



The ROBERT E. WEBBER INSTITUTE FOR WORSHIP STUDIES

DWS Thesis List (Chronological)

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2002

Alford, M. Christopher (2002)

Worship, the Church and Contemporary Culture: A Core Course for Master's Students at the Institute for Worship Studies, Florida Campus

ABSTRACT: Monumental change is occurring in worship across our country as we leave the modern era behind and move forward into the unknown element called "postmodern." The modern, with its emphasis on intellect and word, is slowly but surely being overrun by the postmodern, with its emphasis on experience and symbol. Like the collision of two great landmasses, there will be friction and some earthquakes—perhaps even some fire—but in the end, the steady push of the "new" will make its mark and change the landscape forever. Perhaps the "new" is not so new after all. Many postmodern worshipers, especially youth, are turning for inspiration to the pattern and language of the ancient church. There they are rediscovering classic Christianity and learning to draw strength and spirituality from a deep, satisfying well of time-tested truth and tradition. I am convinced that many of the postmodern world's thirsts can be marvelously and even uniquely quenched there. This thesis and supporting curriculum advances the idea that the postmodern world has much in common with the world of the first century church. A series of five lectures, together with a number of "Outside the Box" activities and audio-visual supplements, exposes master's level students to paradigm thinking, the problems with modernity, a basic understanding of postmodernism, and directions for both worship and the church in a postmodern world.

Barmer, Gregory C. (2002)

Designing Worship that Brings the Healing of Divine Forgiveness to First Baptist Church, Washington, NC

ABSTRACT: The focus of this thesis is the element of divine forgiveness in the worship of First Baptist Church, Washington, NC. It is the premise of the thesis that we have not experienced in an on-going pattern worship that allows God's forgiving and healing power to move among the congregation and that in receiving God's forgiveness we also find restoration and healing for much of the brokenness of our lives. I address this weakness and seek to find avenues in worship through which to allow the congregation an encounter with the supernatural cleansing and forgiveness of God.

Bolger, Eric W. (2002)

Journey into Intercession at Harvest Evangelical Free Church, Branson, MO

ABSTRACT: The *Journey Into Intercession* surveys biblical passages that deal with the topic of intercessory prayer, defined as prayer for others. It does so in the form of a devotional work, with 37 daily readings from the Old Testament and 35 from the New Testament. Each daily reading is followed by a summary of the passage, a reflection on its significance for intercessory prayer, and a practical exercise designed to help the reader apply key concepts taught in the passage. An introduction that describes the key aspects of intercessory prayer that the reader will encounter precedes the daily readings.

Brunelle, Norman L., Jr. (2002)

Equipping the Congregation to Symbolic Awareness and Understanding of Resident Architecture and Christian Symbols at Trinity United Methodist Church, Opelika, AL

Eichorn, William (2002)

Using Video to Teach and Inform Newcomers about Worship at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Poway, CA

ABSTRACT: This project addresses the need for an effective method to use video to reach out to newcomers about worship. As the central jewel of the church, worship has many symbolic facets which need to be identifiable and clarified, if not they run the risk of being ignored or, worse, misunderstood. With some basic understanding about the content and structure of worship, newcomers are given permission to participate in the worship experience. This project seeks to open up the worship experience. A prime motive was also an awareness of the importance of being welcoming to the stranger who is also a pilgrim on this common journey of faith.

Ellison, David (2002)

A Worship Guide for the Season of Advent for the Adult Choir of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

ABSTRACT: The season of Advent is perhaps the most overlooked season of the church year. The season of Advent is countercultural. In an effort to address the lack of understanding of the season of Advent, a worship guide was developed for the adult choir of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The thesis uses theological, historical, and Biblical materials to support the themes of Advent. Related material included are a daily lectionary, worship services, and hymns and songs for the season.

Flint, Stephen (2002)

Developing a Community Mind on the Role and Meaning of the Lord's Supper at St. Mark's Church, Burlington, NC

ABSTRACT: This project was designed to develop community mind on the role and meaning of the Lord's Supper at St. Mark's Interdenominational Church. The Lord's Supper plays a life giving role in the community of Christ, and is therefore important to any congregation. This project is a process to facilitate community mind on the role and meaning of the Lord's Supper with the pastoral staff, Consistory, and in turn to develop community mind on the role and meaning of the Lord's Supper with the entire St. Mark's Church Congregation.

Forbes, Ryan (2002)

A Study Course to Equip the Lay Worship Leaders of North Broad Baptist Church, Rome, GA

Hart, James (2002)

Enhancing a Regular Discipline of Common Prayer at Grace Episcopal Church in Orange Park, FL through the Employment of Shared Musical Leadership

ABSTRACT: This action research project postulates that attendance at common prayer services can be increased by enhancing their attractiveness through choral leadership. Common prayer has been practiced throughout Church history but has fallen into disuse recently due to the divorcing of private and corporate spirituality and the rise of excessive individualism and over-busy lifestyles. The choir can serve as a model of communal worship leadership thereby enhancing common prayer. Data for this project was collected in a parochial setting over a six-week test period and was evaluated and interpreted to determine the impact of this study with recommendations for specific actions.

Nelms, Jonathan (2002)

A Guide to the Liturgical Use of the Baptist Hymnal (1991) in Fourfold Sunday Worship at First Baptist Church, Cookeville, TN

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis is to create a guide to the liturgical use of The Baptist Hymnal, 1991 in fourfold Sunday worship at the First Baptist Church of Cookeville, Tennessee. To make this an effective guide, each song in the hymnal was analyzed by its literary address and its function in the biblical and historical fourfold pattern of Christian worship. The literary address of each text was determined by studying its direction, focus and perspective. This analysis permitted each song to be categorized by how it best functions in the four acts and related elements of fourfold worship.

Perrin, Daniel (2002)

The Zealot: A Musical-Theatre Presentation by Crossroads Bible Church, Bellevue, WA

Rushing, Kenneth (2002)

Leading a Select Group of Christians to a New Understanding of the Role of God in Worship in Plant City, FL

ABSTRACT: In today's society churches appear to be moving farther away from God in their efforts to become more appealing to unbelievers in their worship practices. The desire to accomplish the Great Commission has moved from outside the church to inside the church. As a result, the desire to please God has shifted to a desire to please man. This study compares the impact of the revivalist movement to the current worship trends in the local church. An intentional desire to instruct and educate the local church may be the only hope for the recovery of theocentric worship.

Smoak, Merril, Jr. (2002)

Identifying Contemporary Praise and Worship Songs for Use During the Church Year at Trinity Baptist Church, Livermore, CA

Walrath, Brian (2002)

Exploring the Correlation between Authentic Worship and Health in Selected Congregations of the Free Methodist Church

ABSTRACT: The goal of this study was to attempt to show a positive relationship--a direct correlation--between the spiritual health of a local congregation and the quality of its worship. A survey was designed which could be administered to selected Free Methodist churches. It assessed quality based on the nine characteristics of vital and faithful worship as proposed by Thomas Long in *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship*. The resultant quality coefficient was then compared to an

objective measurement of the church's health as provided through the *Natural Church Development* assessment program. Analysis showed a correlation between the quality of worship and the spiritual health and vitality of a local congregation. The thesis of this study is that, by improving worship quality, Free Methodist churches may also improve overall health and ministry in other areas as well.

Walters, Kent L. (2002)

Understanding and Embracing the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Whole Person Worship at Grace Bible Church, Grandville, MI

ABSTRACT: The Holy Spirit is the essential mediator in worship, revealing God and prompting appropriate response. Unfortunately, numerous barriers restrict our ability to worship God with our whole selves. The primary application of this project for Grace Bible Church was to provide worshipers with a means for self-assessment regarding their openness to whole person worship. The end result was an increased awareness of the Spirit's presence and an increased receptivity to the Spirit's ministry in worship. Understanding and embracing the Spirit's role in worship facilitates a greater openness to receive and respond with the whole person.

2003

Ainsworth, Tracy (2003)

A Sourcebook for the Christian Year for Use by Churches in the Advent Christian Denomination

Blasdel, Stephen D. (2003)

Introducing Participatory Worship and Evangelism Through a Postmodern Christmas Musical at First Evangelical Free Church, Wichita, Kansas (Dr. Sharp)

ABSTRACT: The primary purpose of this project was to present a Christmas musical to introduce participatory worship on the part of the congregation of First Evangelical Free Church. Several other purposes were involved. The musical was to have a ministry to postmoderns and also to reinforce the concept that evangelism and worship are not exclusive of each other, but that effective evangelism can come from the worship of God's people. The musical was created with these ideas in mind. Surveys, feedback cards, and discussion groups were used to gather anecdotal evidence and to evaluate the effectiveness of the process and the musical.

Burns, Thomas (2003)

Developing a Worship Preparation Curriculum for Worship Leaders and Congregants at Fairview Baptist Church, Greer, South Carolina (Dr. Alford)

Byerly, James (2003)

The Development of an Advanced Course in Worship Studies for Boise Bible College

Dirksen, Dale B. H. (2003)

The Profile of a Worship Pastor in a Canadian Evangelical Context (Dr. Hill)

ABSTRACT: Effective worship ministry in Canadian evangelical churches requires gifting and skill in five areas: leadership, team building, music and the arts, administration, and communication technology. Effective educational preparation for this ministry also requires study in four disciplines of theology, history, pastoral ministry and the arts. This thesis provides a foundation for worship ministry preparation as well as recommendations for the design of a M.A. program to prepare worship pastors, included

in appendix C of this project. Three detailed sample course plans, with student evaluations, are included in appendix D. A comprehensive bibliography for worship students is included as appendix E.

Gibson, Julie K. (2003)

A Worship Curriculum for the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program, Boise Presbytery, PCUSA

Hood, Heather (2003)

A Study and Application of the Ancient Te Deum in Postmodern Worship at Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina, Minnesota

ABSTRACT: Today's Christian church is faced with the challenge of how to proclaim an ancient faith and apply it to an ever-changing society. Our contemporary worship environments have, in many cases, set aside elements of Christian tradition in an endeavor to be relevant. Scholars indicate that the postmodern generation is eager to connect to elements of ancient church worship in ways that are unique and meaningful. This thesis project is an effort to address that on one level – a study of one ancient text, the Te Deum, and its use in postmodern worship at Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina, Minnesota.

