

Worship Well: Sample Session & More



Worship Well's Goals:

1. Create connection and mutual support between lay worship leaders
2. Build confidence in worship leaders to embrace their authority and use it responsibly
3. Reveal pathways to UU resources and helpers
4. Center our anti-racism, anti-oppression values
5. Make this a fun, accessible gathering

TWO WEEKS before each meeting:

- Participants will be invited to submit (related to the topic):
 - A success story or past learning
 - A wondering/question

ONE WEEK before each meeting:

- A compilation of responses will be shared with all participants. (Reading it ahead of time isn't required, but will facilitate a more lively discussion.) *We will not use our session time to read this out loud.*

Sample Session

75 minutes (+ 15 minutes of team processing, optional)

:00 **Congregational roll call**

Participants will be asked to rename themselves on Zoom to include their congregation's name

Chalice Lighting & Review of [Covenantal Agreements](#)

:10 **Topic Exploration**

Depending on the topic, we might use the “collective wisdom” document as our guiding text—or Antoinette & Erika might prepare a 10-minute teaching tool.

We’ll use the text/tool as a springboard for conversation, which will likely occur in groups of 4 to 5 people (not from the same congregation).

The purpose of our gatherings isn’t just to ask, *What do you think?* or *What’s your opinion?*, but rather engage these questions together:

- What tensions or challenges does this topic present?
- What values guide us in meeting those challenges?
- Which and whose needs are our responsibility?
- To whom are we accountable?
- *If we chose to create/change a practice in our setting, what kind of support or process would we need to do that?*

As leaders, Antoinette & Erika also anticipate holding space for the reality that some congregations don’t align with emerging and common UU worship practices. Our mission isn’t conformity, but **learning and growing** together.

:20 If applicable, small group conversations in breakout rooms—with one person as note-taker to bring back three “aha” moments and one wondering.

:40 **Group Processing & Integration**

:65 **Takeaways**

We’ll begin to wrap up by asking participants to spend a few minutes in silent reflection, recording some private takeaways. We’ll then ask everyone to share a takeaway in the chat.

:70 **Chalice Extinguishing & Appreciative Inquiry**

We’ll end each session by inviting participants to name something they appreciated, learned from, or were grateful for.

We’ll also invite participants to send “Wishes” (requests and feedback) to Antoinette & Erika.

:75 **optional congregational team meeting (15 minutes)**

Sample Topics

59 people responded to our May/June 2026 survey inviting input for this program.

Three people responded, “Our worship/Sunday service team never encounters confusion or obstacles.” The following tally therefore reflects the other 56 respondents, who could check as many boxes as they wanted to:

Which of the following issues do you and the members of your worship/Sunday service team wrestle with on a regular basis?	
How to come up with worship/service topics	56
How to create multigenerational worship that's interesting and meaningful	39
Recruiting and training worship leaders	37
How to find and vet guest speakers	33
Creating more diversity in worship content and topics	33
How to choose hymns and other music for worship	16
How to manage unpredictable or disruptive behavior during Joys & Concerns	15
Issues not listed here (<i>unfortunately, we didn't offer a write-in option</i>)	5

Antoinette and Erika will most likely plan our Zoom gatherings around some of these topics—although the registration link will allow you to write in new ones.

For more information about Worship Well, [please visit our UUA page](#).

If you still can't find an answer to your question,
you can [contact Rev. Erika Hewitt](#), UUA Minister of Worship Arts.