times have you, as an individual growing in faith, vowed “this year it will be different”? I’m writing in September, just a few days after the tragic events in New York and Washington, DC, and many voices are saying “now the whole world is different.”

Two thousand years ago, the world was turned upside down. The events in Bethlehem, and 33 years later in Jerusalem, did not have the immediate impact and reaction that our September 11 events had because communication was much different then than it is today. As I read again in Acts (Lessons 6-10 in FaithQuest), it is with the new perspective that comes from the world-changing events of September 11, 2001. In Acts 2:43, everyone was in awe – all the wonders and signs! I suspect there was also a lot of confusion, fear, and misunderstanding! Those who chose to focus their attention on God followed a daily discipline of worship, celebratory meals, and praise. And the

people were together in community.

This week in September, people are experiencing a strong need to be together, to connect with family and strangers as we grieve, remember, and face the future. Truly, this year the holidays will be different. Will you focus on God in the midst of the world and holiday confusion?

The articles in this newsletter, written by staff at the General Board of Discipleship, help us think about worship.



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Worship: Keeping a Strong Center & an Open Door

United Methodist worship is best when it is strongly centered on God while remaining open at the threshold. This is critical in the face of so much experimentation and fascination with alternative worship. Change in worship needs to be God-driven, not customer-driven. One lay leader put it this way, “I think we went wrong when we offered a sack lunch instead of having a community picnic. We gave people what we thought they wanted and failed to give them ourselves.” If we focus on “customers” by giving them what we think they want or need, we may be denying them the authentic

body of Christ that comes together to focus on God in prayer and praise. We end up offering a *product* rather than a *community of faith*. Many churches confuse evangelistic outreach (fast food) for the community experience of worship (a home-cooked meal).

What is the *center* for your congregation? When is your congregation most authentically itself before God? The challenge for your congregation as you reach *out* may be to recapture the genuine hunger for God by reaching *in*. Fast food is easy and tastes good, but a home-cooked meal has *family*—treasured stories, grandma’s recipes, sharing the day’s expe-

riences, and the concerns for the wider world in a community of care.

Worship centers on word and table. The historic ritual of the church is embodied and embraced by people who are famished for permanence not found in today’s society. It is essential that we create a space for deep, meaningful worship to happen. Celebrate the liturgy repeatedly, yet vitally. By staying open to our own questions, our longings and struggles, while listening for the Spirit, worship gets *in our bones* as the Word of God is proclaimed in word and sacrament. Genuine worship is not talking to our-

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selves; it is listening to God using the basics that Christians have always used—gathering, reading and listening, preaching and responding, thanking and sharing food, and scattering to serve. These are first priority. These are our moorings. Worship is the center of our Christian lives.

Where can we find this core of our Christian lives? Try again—as for the first time—the worship resources in the hymnal and *Book of Worship*. Use them

until they are your church's soul song. Use grandma's recipes but your people do the cooking. And it smells so good that the aromas get out beyond the door and people find their way to where your congregation is "lost in wonder, love, and praise."

If your church is exhausting itself with handing out sack lunches to visitors on Sunday in "worship," maybe it is time to recover the "living

Bread come down from heaven" (John 6:51). Return to the basics of worship, centering on communication with God, and all else will fall into line.

If we were to "turn our eyes upon Jesus" who else might turn to where we gaze? Find a strong center; leave the doors open!



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Music Copyright & Licensing for Churches in the USA

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ #1: What does the law say about churches copying music?

The 1976 Copyright Act and later laws and amendments make it illegal for churches, committees, Sunday school classes, choirs, and any other church group to copy music, including: hand- or photocopying, arranging, recording, and broadcasting of copyrighted lyrics or music, including in song sheets, overhead transparencies, worship bulletins or inserts, slides, and PowerPoint projection. The singing of copyrighted music from legally published sources is allowed since this does not involve any copying. Remember, none of the following statements allow you to photocopy music or lyrics, even if . . .

- ❖ *It's from our own denominational hymnal.*
- ❖ *We only want to use it one time.*
- ❖ *We only want to copy the words.*
- ❖ *We're a church and want to use the hymn in our worship services.*
- ❖ *We're a Sunday school class and want to study this hymn in our class.*

FAQ #2: What is licensing and what does it allow churches to do?

Some companies negotiate with copyright holders for permission to sell licenses to churches that will allow them to make and use copies of their music under certain conditions. The license covers only the composers, publishers, and copyright holders listed with that particular license issuer, and it is always the responsibility of the church to be sure a particular selection is covered. Although license terms may differ among issuing companies, most will allow at least the copying of lyrics and melody line in church bulletins, song sheets and books, transparencies, slides, and PowerPoint for use in worship and study in the local church. These copies must always bear the required permission and credit lines and may never be given away, loaned out, sold, or used outside the local congregation. The copies may be re-used as long as the license is renewed annually but must be destroyed if the license lapses.