Hoyer, Philip (2003)

Leading Carlsbad Community Church of Carlsbad, California to an Understanding of Corporate Worship Through the Instruction of Small Groups

Lundberg, Gregory (2003)

Finding a Rhythm of Prayer in a Postmodern World: Praying the Psalms at Central Baptist Church, Springfield, Illinois

Maxon, William (2003)

The Integration of Ministry and the Worship Arts: A Practicum and Internship Curriculum for Worship Arts Students at Judson College, Elgin, Illinois

Moratto, Michael (2003)

Four Fold Worship Reference Database: A Resource for Planning Four Fold Worship at First Baptist Church in Stephenville, Texas

Moyer, Dean (2003)

Worship Renewal for the Vocational Worship Pastor: An Eight-Week Renewal Curriculum Established Upon Redemptive Themes Inherent in the Theologies of Baptism, Sabbath Rest, and Imago Dei

Peters, Carl (2003)

Assessing the Need and Aptitude for Worship Education at Ancient City Baptist Church in Saint Augustine, Florida

Roberts, Sandra (2003)

Teaching the Anglican Understanding of Eucharistic Worship at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on Fleming Island, Florida

Whited, Rebecca (2003)

A New Discipleship Curriculum to Enhance Worship at Tallmadge Lutheran Church, Ohio

ABSTRACT: This study at Tallmadge Lutheran Church, Ohio affirms that Christians experience more meaningful corporate worship as a result of a growing relationship with God. Many churches tend to welcome people into church membership without an adequate emphasis on the importance of spiritual nurturing and discipline. The catechumenate is a process that helps to facilitate conversion and spiritual growth. The curriculum provided in this project is divided into four stages and takes approximately ten months of two hour per week sessions to complete. Tools and resources are provided to assist the Christian in their spiritual journey. Ultimately, as Christians become active in their personal prayer and worship, there is a beneficial overflow effect on the corporate worship of the community of faith.

Wilder, Royce (2003)

Equipping the Praise Team at First Baptist Church, Corinth, Mississippi, Through Worship Education, to Plan and Lead Participatory Corporate Worship

ABSTRACT: This thesis dealt with how to introduce overtly participatory worship elements successfully into a well-established Baptist Church of primarily "presentational" worship orientation. The focus of the project involved educating a small worship-leading ensemble in the church over an eight week period to plan and lead overtly participatory worship in a manner that would be embraced by the church. The primary vehicle for achieving this end was an achievement-based teaching system that utilized a Worship Discovery Journal specifically developed for this project, a pertinent course textbook, weekly class discussions, and two Saturday night participatory worship opportunities.

Wilson, William (2003)

Developing an Understanding of Worshiping in Spirit and Truth at Kilbourne Park Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina

ABSTRACT: This thesis was a study of the ability of some members of Kilbourne Park Baptist Church to understand and apply John 4:23-24. Many members of Kilbourne Park Baptist Church do not have satisfying corporate worship experiences on a regular basis because their understanding and practice of worship in spirit and truth has been impoverished by the evangelical church's rejection of biblical symbolism through art as a facilitator between the rational world and the non-rational world. A curriculum consisting of lectures and worship practicums was administered to a small group of church members. At the end of that curriculum the students were interviewed to determine if their understanding of worship in spirit and truth had changed and if their satisfaction with worship had been improved when utilizing symbolic arts to facilitate worship. About one-third of the the students reported that their understanding of worship in spirit and truth had changed, and that their satisfaction with worship had improved. The curriculum, therefore, was effective in improving the worship experience for some students but not for others.

2004

Allen, Edith (2004)

Remembering and Living Our Baptism: Implications for Spiritual Formation in the Members of First Church of the Nazarene, Kankakee, Illinois

Bellows, Margaret (2004)

Enhancing the Understanding of Divine Healing for the Order of Saint Luke the Physician Chapter at Indian River City United Methodist Church in Titusville, Florida through a Study of the Healing Concepts Found in the Book of Psalms

ABSTRACT: The problem addressed in this thesis is that the Order of Saint Luke the Physician limits its study of biblical healing to the twenty-six New Testament occurrences as performed by Jesus. Biblical healing took place long before Jesus' incarnation. Further, to have a broader, biblically unified approach to the subject, study materials should also include an examination of the concept in the Old Testament of healing. To remedy this problem I wrote a course of study for the Order of Saint Luke the Physician chapter at Indian River City United Methodist Church in Titusville, Florida. The course explored some of the healing concepts found in the Book of Psalms. Walter Brueggemann's classification was utilized in the study. The course concluded with a two-day healing seminar and service which was open to all members of the congregation regardless of membership in the chapter of The Order of Saint Luke the Physician. This thesis and its supporting documents also record and evaluate the effectiveness of both the course and the two-day seminar.

Cummings, William (2004)

Designing Blended Services of Worship for North Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dunnett, Walter (2004)

Worship in the Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus

Frankland, Dinelle (2004)

A Strategy for Leaders Who Plan Worship for New Church Plants in the Christian Church, Non-denominational, to be Taught to Students at Lincoln Christian Seminary

ABSTRACT: The churches known as Christian Churches have a long history of intentional and dynamic church planting. New church work is supported and taught at the colleges and seminaries connected with these churches. This thesis develops guidelines for establishing a philosophy of corporate worship for leaders of the Christian Church involved with new church plants. Many church planters have not been taught to give attention to the content of Sunday morning worship, the story of God's redemption and salvation. Rather, they have learned to plan worship according to the cultural context in which they minister, which is primarily manifested in the choice of a particular musical style. While contextualization is important, the guidelines outlined here emphasize an understanding of the biblical and theological basis for corporate worship as it applies to new church plants. The material also addresses issues concerning the analysis of the context and culture of a demographic group targeted for a new church plant. The resulting curriculum is designed to aid leaders of church plants in planning corporate worship that reflects biblical content and is stylistically appropriate to the cultural context. The material includes a biblical and historical study, nine principles and goals for planning worship for a new church, and practical applications for using the information in a new church setting.

Fugate, Donald (2004)

Enhancing Unity and Authentic Worship at Foxworthy Baptist Church, San Jose, California through the Teaching and Application of Forgiveness

ABSTRACT: Acknowledging a dearth of forgiveness preaching and teaching, this thesis and supporting curriculum seeks to encourage unity and enhanced worship at Foxworthy Baptist Church, San Jose, California by communicating the biblical mandate to forgive and providing opportunities to experience forgiveness. A six-week Sunday School curriculum and supporting seminars guide participants through an examination of the biblical doctrines of sin and its resultant consequences of guilt, shame and isolation. This sin nature is viewed in light of God's holiness, and His provision through sacrifices for sin

and the Atonement. The curriculum also examines the teaching of Jesus and other New Testament writers concerning forgiveness, anger and bitterness.

Gregory, Gary (2004)

Worship at the Lord's Table: A College Course of Study and Preparation for Students at Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary

ABSTRACT: This thesis/project provides a one credit-hour college course for Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary on the topic, "Worship at the Lord's Table." The course presents a study of the biblical and historical foundations of the Lord's Supper as well as practical assistance for presiding at the Table. Through biblical and historical inquiry students are challenged to reconnect to the deep meanings of the Lord's Supper and are then guided in its application for the contemporary church. The study is aimed at preparing students, ministers, church leaders and others who are associated with the brotherhood of churches known as Christian Churches and Churches of Christ.

Hetrick, Esther (2004)

A Pilot Program Developed for the Independent Christian Churches for Working through Changes in Worship Styles with the Assistance of Great Lakes Christian College

ABSTRACT: This project was a pilot program developed for independent Christian Churches to work through changes in worship styles with the assistance of Great Lakes Christian College. In this project I proposed that a remedy to the conflict over worship styles begins with: 1) gaining perspective on changes in worship style, by looking back at other periods of change; 2) developing a common understanding of worship, based on biblical and historical foundations; and 3) discovering principles for affecting purposeful change. The project was designed for three audiences—a pre-training seminar for the leaders of the local church, a presentation of the choral work, "Worship Matters," for the entire congregation, and a weekly study dealing with worship and change for interested members and leaders of the congregation.

Hunt, Richard (2004)

Recovering the Role of the Congregation in Sunday Worship: A Curriculum for Adult Members of Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas

ABSTRACT: The worshipping congregation in many churches is fast becoming a passive audience of consumers, gathered to observe the "performance" of professional ministers. This thesis addresses the problem of passive worshipers by producing a curriculum for adult church members. The curriculum intends to raise the level of understanding and engagement of members of the worshipping congregation. The thesis began with an exploration of the role of the congregation in worship biblically, theologically, historically, and practically. This formed the backdrop for the development of a 12-week curriculum for adults on the recovery of that role in Sunday worship.

Matthews, Gary (2004)

A Worship Discipleship Course for Current and Future Worship Leaders of Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield, MI

Matthews, Robert (2004)

Learning Basic Concepts of Worship Through a Designed Curriculum and Musical for the Children's Choir of Trafalgar Village Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee

Moeller, Mark (2004)

Using Varied Forms of Communication to Enhance Worship Engagement at First Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas

ABSTRACT: The elevation of the spoken word to the exclusion of other communicative forms is a common practice in most Baptist worship settings. This thesis project postulates that the use of varied forms of communication in corporate worship can enhance the worshipers' level of engagement with God and fellow disciples. Church members of differing ages, education levels, and engagement preferences will be exposed to worship settings in which various modes of communication are used. Data for this local church project will be collected, evaluated, and interpreted with recommendations for future ministry in the arena of corporate worship.

Myers, Patricia (2004)

Developing and Pilot Teaching a Theological Education by Extension Course on Worship for the Institut Biblique Lumiere in Les Cayes, Haiti

Packer, Matthew (2004)

Discovering Eucharistic Meaning Utilizing the Service of Word and Table at Fenton United Methodist Church, Fenton, MI

ABSTRACT: This thesis is written to deepen congregational understanding of the Lord's Supper at Fenton United Methodist Church. Research centers on the Biblical, historical, theological and Wesleyan aspects of the sacrament and their application for the church. A pretest was developed to measure sacramental understanding and was administered to a test group within the congregation. This was followed by a five-week course on communion culminating with an experience of the Service of Word and Table. A post-test measured changes in understanding and qualitative and quantitative analyses were provided. Appendices supply the information to make this study applicable to other congregations.

Phifer, Stephen (2004)

Experiment in Prayer—The Convergence of Fixed and Extemporaneous Prayers in the Daily Private Worship of Congregants at Word of Life International Church, Springfield, Virginia

Price, William (2004)

The Application of Established Worship Core Values to Youth Worship at First Baptist Church, Rochester, Minnesota

ABSTRACT: Worship is an important part of the ministry to students at First Baptist Church, Rochester, with weekly worship in this context being student-led. The problem addressed by this thesis project was an absence of training to prepare the students for their task. A six-week series in worship theology and design centered on the church's six worship core values was provided to the students. The goal was to train the students to design services that reflect the established worship core values. The student's ability to perform weekly evaluative assignments during the training period and their ability to design effective worship services after the term indicate the success of the seminars. It is hoped that this training will provide theological and practical guidance to these students for many years to come.

