

WORSHIP: THE COLLECTIVE PRACTICE OF MEANING-MAKING




MEET THE MOMENT

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION



ROAD MAP



- Today is Day 1 of 3: An Overview
Day 2 of 3: Synergy
Day 3 of 3: Skill - Building
 - What is “Meet the Moment” with the UUA?
 - Grounding Assumptions
 - Small Group Conversations
 - Snapshot from Wave Cohort 1
- 

GROUNDING ASSUMPTIONS



- Worship is an essential part of being in religious community
- We come to this space with curiosity, trusting that we're here to learn
- We're not here to debate language of reverence, or police each other's language
 - Translate as necessary
- Worship is an opportune practice for transformation
- The theory and practice of worship (whether we're crafting, leading, or participating) inform one another.

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS



*In groups of 4 -5 people,
take turns sharing your answers:*

**What's your earliest memory of
experiencing the power of worship?**

*In each group, appoint a scribe. On a single card or in the chat,
share the themes: words and phrases that represent the stories
and experiences in your group.*

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS



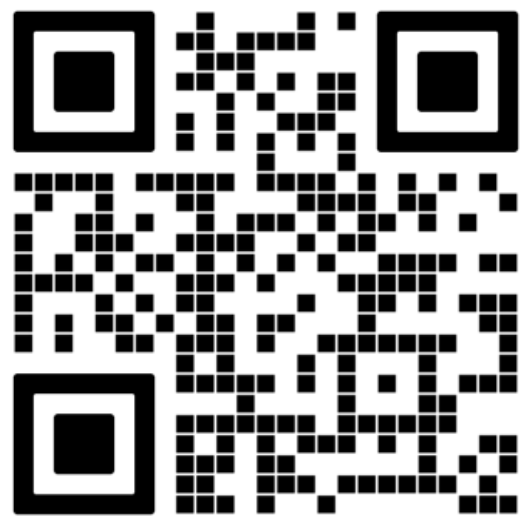
In groups of 4 -5 people, take turns sharing your answers:

**What are the roadblocks or obstacles that
prevent our worship teams from doing that?**

*In each group, appoint a scribe. On a single card or in the chat,
share the themes; words and phrases that represent the stories
and experiences in your group.*

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP!



WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US TOMORROW

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 - **Grounding Assumptions**
 - **Insight from the First Wave Cohort**
 - **Small Group Conversations**
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OPPORTUNITIES: NEEDS OF THE WORSHIPING BODY



- Vulnerability
- Mind - body - spirit wholeness
- Transformation
- Countering isolation and alienation
- Longing to feel connected to a larger story
- Feeling empowered and fortified
- Have gifts witnessed and affirmed
- Hope
- Connecting to one another in a regulated space
- Embodied practice and rituals
- Authenticity

ROADBLOCKS



- Capitalist mindset
- Hyper individualism
- Lack of shared language and understanding
- Congregations clinging to old models and habits
- Widespread distress in the world
- The myth/lie that we “come to church to escape the world” (i.e. bunker mentality)
- Worship that doesn’t engage the real world and what people bring
- Always needing to follow “the plan”

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS



*In groups of 5 - 7 people,
take turns sharing your answers:*

**What are the most urgent and important worship
needs – both challenges and opportunities – for
you/your congregation?**

Spend 20 minutes in conversation - no notes required.

Stay tuned for a follow -up question.

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS



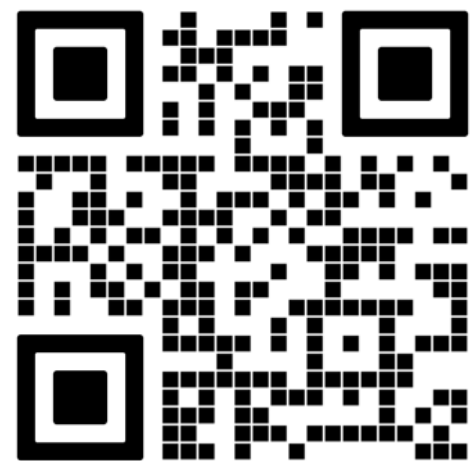
*In your same group,
take a moment of silent reflection:*

**If your congregation were visited by a Fairy
Godmother to ease you past ONE worship
challenge/obstacle, what would you wish for?**

*Please write individual responses on your card
and return them to Revs. Erika and Tyler.*

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 - **New and Revolutionary Grounding Assumptions**
 - **Skill-Building: Generative Questions as Tools**
 - **Small Group Conversations**
- 

NEW GROUNDING ASSUMPTIONS



- Unitarian Universalists are spiritually hungry
- Worship Leaders are over -functioning and can't always access "the Well"
- Our task is to develop the skills to engage the Spirit so that we might be transformed

GENERATIVE QUESTIONS AS SKILLS



- What makes your idea/spark a religious or spiritual one?
- Does it engage the “big questions” that we as humans wrestle with?
 - Which Big Question(s) and how?
- How does your idea/spark inform the way that we understand, engage, and strengthen our relationship to That Which Is Larger Than Us?