FAQ #3: How does my church obtain a license? Which one? Cost?

Churches should contact one or more licensing companies according to the type of music they want to use.

porary praise music and many choruses are included in this group.

LicenSing

Logos Production; PO Box 240; South St. Paul, MN 55075-0240; 800/328-0200.

LicenSing covers a smaller list of publishers and is designed more for mainline or traditional congregations; includes all United Methodist publishing groups; more interna-

tional companies; a good bit of overlap with Church Copyright Licensing, Inc.

GIA

7404 South Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638; 800/442-1358; www.giamusic.com. GIA's license covers fewer copyright holders than the other licenses, but those it covers are covered only by GIA. They include GIA's own publications as well as the music of Les Presses de Taizé (France), The Iona Community (Scotland), The Grail (England), and The Dameans.

Cost of these licenses will vary depending on church size but are quite affordable. Some United Methodist annual conferences have purchased a CCLI license that will allow their churches to purchase a CCLI license at an even lower cost, often less than \$50 per year. There is some light bookkeeping and use reporting required for some licenses.

The Bookshelf

Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship,

by Thomas G. Long (Alban Institute, 2001), identifies nine characteristics of churches that are finding their way beyond the current extremes of traditional and contemporary worship. A book for real churches!



In Spirit & Truth: United Methodist Worship for the Emerging Church,

by L. Edward and Sara Webb Phillips (Discipleship Resources, 2001), gives the reader confidence that United Methodists have the "right stuff" and that we need to be using it. Or as the authors put it, "worship is about what God does in us and our ritual connects us to that work of God." For an online

review go to www.umcworship.org; click on "Articles" under "Worship" in the menu on the left, then click on "Book Reviews." To order, call 800/685-4370 or go to www.discipleshipresources.org.



Welcome the Child

It seemed like a normal Sunday morning worship service. After greeting each other warmly, worshipers settled in to follow the regular flow of the service. The morning prayer was moving and, as always, was followed by the Lord's prayer. But we were hardly past the "Our Father," when our breathing almost stopped. Above all the intoning voices of the congregation, a clear voice of a three-year-old rang out. Having newly learned the Lord's prayer, he prayed with exuberance and meaning. We wanted to stop and just listen, yet knew we needed to continue to pray with him. By the end of the prayer, we knew we had truly worshiped that morning. The service could have ended at that moment. A child had led us to God, and nothing else mattered.

That unplanned, spontaneous moment could never be duplicated. Yet adults can assure that worship is a welcoming place for children where their comfort in worship encourages



such moments to occur. Here are some suggestions for encouraging children in worship:

- ❖ When greeting a family, greet the children. Learn their names so that the next time you see them, you can greet each personally.
- ❖ Visit briefly with children as you might adults. Ask about school or about what they like to do. Ask a parent about each child's interests and remember them for future conversations. Be aware that shy children take longer to build the confidence needed to talk to you, a stranger. Take small steps in building a relationship.
- ❖ During worship, offer kind smiles and exchange brief joy-filled eye contact. Try not to ever offer a judgmental frown.
- ❖ After worship, express great

joy that the child was in worship – to the parents and to the child.

- ❖ If you are a worship planner, think about children as you plan. Include the senses in worship; sight, sound, and smell can be very important. Plan ways children can be leaders, successfully, in the worship service. Remember them in all parts of worship, from the call to worship to the sending forth.
- ❖ If you are a worship leader, deliberately include children. When praying, remember to include what is important to children. Include child-friendly examples in the sermon. Help the congregation appreciate the children worshipping with them.



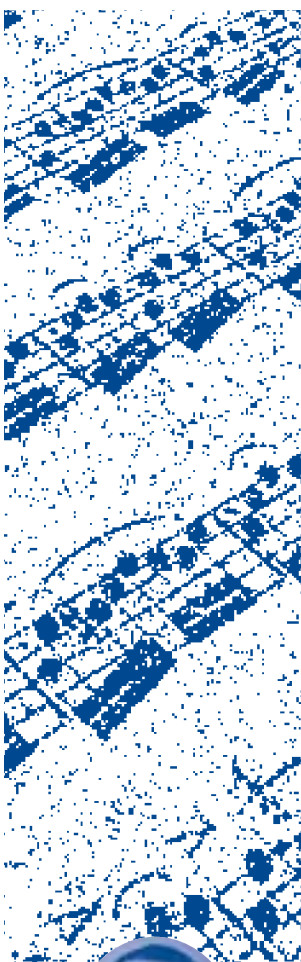
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Church Copyright Licensing, Inc. (CCLI)

6130 NE 78th Court, Suite C11; Portland, OR 97218-2853; 800/234-2446;

www.ccli.com/CopyrightAdmin/Index.cfm.

CCLI's license covers the largest number of publishers and includes all United Methodist publishing groups, Word, Hope, Maranatha!, Integrity Hosanna, etc.; much contem-



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