Satterwhite, David (2004)

Increasing the Creative Use of Scripture in the Worship Services at Roebuck Baptist Church in Roebuck, South Carolina

Stromstra, Patricia (2004)

Reviving the Season of Easter at Third Christian Reformed Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Wiebe, Michael (2004)

Equipping the People of Nampa, Idaho First Church of the Nazarene to Experience the Healing Presence of Christ in Communion

Wilkerson, Waverly (2004)

Implementing a Plan for the Usage of Visual Symbols in Baptism and the Lord's Supper at First Baptist Church of Groveport, Ohio

Ziegenfuss, Robin (2004)

A Strategic Worship Transition Plan to Assist First Christian Church of Council Bluffs, Iowa, in Moving from a 450 to a 1000 seat Worship Space

ABSTRACT: Changing the content or form of worship can be a treacherous road to travel for a worship leader. This thesis proposes that worship education is a means to increase a congregation's receptivity to changes in worship. To support this thesis, classes on various aspects of worship were offered to members of the congregation. Topics covered in these classes included explanations of symbolism, physical expressions of worship, music, and prayer. In addition to these classes, a series of Advent lessons presented to the congregation demonstrated the appropriateness of observing the Church Year in worship services. These Advent lessons, presented during Sunday morning worship and reinforced in written form, were identical in content, irrespective of the style of worship services. Data collected from pre and post-class surveys were processed and evaluated to suggest recommendations for a concise, overall plan for worship transition.

2005

Borecki, Linda S. (2005)

Learning in the RITE Context: Contextualizing Worship Leadership Training for an Online Course of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

ABSTRACT: "Learning in the RITE Context" proposed, defended, and implemented a revised online course of pastoral liturgy for the Leadership Advancement Process (LAP) program of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. It was hypothesized that students of varying Lutheran liturgical traditions and varied expectations of future worship leadership roles would benefit from a course of study contextualized to students' circumstances and needs and contextualized to the computer medium. The research suggests that employing a unifying theological liturgical premise, or Golden Thread, and teaching for enduring understanding via computer delivery is a faithful way and a good way to encourage discernment, resourcefulness, and a pastoral heart in students' own worship and worship ministries. As worship contexts become more varied, worship leaders for themselves and for their particular faith community can yet articulate and facilitate worship that is "Christian" and "Lutheran" - seeing and practicing a truth and unity that is deeper than the uniformity of external rites.

Cameron, Virginia W. (2005)

Developing a Collection of Charles Wesley's *Hymns on the Lord's Supper* for the Church of the Nazarene

Chan, Philip H. (2005)

Music and Worship: A Textbook for Music and Worship Offered by the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Dunnett, Dolores E. (2005)

The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

Gaddis, Keith H. (2005)

Enhancing the Personal Development of Spiritual Disciplines in Prayer, Leading to a Richer Experience in Corporate Worship at Maryland Community Church in Terre Haute, Indiana

Gehrels, Kenneth M. (2005)

Enhancing Unity Without Uniformity in Worship at Calvin Christian Reformed Church, Ottawa, Canada

ABSTRACT: Calvin Christian Reformed Church of Ottawa has, as one of its core values, a commitment to unity. However, the congregation's membership is very diverse. This diversity presents a challenge to worship planners as they seek to prepare liturgies that are edifying to the congregation as a whole, assisting as many as possible to engage in meaningful dialogical activity with God. The purpose of this project was to explore the contours of the diversity within the congregation by means of the pedagogical theory of Multiple Intelligences. The illustrated diversity was then shared with the leaders of the congregation. Also shared were theological considerations regarding what range of liturgical actions may be used with integrity in a Reformed worship service. The process was designed to enhance the leaders' understanding of diversity, and through that enhanced understanding to develop a deepened sense of mutual acceptance and stronger unity among the leaders and within the congregation at large.

Grenz, Edna L. (2005)

The Journey with Jesus: A Workshop on the Christian Year with Emphasis on Advent at First Baptist Church, Vancouver, Canada

ABSTRACT: The thesis maintains that the regular observance and study of the high points in the life of Christ, also known as the Christian year is enriching to the journey with Jesus. The people of First Baptist Church, Vancouver, Canada, took part in a workshop that gave an overview of the Christian year. Particular emphasis was given to Advent through a four-week series designed to prepare participants to reflect on the Advent themes in their personal journey and to enrich their participation in the corporate Advent worship services. The project provided a segment of the congregation with tools of understanding, so that the observance of the Christian year could be developed further in the worship life of the church.

Hager, Jeffrey D. (2005)

Expanding an Understanding of Divine Revelation for Use in Worship Planning at Cypress Point Community Church in Tampa, FL

Horton, Wallace W. (2005)

The Development and Application of a Curriculum for Adult Bible Classes on the Healing Power of God in Worship at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, Virginia

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis is to help the members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, Virginia experience the reality of God's healing power in Christian worship and liturgy. This purpose was accomplished through the development and application of a six-week adult Bible class dealing with the subject. Following the course, class participants responded to what they had experienced through a questionnaire, a one-on-one interview, or a personal journal. The data gathered from the evaluations indicated that the majority of the participants experienced a greater awareness, understanding, and vulnerability regarding the presence of God's healing power in worship.

Jackson, Daniel S. (2005)

The Implementation of Sixteenth-Century Liturgical Music Through Authentic "Performance Practice" in Evangelical Worship at Point Loma Nazarene University

ABSTRACT: The historical backdrop of various doctrinal and liturgical changes experienced during the Reformation provides a foundation for performance practice of sacred music in the late Renaissance and early Baroque. This project proposes the P. L. N. U. Concert Choir will successfully implement sixteenth-century liturgical music in an evangelical setting with stylistic considerations involving the use of dynamics, metrical symbols, text placement, accidentals, and desired choral tone. In addition, Concert Choir students will explore the possibilities of converging historical music, ethnic music and numerous forms of contemporary music in their concert tour program that will foster the inclusion of all people.

Johnson, R. Kevin (2005)

Preparing the People for Worship: A Lectionary Based Home Worship Guide for Families at Christ Church United Methodist, New York City (Dr. Borchert)

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to introduce families at Christ Church United Methodist to family devotional life with a view toward making corporate worship more meaningful. A lectionary-based home worship resource was used to accomplish this goal. The resource used various arts media to forecast the scriptures and themes to be explored in the corporate setting, therefore giving the participants a more complete vocabulary for worship. The primary goal for the project was to encourage an ongoing habit of individual and family worship for the participants.

Leestma, David B. (2005)

Preparing the Worship Community of First Covenant Church, Oakland, California, to Embrace a New Physical Worship Environment Plan to Foster Greater Participation in Worship and to Engage More Fully with God

Mahaffie, Mark K. (2005)

A Worship Study Course and Services for Advent and Christmas Designed to Enhance the Spiritual Growth for Sequoia Heights Baptist Church, Manteca, California

ABSTRACT: This thesis project aims to ignite the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Advent season at SHBC. The project seeks to bring back into focus the rich history of anticipating the first coming of Christ as well as the preparing for His second coming. Our focus at Sequoia Heights was drawn to a spiritual Christmas through four Advent worship services, an Advent family devotional, and six Bible Study lessons. This project points to the fulfillment of God's promises at the great Parousia.

Martinez, Evelyn R. (2005)

Using Creative Arts to Enhance Sunday Morning Services in Latin America: A Pilot Course Given To Hispanic Churches in the Metro Atlanta Area

Moffett, Bradley J. (2005)

Developing a Guide for Evaluating the Issues of Genre, Role, and Function in Selecting Music for Worship Among Selected Music Leaders Within the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: This thesis will identify a sample group of music leaders in the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, and evaluate music being used by the sample group for worship according to a paradigm based on the genre, role, and function of music in worship. The sample group will be given a guide that outlines the ideas of the paradigm,

and after having time to implement the guide into the music selection process, a second test period will evaluate the music being chosen. As a result of this thesis, members of the sample group will have a biblically and theologically informed means by which to choose music for worship.

Moll, Steven R. (2005)

Renewing Worship at Green Lake Presbyterian Church Seattle, WA Through Insights from Tabernacle, Priesthood, and Sacrifice

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis is to promote worship renewal and to establish an appropriate framework for biblical worship informed by insights from the tabernacle, priesthood, and sacrifice. Biblical constructs important for these purposes focus on God's character and actions in history, covenant relationships, and the calling of His people in worship. In the Old Testament, the sacrificial system enabled God's people to draw near to Himself through the offering of sacrifices that facilitated atonement, communion and tribute. In the New Testament, Christians offer spiritual sacrifices and pay tribute to God through words, deeds and a lifestyle of obedience.

Monroe, Christopher R. (2005)

The Stations of the Cross: A Worship Course for the Disciples Class of Vinton Baptist Church, Vinton, Virginia, for Experiencing the Stations of the Cross - As Found in the New Testament

Rogers, Paul R. (2005)

Using Baptismal Theology for Spiritual Formation within a Small Group Setting at the Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-Dekalb, Dekalb, IL

ABSTRACT: The project analyzes the effectiveness of a small group study in facilitating an understanding and application of baptismal theology. The project proposes that the small group setting and curriculum can result in spiritual formation as participants broaden their understanding of baptism and experience appropriating baptism as a model of Christian spirituality. The project uses a select group of congregants at the Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb as the basis for the study. The project seeks to measure changes that occurred as a result of the study by using pre- and post-test questionnaires, a group interview, and individual interviews. Completed over the course of six weeks, the research discloses that spiritual formation can occur through an understanding and application of baptismal concepts but that more time is needed to adequately see these changes materialize.

Shores, Rodney K. (2005)

Sacred Action and Sacramentality: A Course Development for the Worship Ministries Degree at Trinity College of Florida

Solether, Scott V. (2005)

Transforming Worshipers into Worship Evangelists at First Presbyterian Church, Portland, Indiana

Statom, Gabriel C. (2005)

Compiling and Implementing a Psalter Which Reflects the Reformed Heritage for the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales, Florida

Vaught, W. Lyndel (2005)

A Daily Worship Guidebook to Promote Personal Christian Worship During Holy Week Among Senior Adults, Age 65-85 at the Silver Serenaders Choir, Dallas, Texas

Wong, Jonathan J. W. (2005)

Developing a Pattern for Teaching about God's Self Revelation and Presence Through the Arts in Worship

ABSTRACT: The thesis provides a biblical, historical, and theological foundation for God's self-revelation and presence through the arts in worship. A course proposal was developed for Pacific Rim Bible College's School of Worship and the Arts. Two sample groups comprised of faculty from International College and Graduate School and Pacific Rim Bible College were interviewed for the study. The findings suggest that a course on God's self-revelation and presence through the arts in worship should be required for students attending the School of Worship and the Arts. The findings are significant between faculty with a biblical/theological background and those without.

