

Contemporary Worship for All Ages



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Workshop Objectives

- Understand “contemporary worship” as broader than something aimed at young adults
- Gain tools and ideas for thinking about worship as a multigenerational experience
- Look at worship through the lenses of age, ability, culture and multiple intelligences



Dr. Marcia McFee

at the 2008 UUA Conference on Contemporary Worship

- “Perhaps the grumbling can turn to something like thankfulness that some part of the family is being fed”







Unpacking Some Terms

- What does the phrase “contemporary worship” bring up for you?
- What does the phrase “intergenerational worship” bring up for you?



Multigenerational Worship

- How are people of various ages involved in your worship experience?
- What are the messages we send to people (of various ages) in our congregations by the ways we do (or don't do) intergenerational or multigenerational worship?



Whose Worship Is It?

- Sarah Dan Jones and Melodie Feather – from their workshop at the 2008 UUA Conference on Contemporary Worship







Involving Children and Youth

- How can we involve children and youth in planning worship?
- How do we create worship experiences that are meaningful to people in a wide age spectrum?



Ability

- What are some areas of worship that might present challenges for people of differing ability?
- How do we overcome these challenges?



Cultural Background

- What cultural backgrounds are represented in your worship?
- How do you involve other cultural backgrounds in a respectful and affirming way?



Cultural Misappropriation

- From Petra Aldrich's workshop "Sharing or Theft" from the Contemporary Worship Conference







Multiple Intelligences

- Dr. Howard Gardner – 1983
- 8 different areas of intelligence
- Linguistic
- Logical-mathematical
- Spatial
- Bodily-Kinesthetic
- Musical
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal
- Naturalist



Diversity in Worship

- One key reason to include a diversity of styles in worship is to make sure everyone is included by some part of our worship