GENERATIVE QUESTIONS AS SKILLS



- What transformation, for you or for others, is possible in exploring your idea?
- How could your spark/nugget embody hope?
- How could it invite people into new engagement with others, with the world around them, and/or with That Which Is Larger Than Us?
- Is there a way to embody your intention, or express it through ritual?

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS



*In groups of 4 -5,
reflection in these invitations for 20 minutes:*

- What wisdom or ideas are you excited about?
- What might be your next responsible experiment?
- How would that serve the spiritual well-being of your congregation?

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS

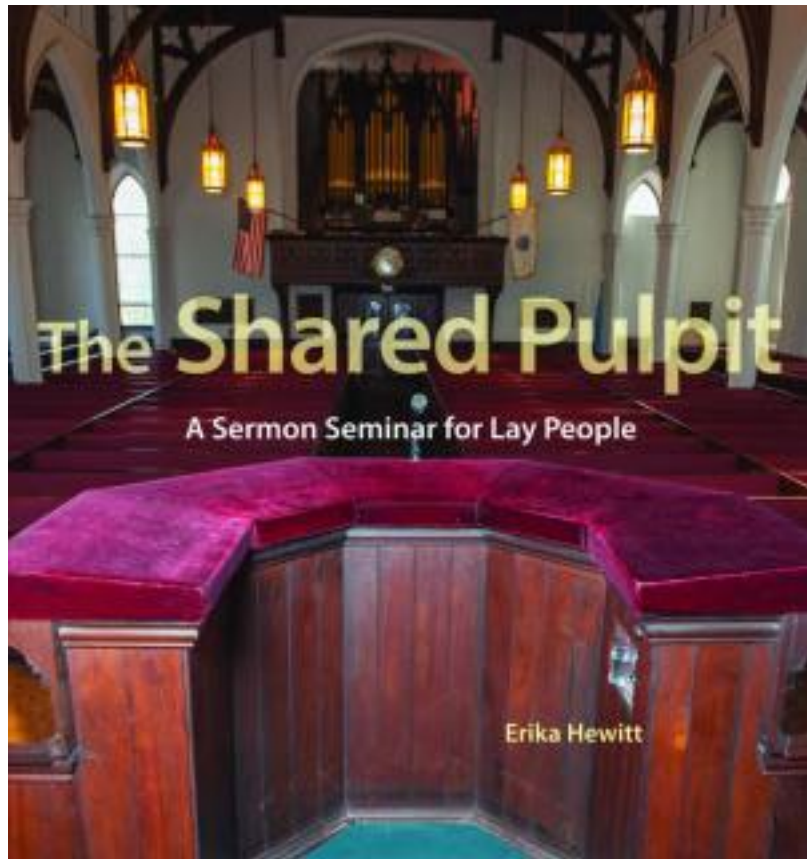


Choose one other person to peer review:

- How will you plan your idea?
- Who else will you invite to help?

RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

WorshipWeb Resources:

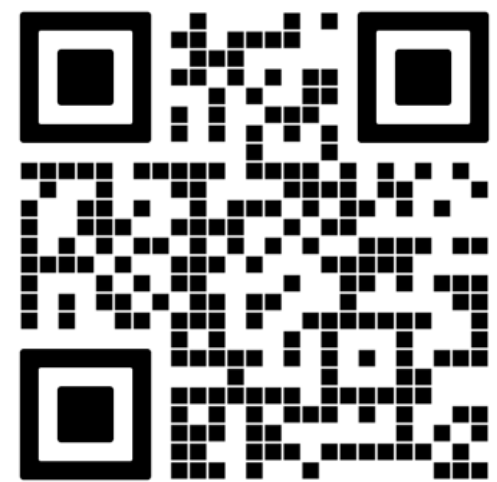


- Worship for Transformation course from UU Institute
- The Shared Pulpit sermon -writing class
- “No Sermon Necessary” packet

uua.org/worship/lab

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