Zerbe, Steven E. (2005)

Integrating a Strategic Worship Advisory Team in the Worshipping Community of Warsaw, Indiana Wesleyan Church

ABSTRACT: Worship is humankind's finite response to God's eternal call. He will never cease to offer an invitation to those willing to participate. Wholehearted participation demands intentional preparation. To offer God pleasing worship that promotes intimacy and sparks personal growth, the individual must embrace personal responsibility and prepare for a finite encounter with an infinite God. This thesis explored the potential of team-planned worship at Warsaw Wesleyan Church (WWC) in Warsaw, IN. Would corporate worship participation be impacted if a group of trained worship leaders intentionally prepared? A Strategic Worship Advisory Team (SWAT) was recruited, trained and empowered to enhance participatory worship at WWC through planning, evaluating and providing numerous resources for worship services. Over the course of the six-month project, the team continually gave fresh and new ideas that embraced various celebrative arts to encourage more worship participation. The project was successful in demonstrating team-planned worship and sparking corporate worship participation.

2006

Bray, David K. (2006)

A Study in the Theology of Anamnetic Prayer Grounded in the Old and New Testaments and Exemplified in the Anaphorae of the Ancient Church: Developed for Messiah Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

ABSTRACT: Christ's anamnetic command demands that the church remember Jesus during Holy Communion by: proclaiming Jesus as the Hebrew Messiah and Son of the living God, recounting Jesus' redemptive actions, rehearsing the nature and terms of the New Covenant relationship, providing divine authorization to the memorial meal, specifying the benefits of Christ's redemptive sacrifice, offering the anamnetic pledge given by Christ back to God as a reminder, declaring the unifying power and sovereignty of Christ's work and Lordship, petitioning Christ to issue the promised benefits, explaining the meaning of the memorial rite and its relationship to Christ's sacrificial work, magnifying God's name and actualizing his purposes on earth.

Bunnell, John Howard (2006)

An Open-ended Database Guide to Assist Ministers of Music and Vocal Soloists to Select Solos that will Match and Enhance the Lectionary Readings During the Easter Cycle (Year "A")

ABSTRACT: This project reviews the significance of oral music in the history of worship from pre-Hebrew music through today. It also contains a database unifying vocal solos with lectionary readings for the Sundays of the Easter Cycle. The purpose is to assist church musicians in selecting solos that complement the scripture readings. The database of scripture readings and vocal solos are categorized by style, range and difficulty and are housed on a website, enabling a computer search anytime. The database allows submission of additional titles and can be expanded with other cycles of the Church Year.

Carpenter, Karen Kay (2006)

The Christian Sacraments: Covenantal Origins, Presence and Community as Experienced in the First Presbyterian Church, Brookline, Massachusetts

Gray, Glen F. (2006)

A Paradigm for Renewal: Seven Pilot Studies for the Inculturation of Holy Communion at the American College, Phoenix, Arizona

Hoekstra, Gerzinus E. (2006)

A Resource Guide of Seasons and Symbols for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Choir, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

ABSTRACT: A Resource Guide of Seasons and Symbols for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Choir, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario was a project initiative inspired by the national call of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for worship renewal. Members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Choir embarked on a spiritual journey through the readings of the Liturgical Year and the seasonal hymns to increase their awareness and understanding of symbolism as a deepening of their faith experience. The research disclosed the need for solid biblical and theological knowledge, in order to discover, rediscover, evaluate and re-evaluate symbolism and rituals, and offering insights and perspectives to make judgments that are biblically and theologically informed as well as culturally discerning.

Huckaby, Susan Young (2006)

Enhancing Congregational Participation in Worship at Arlington United Methodist Church through Educating and Engaging Multiple Intelligences

ABSTRACT: Arlington United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee is a one hundred and eighty one year old congregation dwindling in size and active participation in many areas of church life, including worship. The older average age of the congregation and the changing socio-economic surroundings challenge the vitality of the church. The purpose of this project was to enhance congregational participation in worship through education and the engagement of two multiple intelligences: the visual/spatial and the bodily/kinesthetic. The process used in this project was designed to include a variety of pedagogical and participatory means to inform worshipers about the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of participatory worship, as well as engage them in participation in worship. Two groups of worshipers were formed for deeper study, planning, and implementation of visual and kinesthetic elements in worship. The ultimate goal of this thesis, through the power of the Holy Spirit, was to enrich the personal and corporate spiritual lives of worshipers at Arlington United Methodist Church and to edify the Body of Christ through the process.

Kivell, Sharon Louise (2006)

Fostering Harmony through Healing Workshops at St. Ninian's Anglican Church, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

ABSTRACT: In recent years there has been a movement toward more contemporary music in some Christian churches, and also toward lively, freer, more spirit-filled worship, and spiritual growth in some congregations. This movement has also led to what some refer to as the "worship wars." Congregations have been split or have lost members who do not appreciate the changes and would prefer to retain traditional styles of worship. This diversity has in some cases caused a loss of unity and fellowship. This thesis suggests that diversity has been a part of Christianity since its earliest days, and that the early church strived to maintain unity within its diversity. The thesis proposes that St. Ninian's Anglican Church, which has experienced a split between traditional and contemporary worshipers, could achieve greater fellowship and Christian love through an examination of the diversity which has always existed in the Christian church. A series of four healing workshops exposed the participants to teachings on unity, diversity, Christian love, and the communion of saints in the expectation of fostering greater love and unity within the congregation.

Kreutzwieser, John Robert (2006)

Introducing and Integrating Silence into the Divine Service at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

ABSTRACT: Christian liturgy throughout the ages has been developed following the principles of worship in the Bible. One aspect of authentic biblical worship is silence. Unfortunately, in many Christian congregations, silence is a little used and often misunderstood element of corporate worship. Worship services are filled with so many words and sounds that the message of the Gospel loses its meaning amidst the never-ending babbling. This project investigated silence in the Bible and integrated moments of silence into corporate worship according to the fourfold pattern of biblical worship. Silence needs to be rediscovered, reintroduced, and used in corporate worship.

Lam, Calvin C. F. (2006)

A Training Manual for Purpose Driven Worship Leaders at Richmond Hill Chinese Community Church, Toronto, Canada

Mandryk, Kara D. (2006)

Exploring Ritual as a Means of Spiritual Formation Among Young Evangelicals at Providence College in Otterburne, Manitoba

ABSTRACT: Spiritual formation has always been important in evangelical circles and younger evangelicals are looking to a variety of Christian traditions for meaningful spiritual formation rituals. The purpose of this project was to provide the students of Spiritual Formation, an introductory practical theology course at Providence College, with a framework to assess and develop spiritual formation rituals that would be biblically and theologically sound, historically faithful, and contextually meaningful. A Ritual Taxonomy was created which allowed students to systematically examine existing spiritual formation rituals. The Ritual Taxonomy also provided structure as the students adapted or created their own organic spiritual formation rituals, focusing on three foundational elements of ritual: story, symbol and action.

McCoy, Gary Wayne (2006)

Seeing as Believing: Growing Faith through the Visual Experience

Nethercott, Nancy Lynn (2006)

Developing a Scripture Reading Training Workshop for Christians in the Arts Network Worship Seminar in Tokyo, Japan

ABSTRACT: There is a need for renewal in the reading of Scripture in corporate worship, both in the area of the amount of Scripture read, and in the training of those who are entrusted with the ministry of reading. However, in Japan there is no training available for those who read Scripture in corporate worship. In an effort to address the lack of intentionality in the presentation of the word in churches in Japan, I developed a training workshop and follow-up instruction with evaluation. The thesis employed biblical, historical, and theological methods to support the rationale that the presentation of Scripture is a ministry and a vital part of corporate worship. The project had three phases. Phase One was a staff training day. Phase Two was a six-hour intensive training workshop held at the October 2005, CAN Worship Seminar in Tokyo, Japan. Phase Three integrated further training and evaluation for four of the workshop participants.

Owenby, Mike Jerome (2006)

Developing Worship Leadership Through the Application of the Doctrine of the Priesthood of All Believers at Mary Esther United Methodist Church, Mary Esther, Florida

ABSTRACT: Mary Esther United Methodist Church recently celebrated forty years of ministry. For a period of seven years the laity were denied involvement in worship planning and leadership. Worship became a clergy-led event where laity were entertained and called to repentance on a weekly basis. "Developing Worship Leadership" is a four-session approach for training laity in the Biblical and historical importance of worship leadership. With training and permission to exercise their priesthood, we found the laity desirous of leadership roles in worship as a means of personal sacrifice and offering. Worship is no longer an entertainment event, but a family gathering of thanksgiving and praise.

Pinkston, Ira B., III (2006)

A Course for Developing the Personal Prayer Lives of the Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting Attendees at First Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

Puls, David W. (2006)

Developing a "Presence" View of Communion at Lawson Heights Pentecostal Assembly, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

2007

Bettors, Charles L. (2007)

A Guide to Help Families Discover Their Unique Missional Calling Through the Practice of Family Worship at Glasgow Reformed Presbyterian Church, Bear, DE

ABSTRACT: Many churches are struggling to lead their people toward radical missional living and, all the while, the art of regular family worship seems to have been lost. Historically, especially in the Presbyterian Church, parents were expected to lead their households as "little churches" with the intentional practice of prayer, reading and exegeting the word of God, and singing. This thesis explores the impact of family worship on missional living and the spiritual formation of the home. Through a biblical, historical, theological, and sociological survey, this thesis advocates family worship as a means for families to be equipped spiritually to discover their unique role in accomplishing the *missio Dei*.

Brown, David B. (2007)

Developing a Spiritual Formation Mentoring Program for Baptized Believers at First Christian Church, Morristown, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: First Christian Church in Morristown, Tennessee desired to equip baptized believers for greater service in the life of the church. A spiritual formation mentoring program was developed and implemented in the fall of 2006 with the primary goal of equipping baptized believers for greater service in the life of First Christian. This thesis, along with teaching materials and questionnaires, examines what effects a mentoring program can have in the life of a local congregation.

Chow, Perry Kwan Sin (2007)

A Worship Training Course for Cantonese-Speaking Worship Leaders at the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, Massachusetts

ABSTRACT: Worship is the highlight of a Christian's devotional life. A good worship experience helps people to know God and helps them to be willing to live a life that pleases God. Worship leaders play an important role in influencing our congregation's worship experience. Therefore, training worship leaders should be the highest priority in any training program within the church. Unfortunately, there is no worship training course available at Boston Chinese Evangelical Church at present. This thesis project has resulted in a worship training course of six two-hour sessions for Cantonese-speaking worship leaders of BCEC, to give them a fuller understanding of worship, and to prepare them to lead worship more effectively.

