

**Workshop or Presentation:** Worship 04

**Name of Your Session:** “More with Less”: Designing Worship in the Small Church

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**Description:** “Large-membership” is not necessarily synonymous with “influential,” and worship can be effective, engaging, and inspiring in all settings, regardless of how many people are present. One of the greatest challenges is finding ways to create vital worship when resources of gifts and presence are limited. The key to worship planning is realizing that we are not creators; we are stewards of God’s creative work. Effective engagement in worship is the work of the Holy Spirit. We will discuss how this can be good news as worship planners and leaders, and we will explore ways to maximize available resources.

**Content:**

- Liturgy
  - Requires work
  - “Of the people”
  - Covenantal action
- Our Role: Stewards
  - God is Creator
  - We are stewards
    - Some may see people as co-creators with God, but this perspective can decrease our creative energy
    - God’s creative capacity is far greater than our own—this is freeing!
  - Our (humanity’s) creativity is an exhaustible supply
    - Burn-out
  - Good News: Jesus and discipleship
- Discussion of core process – Worship/Discipleship Slide

- Practical Considerations
  - Engage the gifts of the people
  
- Worship Planning
  - Awareness of free resources
  - Creativity within the church
  
- Music
  - Online resources
  - Connections with your community
  - Creativity with traditional hymn tunes and accompaniments
    - This takes practice and personnel to develop
  - Broaden the congregation's repertoire of congregational songs
    - Short, cyclic songs from around the world
  
- Time of sharing from class attendees
  - Ministry costs money!
  - What are some ways you creatively stretch your resources in relation to worship?
  
- Conclusion