

WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS “DO”

MAKING YOUR WORSHIP COME TO LIFE

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Workshop Objectives



- To understand worship as a key place where newcomers are introduced to our congregations
- To examine what our worship services look and sound like to newcomers
- To increase the diversity and inclusion in our worship in a respectful and anti-oppressive way

Why Change Worship?

- From a workshop given by Revs. Ken Brown and Angela Merkert at the UUA Conference on Contemporary Worship



Your First UU Worship Experience



- What was your first experience of worship in a UU congregation like?
- What do you remember about the:
 - Sights
 - Sounds
 - Feeling
 - Content

Worship as the Main Entry Point



- What elements of your worship service are welcoming to newcomers?
- What elements of your worship service might be intimidating to people new to your congregation?
- Are there elements in your worship that require someone to be “in the know” in order to understand?

Dr. Marcia McFee

at the 2008 UUA Conference on Contemporary Worship

**“Monotony comes in
many forms”**



What does your worship sound like?



- Whose voices are heard in your worship?
- Whose music is heard in your worship?
- What are the messages implicit in those choices?
- Who comes to your worship?

What does your worship look and feel like?



- What are the visual impressions of worship in your congregation?
- How are people asked to move?
- What is the feeling people have when they leave?

Cultural Appropriation & Welcoming



- In trying to appeal to people with diverse cultural backgrounds, we sometimes use elements with cultural significance in less-than-respectful ways
- What are some of the elements you use from other cultures?
- How do you maintain a respectful relationship with those cultures?

Cultural Misappropriation

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



Cultural Misappropriation



- Has your understanding of cultural appropriation and sharing changed? If so, how?
- How might you engage in dialogue to make sure your use of diverse cultural elements is sharing and not misappropriation?

Conclusions



- ❑ Worship is a public ministry of your congregation and needs to be treated as such
- ❑ People need to understand from the worship forms and content that they are welcome in the congregation
- ❑ Diversity of many forms can be represented in your worship
- ❑ Cultural sharing requires relationship to avoid misappropriation