Davis, William H. (2007)

Creating a Climate for Intergenerational Worship at Thomasville Road Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Florida

ABSTRACT: Intergenerational worship has biblical basis, historical precedent, theological validity, sociological implications and ministerial value. We will explore whether the worship practices of today's church are counter-cultural in combating ageism. We will challenge chronological and stylistic models for segregation of worship groups. We will examine worship-related attitudes of TRBC members, determining whether exposure to intergenerational worship through study, planning, and participation in intergenerational worship experiences is an effective catalyst for attitudinal change. We will prayerfully consider the extent to which intergenerational worship should be employed in the future of worship at Thomasville Road Baptist Church.

Elbert, Lori E. (2007)

Writing Music for the Season of Lent for Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Louisville, Kentucky

Garcia, Norman (2007)

Enriching Worship Through a Training Program for Salvation Army Cadets in the USA Eastern Territory

ABSTRACT: The Salvation Army has experienced significant change in worship by endeavoring to be relevant to a culture that makes the individual the center of attention. Movement in this direction has resulted in us losing contact with Salvationists and Christians in times past as well as undermining the essence of what worship is. This thesis seeks to articulate a worship paradigm that understands Jesus to be the center of worship. Once centered, we can be the body of Christ as we live eucharistically in mission and service to humanity.

George, Robert J. (2007)

A Method to Address the Worship Expectations of those Attending the United Methodist Church of Smethport, PA

ABSTRACT: The concern for improving church attendance has been part of the ministry agenda in all United Methodist Churches I have known. I undertook this doctoral thesis with the hope of creating a method to address the attendance question from a worship point of view. The thesis describes a method composed of surveys, worship committee meetings, teachings, letters, newsletter articles, bulletin inserts and adjustments to the structure of the worship service in order to address worshipers' expectations. The method is also concerned with building a worship service that has Christian integrity. The issue of Christian integrity is addressed by considering four foundational concepts from the Old and New Testament periods which guide the development of worship experiences to meet worshipers' expectations with integrity from the Judeo-Christian perspective.

Gilbert, Craig L. (2007)

Enhancing Spiritual Growth Through Worship Education at First United Methodist Church, Alvin, Texas

Glaeser, Joannah R. (2007)

Enhancing Worship Understanding Through Historical Reflection at Living Waters Christian Fellowship, Pasadena, CA

Gothold, Jean A. (2007)

Developing a Theology of Worship for St. Peter's By the Sea Presbyterian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, California

Hallquist, Gary F. (2007)

Introducing the First Three Seasons of the Christian Year to the Traditional Worshipers at Taylors First Baptist Church, Taylors, South Carolina

ABSTRACT: Celebrating the Christian Year is an ancient practice with scriptural roots. After the Protestant Reformation, the Puritans rejected that practice, primarily because of the Regulative Principle of Calvin, which restricts worship actions to those that are expressly permitted in the Bible. Early Baptists came from the Puritans, and condoned no celebration other than the Lord's Day. Over time, Baptists adopted the civic calendar as the norm. This project was designed to acquaint traditional worshipers at Taylors First Baptist Church, Taylors, South Carolina, with the first three seasons of the Christian Year and to encourage spiritual development through their observance.

Keefer, Laura A. (2007)

Developing a Worship Resource Guide for Small Groups at Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church, Naperville, Illinois

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to introduce small groups at Wheatland Salem Church to diverse ways of worshiping. The worship resource guide was used to accomplish this goal. The guide was designed using the six traditions of faith as outlined by Richard Foster in his book, *Streams of Living Water*. The primary goal for this project was to encourage a continual habit of worship during the small group gathering.

Lanier, Joel E. (2007)

Engaging God's Story Digitally Through the Development of an Online Advent Calendar at the First Baptist Church of Powder Springs, Georgia

ABSTRACT: The First Baptist Church of Powder Springs ministers to a culture in the midst of a major paradigm shift in communication. The world is moving away from a text-based exchange of information toward a digital, image-driven exchange. The message that the church is entrusted to share must be communicated effectively in this

digital age. Historically, the season of Advent begins the annual retelling of that message. In this thesis, internet devotionals formed the intersection of this ancient story and new media, and a web log ("blog") provided opportunity for dialogue for those on the Advent journey.

Lawson, Jonathan D. (2007)

Enhancing a Multi-generational Approach to Music-led Worship at Radiant Church (Assemblies of God) in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Longhurst, Christine C. (2007)

Enhancing Corporate Prayer at the River East Mennonite Brethren Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

McDaniel, Carol R. S. (2007)

Recovering the Practice of the Spiritual Disciplines at Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach, CA

ABSTRACT: Spiritual formation continues to be an issue of immense interest among Christians and non-Christians alike. Lutheran Christians have a distinctive spirituality, which finds the *Solus Christus* principle at its core. Lutheran Christians also have a spiritual formation process, yet the integration of spiritual disciplines into the daily life of the Lutheran Christian has, at times, been difficult to achieve. This research will delve into the absence of spiritual discipline activities at Bethany Lutheran Church, and it will discuss two intervention strategies the church employed in an effort to recover the practice of some of the spiritual disciplines in their community.

Mangham, Jr., Charles D. (2007)

Developing and Testing a Small Group Study on *This Holy Mystery* for Jarrettown United Methodist Church, Dresher, PA

ABSTRACT: The 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*, an official denominational statement of its theology and practice of the Lord's Supper. Its purpose was to assist United Methodists to understand Holy Communion as a means of grace. This thesis explores the study of this document by a small test group in a local church, the conclusions drawn by the group as a result of this study, and the implications that this on-going study would make for the local congregation.

Mundy, B. Jo Ann (2007)

Sacred Actions to Bring Reconciliation and Claim an Anti-Racist Identity in the Faith Community of Three Rivers, Michigan

Myers, Robert A. (2007)

The Development of a Rubric for the Evaluation of Intimate Songs in Contemporary Christian Worship

ABSTRACT: Christian men and women have always yearned for intimacy with God. But yearning for God in the current evangelical worship experience often seems like the longing of young lovers so often glorified in Western culture. The intent of this thesis was to encourage biblical yearning for God while addressing problems in the current landscape. An informed method of evaluation was developed with the input of a select group of worship leaders to critique the use of intimate songs in contemporary worship. The resultant rubric is flexible and designed for use in any evangelical church.

Ooi, Sylvia Wan-Sheng (2007)

Developing a Course on Catechesis as a means of Spiritual Formation at TCA College (Singapore)

Pannabecker, David R. (2007)

A Baptismal Curriculum for Senior High Youth and Adults Toward Making Disciples at Trinity Evangelical Free Church, South Bend, Indiana

ABSTRACT: The project seeks to evaluate the optimum setting for the implementation of a baptismal curriculum for senior teens and adults toward making disciples at Trinity Evangelical Free Church in South Bend, Indiana. The study proposes that an interactive group setting will achieve greater educational outcomes than independent self-study. The project curriculum features sixteen self-directed lessons on baptism in the New Testament. Forty-three congregants divided into two groups: Group Discussion and Self-study. In order to evaluate each group's educational experience, three measurement tools were employed: Pre- and Post-study Questionnaires, as well as a Curriculum Evaluation Survey were administered to all participants.

Poulopoulos, Andrew J. (2007)

Developing a Mentoring Program for the Northern New England Salvation Army Through a Small Group Study of the Statement of Faith

Pratt, Melissa L. (2007)

Discovering How the Personality Types of 18-22 Year Olds at Cincinnati Bible College Impact Their Ability to Experience God in Corporate Worship

Reid, Barbara R. (2007)

Embracing Diversity in Worship with Intentionality at First Baptist Church, Dubuque, Iowa

ABSTRACT: This study documents the results of a leadership training event to increase the understanding of congregational leaders in First Baptist Church of Dubuque, Iowa, about the biblical basis for the congregation's Core Value concerning racial/ethnic diversity as applied to the ministry of worship. This understanding was needed so that congregational leaders could become more intentional in considering racial diversity in the aspects of worship in which they played a leadership role, and so the congregation could realize its vision of being a multi-racial congregation where worship embodies its beliefs concerning the reality of reconciliation made possible through Jesus Christ.

Sexton, R. Nyle (2007)

Developing a Course on the Fundamentals of Christian Worship for Louisville Bible College

ABSTRACT: This project is a proposal for an introductory course of worship study for Louisville Bible College, an institution dedicated to the principles and practices of the Restoration Movement. The study is one that seeks to offer students an opportunity to study worship as an independent discipline apart from music, offering students of all disciplines the opportunity to study worship regardless of their musical aptitude. The content of the course focuses on biblical worship throughout the Old and New Testaments and supports the theology of the Restoration Church. This course, with some minor alterations, could be successfully integrated into the curriculum of Louisville Bible College.

Smith, James E. (2007)

Enhancing the Worship of God through Understanding and Hallowing the Lord's Day at Bethel Missionary Church in Goshen, Indiana

ABSTRACT: My thesis seeks to discover whether or not actions for hallowing the Lord's Day enhance the public worship of God. My project proposes that an understanding of the theology of the Lord's Day, instead of a list or a divine command, is the basis from which hallowing actions must arise. Thus, the core of my thesis is a series of classes in which the theology of the Lord's Day is developed. Seventeen congregants of Bethel Missionary Church joined the classes. At the end, fifteen "experimented" with actions for hallowing the Lord's Day in order to see if their actions enhanced their public worship of God.

Stuberg, Robert M. (2007)

Fostering Corporate Eucharistic Piety as Locus for Mission at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Helena, Montana

ABSTRACT: The purpose of the study was to foster corporate eucharistic piety as locus for mission at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Helena, Montana, by increasing the understanding of *ecclesia*, *eucharistia*, and *missio Dei*. The action research design addressed the goals on two fronts. The 'liturgical front' engaged the entire congregation through educational materials and implementing liturgical changes. The 'study group' front engaged a sampling of the congregation in a small group study curriculum. The findings show an overall growth in the appreciation for the Eucharist as a communal event that feeds God's people to be Christ's body in the world.

Talley, Sue L. (2007)

The Healing Voice of Christ in the Psalms for Students of the School of Music, Nyack College, New York City

ABSTRACT: The students in the music program at Nyack College, New York City seek to serve the larger world. The campus is located blocks from the site of the World Trade Center tragedy, which some students and faculty remember well. Spiritual growth in the tumultuous inner city, community service, and global reconciliation demand our effort and study in the School of Music. The Psalms, Christ's prayers on earth, convey his healing voice today, uniting highly diverse peoples and various academic disciplines. The visibility of our Chorale gives us an opportunity to minister to the wider community. Through this project, we attempt to hear this voice in the Psalms as we study them in several courses. By using the Psalms in our prayers and songs we may convey the healing voice of Christ to the world.

