Building Bridges to the Future

Congregational Cohort

an initiative designed by Baylor University's Center for Christian Music Studies made possible by grant funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc.
AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Ministry Leaders,

We invite your congregation to join us through a new project created to explore youth participation and engagement in the local church. Both students and leaders will convene on Baylor’s campus during the annual Alleluia Conference & Worship Lab for a week of discussions, panels, breakout classes, rehearsals, and more. Worship Lab is a music and worship leadership camp for aspiring high school students. In addition to being a great place for students to learn, the Alleluia Conference is a prime atmosphere for program and ministry leaders to build connections and discover new music and worship practices. While students participate in rehearsals, ministry leaders will convene for panel discussions, best practices sessions, and plenary sessions with notable youth authors, researchers, and speakers.

Baylor’s summer programs provide an opportunity for students with both an interest in choral singing and band-led worship leadership. Students will participate in daily devotionals, take classes on various instruments and worship leadership practices. Through classes and small group sessions, youth attendees will be guided through exploring both past and present worship techniques and traditions, as well as, discover new ideas related to various aspects of the church. The week will end with students leading a closing worship gathering displaying what they have learned at camp.

If we can answer any questions about this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Blessings,

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EXPECTED OUTCOME

Congregational partners for this initiative will be invited to dialogue on how we can best serve youth and how we can engage them to lead in weekly worship. We expect that, through participation in the project experiences, music and worship leaders will begin sharing worship responsibilities with their congregations' youth. Additionally, the faith of young people will be enhanced, and the possibility for their later involvement in vocational church ministry will be heightened.
ENGAGING A NEW GENERATION IN THE CHURCH:

Youth who are interested in worship leadership and improving the quality of worship in their local congregations often have very limited opportunities for affirmation and training. Some interaction with the church’s pastor or worship minister and private musical instruction may be their only options. There is a critical need for high-quality training and in-depth spiritual formation/vocation discernment beyond what the local church can typically provide.

Similarly, ministry leaders need new, creative ways to engage their youth members to continue reaching a new and ever-changing culture. Our desire is to encourage discussion and share intergenerational leadership practices that will positively impact music & worship ministries. Participating programs will receive a $1,000 annual stipend for contributing to the important discussions within each cohort and attending Worship Lab. Covered expenses for participating congregations include: an annual meal with ministry leaders in your cohort region and registration fees, lodging, and meals at Worship Lab.

Those interested may email questions or comments to our office at: Chason_Disheroon@baylor.edu
WHAT IS EXPECTED OF EACH CONGREGATION

1. ONBOARDING - INTRODUCTION & THE ASSESSMENT

The first step for partnership congregations is to schedule an in-person or phone conversation with one of our team members. This introduction serves as a chance to get to know a little about you and your church. During the on-boarding stage, we will be provide an assessment packet for each church to complete digitally.

2. STUDENT SURVEY

A survey will be distributed to each church for members of the youth group to complete. This anonymous survey will provide a voice for the students within a ministry to provide input and observations from their experiences in the church.

3. PARTICIPATE IN OUR SUMMER PROGRAMS

Recruit five (5) students and one or two leaders to attend our summer programming (registration fees, lodging, and meals covered by Baylor). The dates for next summer are July 18-22, 2022. "If you have more than five (5) interested students, please reach out to us to see if we can accommodate more spaces without them needing to register and pay separately.

4. ENGAGE IN MINISTRIES AT HOME

Take the leadership techniques and musical skills acquired at Baylor and serve within the local church. Ministry leaders will be encouraged to create a plan for including youth leadership in worship over the next year. Each participating congregation will receive a research incentive payment of up to $1,000.00 for participating in this initiative. Payments are issued at the completion of the follow-up visit.

5. FOLLOW-UP

Welcome a Baylor team member to your church to follow-up with your group in-person. This visit will take place in October-December 2022.
ABOUT BAYLOR'S CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN MUSIC STUDIES

Baylor University’s Center for Christian Music Studies (CCMS) was founded in the Baylor School of Music to provide leadership in all aspects of Christian music. As a preeminent Christian music center, we strive to develop and encourage musicians to cultivate their God-given potential through Christian music. CCMS students become part of a supportive community that shares a common passion for worship and music under the training of respected faculty members who work diligently to help students develop their ministry skills and vocational calling. We also offer events, programs, and publications that cover the wide gamut that comprises Christian music.

ABOUT WORSHIP LAB

Worship Lab is a high quality musical learning experience that takes place at Baylor University each July. The camp is geared towards young, aspiring worship leaders and instrumentalists (rising 9th graders through just graduated 12th graders). Worship Lab is led in part by our visiting leadership team, with assistance from many Baylor music students. Topics during the camp include worship leadership, technology, music writing, instrumental techniques and many others. Students are accepted to fill available slots in each of the ten worship bands for this summer’s camp. The bands are equally balanced with vocalists and instrumentalists and participate in separate and combined rehearsals throughout the week.