Updyke, Sharon H. (2007)

Recovering Full and Conscious Worship Among the Youth at First Baptist Church, Sanford, North Carolina

Walraven, James W. (2007)

A Table Celebration Study for Home Group Use at Community of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wilsonville, Oregon

ABSTRACT: Although the Table is celebrated at Community of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church twice each month, it is observed by many in a hurried and ritualistic manner. The thesis addresses these weaknesses through presenting a series of six studies about the Table within a home group setting. Key scriptural passages are investigated, along with the doctrines of Rome, Zwingli, Calvin, and Luther. Special attention is given to the understanding of the ancient church, and to the theological implications of the various positions. The value of "literal presence" is examined, especially as it relates to countering resurgent Gnostic thought in contemporary culture.

Wilson, Myron G. (2007)
Using Acts 2:42–47 to Enhance the Worship of First Baptist Church, McKinney, Texas

2008

Altizer, James L. (2008)
Developing a Worship Leading Practicum for Master of Arts in Worship Leadership Students at Azusa Pacific University

ABSTRACT: The training of worship leaders is a relatively recent field of University study. While some are satisfied to be a “lead worshiper,” I believe that the Church desperately needs well trained “worship leaders.” Worship leading is a pastoral role, and involves a synergy of skills, knowledge and heart that combine to become something much greater than the parts. Effective worship leadership requires an intricate combination of knowledge, wisdom, passion and skill. This thesis and skills-oriented video-practicum advance the study and development of how to educate and produce well-prepared worship leaders.

Barrick, Don W. (2008)
Building Authentic Christian Community at First Baptist Church of the Woodlands, Texas through the Use of the Ancient Agape Feast

ABSTRACT: The church is rightly called the “body of Christ,” and yet many churches struggle with issues of community. Historically, Baptists are known for their independent spirit and autonomy. This independence has led to isolationism and disunity within the body of Christ. Through this project I set out to discover how the first-century church might inform and help the twenty-first-century church be the body of Christ that God intended for us to be. Twenty-seven Deacon Hosts were trained to lead a community building event based on an ancient Agape Feast in which over three-hundred church members participated.

Bennett, Patrick J. (2008)
Designing and Implementing a Philosophy of Worship Arts Ministry for Cyprus Ridge Presbyterian Church, Winter Haven, Florida

ABSTRACT: This thesis/project was intended to develop a worship philosophy for Cypress Ridge Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida. The resulting worship handbook was then used as a guide for the worship ministry of the church. As this project took form, however, it became increasingly evident that Cypress Ridge was dealing with worship style issues. As a result, this project not only laid a foundation for worship ministry at Cyprus Ridge, but also offered suggestions to bring the congregation and elders back to a biblical understanding of worship and community.

Borchert, Timothy W. (2008)
Utilizing Multimedia in the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper at First Baptist Church of Oak Ridge, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: This thesis and supporting materials demonstrate the understanding that God uses the visual cultural language of every society to influence the worshiping lives of his people. Incorporating today’s multimedia technology into the Eucharistic worship service for our church is one way of enhancing the visual aspect of our traditional Baptist service. Four separate services were developed, each utilizing a different style of projected multimedia allowing God’s word to be heard both audibly and visually.

Brewer, Christopher K. (2008)

Implementing an Online Communion Service in the Four Fold Pattern for Brewer Christian College

ABSTRACT: The Internet is here to stay. The World Wide Web has influenced every area of life, from commerce to family to the church. This thesis explores the potential of the Internet in the area of corporate worship. Using the online chapel program of Brewer Christian College as a backdrop, this thesis examines what it means to be a community via the Internet, what it biblically and historically means to celebrate communion, implements, and then measures the success of an online communion service.

Brown, Jarrod H. (2008)

Renewing Baptism through Spiritual Formation and Liturgy at Watson Memorial United Methodist Church, Chatham, Virginia

Diffenderfer, Christian (2008)

Building a Foundation for Sacramental Spirituality and Mission in a New Anglican Congregation in Falcon, Colorado

ABSTRACT: This thesis and supporting mystagogical sermons and curriculum draw upon models from Scripture, the ancient catechumenate, and Anglican liturgical theology to create an evangelistically vibrant new Anglican community that shares the love of Christ as a natural extension of its worship and community life. Using intergenerational formative and instructional activities, members are led to understand their sacramental worship as a transformational encounter of the triune God, through his word and at his table, and empowered to live the new life of their baptism into Christ by active participation in his mission.

Dodge, James C. (2008)

Equipping Students of Canby Bible College to Initiate New Christians for Baptism

ABSTRACT: This thesis and supporting curriculum seeks to equip students of a Foursquare college to initiate new Christians for baptism. A curriculum of eight lectures inclusive of demonstrations and participations, culminating in a baptismal renewal rite, introduces students to the ancient catechumenate as a viable process for fulfilling Christ's Commission to make disciples. The project contends that the work of disciple-formation accrues to the entire church community, that baptism initiates the new Christian to both the church-at-large and the church local, and that water and Spirit merge at the baptismal font, thus accomplishing the new birth Jesus describes to Nicodemus.

Ellis, Larry D. (2008)

Living Out Our Baptismal Covenant at St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church, Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to enhance a biblical, historical, theological, and experientially-based understanding of the reality of being baptized into Christ. I taught a series of classes and preached a sermon at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church about the process of Christian conversion, drawing from the Old and the New Covenants presented in Scripture, historic extra-biblical documents, and testimonies of ancient and current Christian leaders. Standard assessment tools employed demonstrated that participation helped persons to recognize more easily the relationship that God initiates with us through Jesus Christ, which motivated several persons to share that reality with others.

Gillette, Christopher B. (2008)

Restoration of the Lord's Supper in the Restoration Church through Students at Hope International University

Harmeling, John P. (2008)

Enhancing the Understanding of the Christian Year through a Focus on Advent at Southside Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Harris, Clifton D. (2008)

Implementing Worship for Small Groups in the Community Surrounding Winter Park Baptist Church, Wilmington, North Carolina

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to assist the leaders of Winter Park Baptist Church of Wilmington, North Carolina in initiating worship experiences in the community for small groups, with a particular focus on the postmodern generation. The project included a six-week guide for worship, based upon a Lectionary and church year format, and designed to be led by lay leaders. House church strengths of the early Christian communities were used in the development and initial use of the worship guide. The project sought to be a pilot program for the further development of neighborhood small group worship experiences.

Harrison, Timothy M. (2008)

Developing a Family Worship Program for the Clinton Presbyterian Church, Clinton, New Jersey

Hedrick, Brian L. (2008)

Enhancing the Biblical Understanding of Instrumental Music in Worship for the Members of the Metro Instrumental Directors Conference

ABSTRACT: This thesis explores the biblical foundations of instrumental music in worship, organizing them into four pillars: the Psalms, Davidic worship, New Testament implied references, and instrumental music in the Book of Revelation. This material is organized into a four-week devotional series for the members of the Metro Instrumental Directors Conference to read and share with the instrumentalists in their respective churches. The goal of the project is to increase the biblical understanding of instrumental music in worship for the members of the MIDC, and contribute material where there is a relative lack of comprehensive resources on the subject.

Ho, Teresa (2008)

Restoring the Celebration of the Lord's Supper in Today's Chinese Evangelical Churches of Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: The purpose of the thesis is to design a course for seminary students who are interested in investigating the various meanings and discovering the biblical, theological and historical background of the Lord's Supper. After understanding the biblical foundation of the meal, through an intense reflection on the subject, the students are encouraged to carry out the celebration of the Lord's Supper in their own ministry setting more frequently. They are also inspired to rethink and conduct the rite with more theological and pastoral concern. In such case, I hope the members of today's Chinese evangelical churches will be benefited and their spiritual lives be revived.

Kochendorfer, Lawrence A. (2008)

Renewing Baptismal Spirituality through Daily Devotions and Reflection at Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Canada

ABSTRACT: In the midst of a cultural context which insidiously promotes a spirituality of self, this thesis project seeks to assess the current understanding and life-experience of parishioners at Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, with respect to daily baptismal living, and to explore how a deeper understanding of baptismal spirituality shifts the ground of primary spirituality for the participants. Through participation in a twenty-one day devotional and reflective journaling resource prepared by the author, participants encountered the baptismal pattern of dying and rising reflected by the Apostle Paul in Romans 6, explored the instruction of the primary theologian of the Lutheran Church, Martin Luther, and his invitation to a daily baptismal remembrance, and reflected on the profound rhythm of the spiritual life of dying and rising.

Laur, Noel-Paul D. (2008)

Developing a Model of Holy Meditative Worship for Polk Street United Methodist Church, Amarillo, Texas

ABSTRACT: Change has been taking place in the United Methodist worship service. Postmodernists are seeking ways to embrace spirituality outside the customary practices of corporate gatherings. Among the new worshipers are the contemplatives, who are reviving the classic worship pattern of the Early Church. The thesis advances the concept that holiness and contemplation should merge to become the ideal earthly worship. As appropriate preparation, a series of classes plus holy meditative services exposed Polk Street United Methodist Church to holiness in worship. Participants were introduced to contemplation, holiness and silent prayer, and confronted with obstacles to the pursuit of holiness.

Lord, Kendall R. (2008)

Facilitating a Deeper Awareness of the Transcendent in the Worship of Cherrydale Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia

ABSTRACT: This project involved a voluntary subset of the congregation of Cherrydale Baptist Church of Arlington, Virginia. The study addressed a perceived imbalance in the congregation's worship perspective between the immanent and the transcendent attributes of God. The project consisted of a six-week email Bible study, as well as pre- and post-survey questionnaires. Implications for the future, as well as possible means of improvement within the context of Cherrydale's worship environment, were discussed.

Makowski, Gaylord B. (2008)

A Curriculum to Enhance an Understanding of the Eucharist in Spiritual Formation for Pastoral Ministry Students at Canby Bible College, Canby, Oregon

ABSTRACT: This thesis and supporting curriculum addresses the absence of a comprehensive theology of the Eucharist and a lack of formal spiritual formation practice within second year students at Canby Bible College. The Apostle Paul clearly understood the Lord's Supper narrative to be a formative model by which the Church would experience the presence of the risen Christ and serve as a model for daily life and piety. This project consisted of ten didactic lectures and a culminating eucharistic celebration that provided an enhanced understanding of the Eucharist and spiritual formation from Scripture and the theological perspectives of Justin Martyr, John Calvin, and contemporary scholarship.

Meeks, Jeffrey S. (2008)

Fostering a Culture of Response as a Worshiping Community at University Place Presbyterian Church, University Place, Washington

ABSTRACT: God's story has been proclaimed throughout human history. This thesis helps one church reconnect with its roots to participate in the *missio dei* by rediscovering God's story in worship. In this context, God's story is told through the creation of new songs and prayers for worship. Research sheds light on how the rhythm of worship prepares worshipers to become witnesses to God's mission. Worshipers would begin to demonstrate the love, grace and power a relationship with Jesus Christ brings. The goal would have worshipers understand their call to go and share God's story with those they encounter.

Prest, Vallen L. (2008)

Developing Worship Leaders as Servant Artists at Woodside Baptist Church, Troy, Michigan

ABSTRACT: This project is based on the concept of Servant Artist as a paradigm for understanding the ministry of worship leaders in the contemporary church. The goal of this task was to focus on the biblical basis, historical precedent, theological validity, and ministerial value of approaching ministry as a Servant Artist. A series of six training sessions were offered at Woodside Bible Church, Troy, Michigan. The aim of this project was to develop a worship theology, a theology of excellence vs. perfection, an understanding of the New Testament priesthood of believers, and an understanding of the responsibility to offer spiritual sacrifices.

Spargo, Brenda G. (2008)

The Development of a Worship Planning Team for Contemporary Worship at University United Methodist Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

Sproul, Robert A. (2008)

Enhancing Worship at the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey, Pennsylvania by Employing Elements of Ancient-Future Worship

ABSTRACT: The intent of this thesis was to enable the congregation at the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey to experience components of Ancient-Future Worship with the goal of evaluating those components to determine ways to utilize them in the corporate worship services of the church. Two Ancient-Future services were held on Tuesday nights in the fall of 2007 and attendees were given opportunity to offer feedback. From that feedback, recommendations have been given to the church leadership about possible implementation of those elements for current and new worship venues.

2009

Burkett, Philip L. (2009)

A Pilot Project in Four-fold Convergent Worship at College Park Church, Huntington, Indiana

ABSTRACT: College Park Church, located in Huntington, IN, is faced with a good problem. The church needs to expand and start a third worship service to add to its existing Traditional and Contemporary services. A second good problem is: How can College Park design a worship expression that meets the needs of a relatively large group of Huntington University students without a church "home away from home?" I proposed that we implement four-fold worship as our third service. This pilot project was implemented in order to present four-fold worship to College Park young adults and gauge their reaction.

Capezza, Rick A. (2009)

Reorienting Baptismal Piety to the Sacramentalist Tradition through Devotional Enrichment at Christ the King Anglican Church, Spokane, Washington

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to enhance the biblical, historical, theological, and liturgical understanding of baptism and reorient baptismal piety to the sacramentalist tradition at Christ the King Anglican in Spokane, Washington. This project was implemented as an individual baptismal guide for members to work through at an individual pace over the course of five weeks. Standard assessment methodologies employed helped demonstrate that members came to a greater understanding of the sacramentalist position on baptism, and increased their baptismal piety in the sacramentalist tradition.

Clark, Paul B., Jr. (2009)

A Pilot Project for Renewing Worship through Congregational Singing at the First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: Congregational singing is one activity practiced consistently in Baptist worship that invites all worshipers to participate verbally and actively in the liturgy. A truncated view of congregational singing may be serving anthropocentric values rather than theocentric worship. This thesis seeks to provide assistance for pastors and musicians whose churches would benefit from a more vital participation in worship through congregational singing. The study addresses these issues as observed at the First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee, which served as a pilot project for the process believed to hold potential as applicable to other Baptist churches.

Clary, Donovan Brooks E. (2009)

Designing a New Worship Gathering for Young Adults in Downtown Hickory, North Carolina

Cooke, Dennis Lee, Jr. (2009)

Using the Four Spiritual Types to Enhance Worship Participation at Asbury United Methodist Church, Lafayette, LA

ABSTRACT: This project attempts to help members of Asbury United Methodist Church in Lafayette, LA experience God more completely as they worship together. Our plan was an intervention that encompassed six class sessions of 70 people that dealt with discovering their spiritual typology and engaged them in our worship planning process. We divided the large group in two parts and had one group plan worship while the other group evaluated the effectiveness of our planning. Our goal was to enhance their experience of God or their connection to God in worship.

Gaff, Isaac L. (2009)

Implementing an Undergraduate Course on the Theological Foundations of the Lord's Supper at Lincoln Christian College

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to develop and implement an undergraduate course at Lincoln Christian College which addresses the biblical, historical, sociological and theological dimensions of the Lord's Supper. The course seeks to address the weak theological infrastructures often present in independent Christian Churches associated with the Stone-Campbell Movement by 1) improving students' knowledge and understanding of the Lord's Supper, 2) nurturing and encouraging healthy dispositions in students about the Lord's Supper, and 3) synthesizing knowledge, understanding and healthy dispositions in students that result in theologically founded liturgical experiences of the Lord's Supper for churches.

Gibson, Brent F. (2009)

Implementing Pentecostal Worship Gatherings within the Emerging Canadian Postmodern Context at Ridgemont Assembly, Port Coquitlam

ABSTRACT: This thesis advances the idea that the local church needs to recognize that North America has become a mission field, which requires a renewed missional impetus that seeks to embody the Christian faith in ways that the new postmodern and post-Christian generation(s) can understand, find meaning and significance, and thus respond. For the purposes of this thesis, such a renewed missional impetus is applied to the area of corporate Christian worship. This thesis involves the implementation of worship gatherings for the emerging postmodern and post-Christian Canadian culture that remains faithful to my Pentecostal tradition.

Hafermehl, Kendall R. (2009)

Enhancing a Theocentric Focus in Corporate Worship at the Alliance Church, Okotoks, Alberta

ABSTRACT: Researching the ways God's Story is told in the New Testament *kerygma* and the Old Testament cultic context, three principles emerged providing a foundation for telling of God's Story in the postmodern context. The historic building blocks of worship yielded further insights for worship planning and leadership. A three phase process of learning, planning and worshipping together was created, involving a Preaching Pastor, Worship Pastor, Worship Leaders and lay persons in planning, participating and evaluating four services based on a series of workshops which focused on enriching the Telling God's Story through Song, Prayer, Scripture and Testimony.

Hatley, Kely G. (2009)

Integrating Baptist Theology and the Christian Year Calendar at First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: The Christian Year calendar is a tool that has been largely unused in the Baptist Church. This project was born from a desire to teach Baptists about the value of sacred time through the use of the Christian Year observances in worship. I developed an eight-week study course and taught it to twenty-six members of my congregation. The material taught us how the Christian Year can mesh together with Baptist worship practices and beliefs. The study course demonstrated how the Christian Year can effectively teach our congregations about Jesus' life, thereby becoming a powerful discipleship tool for Baptist churches.

Henderson, Myles Milton (2009)

Enhancing Congregational Participation in the Lord's Supper through Small Group Teaching at Centennial Park Baptist Church, Grimsby, Ontario

ABSTRACT: For centuries, evangelicals have celebrated two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. During that same era, increasing focus on preaching has overshadowed the celebration of either ordinance. In particular, the bread and cup of the Lord's Table have been described as "mere symbols." Recently, symbols have been regarded as powerful tools to expand our understanding of God's salvation narrative. This thesis, with accompanying eight-week small group course of study and three sermon outlines with service orders, examines seven meanings of the Lord's Supper and challenges the church to rediscover the importance of this sacred action instituted by our Lord.

Howson, Esther C. (2009)

Promoting a Deeper Understanding of Holy Communion in Worship at Knox Presbyterian Church, Bayfield, Ontario

Jonah, Mark A. (2009)

Renewing the Biblical Practices of Communion at Beulah Alliance Church Edmonton, Alberta

ABSTRACT: This project focused on renewing the communion practice of Beulah Alliance Church. Our typical communion practice emphasizes the memorial theme in our Saturday and Sunday communion services. The predominant atmosphere of our communion practice is solemnity, somberness, and solitude. This thesis project explored the biblical teaching on communion and planned the use of four biblical communion themes for our services. Over a period of four months, the Saturday communion service was led using four different biblical communion themes. The Sunday communion service maintained typical practice and was unchanged. A team of people experienced and evaluated the observable contrast between the changed Saturday communion service and the unchanged Sunday communion service.

Lockamy, Edward E. (2009)

Incorporating the Church Year through a Focus on Holy Week at the Bradfordville First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Florida

ABSTRACT: This thesis was an effort to address a lack of understanding by a Southern Baptist congregation concerning the historic Christian Year and the implications it can have on a worshipping community. An overview of the major components of the Christian Calendar was presented in a seminar format. The Season of Lent with an emphasis on the services of Holy Week supported the contention that by marking time through the Christian Year, the church's corporate worship will be enhanced, thus giving opportunity for spiritual formation to take place.

Longhin, Daniel H. (2009)

Implementing a Course to Introduce Eucharistic Spirituality at Trelew Bible Church in Trelew, Argentina

ABSTRACT: This thesis deals with the introduction of Eucharistic spirituality in the churches of U.M.E. (Union Misionera Evangelica) in Argentina. A course of six sessions presents the biblical, historical, and practical foundations of the Eucharistic life at Trelew Bible Church, in Trelew, Argentina. The course explains how the Eucharist enhances daily living for the Christian. Three evaluation tools are used to assess the impact of the course in the lives of the participants: a pre-test and a post-test for all participants, and interview questions for two individuals, the pastor of the church, and one elder.

Manner, David W. (2009)

A Pilot Project to Evaluate Worship Renewal in the Congregations of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists

ABSTRACT: The project research and application is a process encouraging worship renewal in the churches of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists. The basis of the project is a method of external observation and evaluation of present worship practices. Implementation encourages a congregation to move beyond song selection and stylistic change to the deeper elements of worship renewal found in Scripture, throughout history, and demonstrated theologically. Additional recommendations are offered for internal evaluations based on these foundational tenets. The project was initiated with a pilot congregation affiliated with KNCSB to determine its validity for future implementation with additional KNCSB congregations.

McNeill, Maurice A. (2009)

Renewing Holy Communion through Congregational Song in African American Baptist Churches, Charlotte, North Carolina

Owen, Dyton L. (2009)

Recovering the Christian Story Depicted in Sign and Symbol at First United Methodist Church, Prague, Oklahoma

ABSTRACT: This thesis/project addresses the concern that many worshippers, particularly in the United Methodist Church, are unaware of the signs and symbols surrounding them in worship and how those signs and symbols can enhance worship. This thesis/project presents the idea that metaphor is the basic form of communication and teaching not only in worship, but in everyday life as well. Also discussed is the biblical usage of metaphor as a means of teaching and communicating, showing that ancient faith understood and utilized metaphor. A six-week study was offered to invite members of First United Methodist Church, Prague, Oklahoma to consider and discuss the signs and symbols found in their church and worship times. Visits to congregations of other denominations were included in the six weeks so as to give the participants the opportunity to see how other churches employed or did not employ sign and symbols in their worship. A participant handbook was developed, along with a multi-media presentation, to help facilitate better discussion and feedback.

Stephens, Lana S. (2009)

Promoting Change Through Children Leading Worship at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Florida

ABSTRACT: Throughout history, children have been involved in significant ways in the ministry of the church. If children receive proper training, they can and should take part in the leadership of worship. Through the design of a child-led worship service and an original music written for the delivery of the message, *Loyalty to Royalty: The Story of Ruth*, some of the members of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Jacksonville, Florida, were given the opportunity to change the way that they think about children leading worship.

Stewart, Amy Beth P. (2009)

Developing a Worship Planning Team to Enhance Participatory Worship at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

ABSTRACT: Corporate worship is an event that invites all who come to participate fully and intentionally. This thesis project addressed the level of congregational participation by the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, through the development of a worship planning team. The team was prepared for planning worship with a focus on congregation participation through a six week period of study. The team then gathered to plan five worship services. The five worship services were finally evaluated for their effectiveness in creating a participatory atmosphere for the congregation.

Wilde, Gregory D. (2009)

Implementing "In Step With the Master" for Advanced Christian Formation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mishawaka, Indiana

ABSTRACT: The mission statement of St. Paul's Episcopal Church implies contingency upon ongoing conversion of its members by living out of Christian baptismal spirituality. My task in this project was to develop a tool to foster spiritual self-awareness and to encourage concrete growth toward maturity in people who are already committed Christians. I will briefly explore the history and theology of Christian formation, as well

as anthropological and psychological insights into similar and related processes. I will document small-group implementation of a modified Twelve Step method tied to baptismal vows.

Yoder, Timothy I. (2009)

Enriching Chapel Worship by Offering Multiple Worship Venues at Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana

ABSTRACT: Weekly chapels are a distinctive of Indiana Wesleyan University and attendance is required for all students. This thesis project examined whether or not the addition of alternative worship venues, to the single venue already in place, would have a positive impact on the spiritual formation of the students who attended, while increasing their level of engagement in the worship. Two alternative worship venues were created and evaluated for their effectiveness by worship leaders, chapel coordinators, student chaplains and students-at-large.

2010

Abbott, Rebecca Nelson (2010)

Developing a Curriculum of Spiritual Formation for Children through the Hymns of Charles Wesley at First United Methodist Church, Georgetown, Kentucky

ABSTRACT: This project addresses the need for complexity, mystery, memorization, and connectedness to self and the ancient faith in children's worship, through developing and teaching a course on the hymns of Charles Wesley for children in the First United Methodist Church, Georgetown, Kentucky. Allowing children to grow into memorized texts rather than enforcing texts at "age-appropriate" levels helps children to connect stages of their existence in a consistent devotional life, while exposing children to mystery assists their spiritual formation in offering something deeper than their immediate surroundings and pains.

Allen, Sterling M. (2010)

Developing a Better Understanding of the *Ordo Salutis* through the Lyrical Theology of Charles Wesley at A&M United Methodist Church, College Station, Texas

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis was to develop a study course, at A&M UMC, that offered an understanding of the Order of Salvation through the lyrical theology of Charles Wesley in order to facilitate better participation in the process of sanctification, working toward Christian perfection. This was accomplished by a series of classes dealing with the *Ordo Salutis* as defined in the hymns of Charles Wesley. The study concluded with a Eucharistic hymn service utilizing the Wesley hymns studied during the series of classes.

Anderson, Warren J. (2010)

Broadening the Congregational Singing Experiences for Students at Judson University, Elgin, Illinois

ABSTRACT: American Christian college students sing a lot of contemporary worship music and, often, little else when they worship, but those same students are frequently described by sociologists as being open to new ideas and full of the wonder of experimentation. My project set out to determine whether there could exist any intersection of those two ideas once they were juxtaposed. Would today's students be open to unfamiliar congregational-singing genres? To provide an answer, in the spring of 2008, I introduced, through a series of theme-informed chapel services, five different congregational-singing styles to the students of Judson University, Elgin, Illinois.

Beyer, Nancy W. (2010)

Enhancing Assembly Singing at Messiah Community Church, ELCA, Denver, Colorado

ABSTRACT: My thesis project enhanced assembly singing at Messiah Community Church, ELCA by way of teaching sessions. Those sessions focused on the biblical, theological and historical foundations of assembly singing. Additional attention was given to Martin Luther's contributions to assembly singing and to the selection of worship hymns and songs. The sessions also explored the meaning of selected song texts. The use of standard assessment tools helped measure the effectiveness of teaching and the increased understanding of the participants. The project has led to a significant improvement in Messiah's assembly singing.

Brisco, Alan E. (2010)

Developing and Evaluating a Process for Change in the Context of Worship at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto

ABSTRACT: My project centered on developing and evaluating a change process model for use at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto, Ontario. I introduced two Ancient-Future Worship services which were unfamiliar to the church and significantly different from its traditions. I formed and instructed a Change Process Group to assist with structured conversations among church members and to facilitate pre-project and post-project surveys. As the two new worship services generated dynamics of change that had the potential to generate conflicts, I developed my change process model to facilitate the change in ways that nurtured the church community.

Bull, Connie L. (2010)

Implementing a Holistic Blessing of Children at First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: Some Protestants often reject any form of liturgical blessing as "Catholic." This project examined the biblical heritage of blessing—especially the blessing of children—within a local Baptist congregation. Blessing is defined within the scope of this project as Christ-centered, Trinitarian, both tactile and verbal, unrelated to another rite, and carried out by laity, not solely clergy. Biblical examples of blessing are explored in conversation with contemporary perspectives in child theology. Ten distinct meanings of blessing are discussed from focal passages in Genesis, Deuteronomy, the Gospels, and the Epistles. Participants evaluated the relationship of blessing to the concept of belonging.

Crabtree, Debra J. (2010)

Exploring a Biblical Theology of Worship to Enhance Participation at West Chester Church of the Nazarene, West Chester, Ohio

ABSTRACT: Of great importance and concern in churches today is the issue of passivity in worship among members of the congregation. Our culture has bent us toward a narcissistic, entertainment paradigm, and the effect on worship in our churches has been devastating. In an effort to address the issue of passivity in worship for my congregation, I developed a seminar based on The Great Commandment from Mark 12:29-34. This thesis and seminar curriculum asserts that worship is a response to God in Christ and that our response must be full and complete, engaging heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Dennis, Jerry Michael (2010)

Recovering Wesleyan Practices of the Lord's Supper through the Eucharistic Hymns of Charles Wesley at Christ Wesleyan Church, Milton, PA

ABSTRACT: This thesis project seeks to recover the richness of the Lord's Supper through the use of selected hymns from the Wesleys' collection, Hymns on the Lord's Supper. Specifically I sought to recapture the Trinitarian language, the sense of community, and the concept of anamnesis in our experience of partaking Holy Communion. From this project, I pray that our congregation will experience renewed joy, connection, and anticipation in their journey of faith.

English, Philip A. (2010)

Implementing a Worship Leader Training Manual for Four Fold Worship at Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church, Lion's Head, Ontario

ABSTRACT: What we do in Christian worship has a profound impact on the way we live. Worship in many evangelical churches has lost its formative potential to transform worshipers who, in turn, impact the world with the Good News. Implementing the Four Fold model as the defining structure for worship at Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church resulted in a renewed passion and commitment to her values of loving and serving God and reaching the world. This renewal was accomplished by training worship leaders to plan and lead Four Fold worship with an emphasis on congregational participation in the dialogue of revelation and response.

Garrett, Shannon L., Jr. (2010)

A Pilot Program to Evaluate Selected Ideas in a Worship Helps Book for Brentwood United Methodist Church, Brentwood, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: This thesis project consisted of the development and implementation of a worship study team at Brentwood United Methodist Church of Brentwood, Tennessee. The process took place throughout a five-week period. The study team was selected based on a desire to have a broad range of input from various generations and various Christian background and experience. The project attempted to discover the value of sensory liturgical language as a means of connecting worshipers to God thus resulting in renewal of worship.

Gilliam, Lilburn Michael (2010)

Restoring Hope through Lamentation Prayer at East Side Church of God, Anderson, Indiana

ABSTRACT: This project sought to implement a teaching experience with the worship ministry of East Side Church of God in the area of lamentation prayer. The ancients knew how to express their pain. The Israelites learned to voice complaints as a nation and individually through the language of lament in the Psalms. Through a series of instructional periods and application opportunities, this project attempted to connect study participants with the forgotten language of lament and its benefits. In an era often void of proven historical practices, this study endeavored to integrate a cathartic practice into the lives of Christian sojourners.

Hochhalter, Carol A. (2010)

Enhancing a Course on the Theology and History of Worship at Kuyper College, Grand Rapids, Michigan

ABSTRACT: This project altered a college course, "Theology and History of Worship," adding a significant focus on the understanding of Trinitarian worship at various times and places in the history of the Church. Students were surveyed before and after the course, measuring the impact of engaging with biblical and historical voices in research

on the roots of reformed worship values. The students' newfound understanding added depth and significance to their worship experience.

Lee, Kenton R. (2010)

Integrating Drama, Dance, and Art into the Worship of Life Center, Tacoma, Washington

ABSTRACT: This thesis addresses the integration of drama, visual art and dance into the weekend worship services of Life Center, Tacoma, WA. Biblical, theological, and historical research is presented along with social scientific and ministerial concerns. A practical project was implemented over the course of three weekends utilizing the skills of three separate teams - actors, dancers and visual artists - who integrated their particular creative art into one weekend of worship services apiece. Feedback was collected and analyzed from several groups, varying from leaders who planned the weekend services, to congregants not involved in the service planning who first experienced the worship service as it unfolded. Conclusions were then reached and recommendations for the future were made based upon the project implementation, feedback results and faith history of Life Center.

Magnuson, John M. (2010)

Recovering the Communal Character of the Lord's Table at North Boulevard Church of Christ, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to help the North Boulevard Church of Christ re-envision its practice of the Lord's Supper from its current self-reflective model to the communal model evidenced in the early church. The primary thesis was that the Churches of Christ have allowed an unintended distinction between the Old and New Testaments and a misinterpretation of our traditional hermeneutic to produce a practice of the Lord's Table inconsistent with the highly communal covenant meals described throughout Scripture. The goal was to help the congregation take steps toward a communal Table experience that proclaims the Good News.

Pylant, Stanley D. (2010)

Enhancing the Understanding of the Christian Year at First Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia

ABSTRACT: First Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia (FBCA), through the desire of our senior pastor, began to use the Christian year, including the Lectionary, in worship. FBCA is a Southern Baptist Church of the free church tradition with no heritage in and little knowledge of the Christian year. The timing was ideal for a project to provide teaching to enhance understanding of the Christian year to the members of FBCA. What is the Christian year and why use the Christian year in worship? These questions are explored in this thesis for the benefit of our community of faith, FBCA.

Roberts, Karen E. (2010)

Developing a Worship Arts Camp through the Neighborhood Ministries of First Presbyterian Church, Aurora, Illinois

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to develop and implement a Worship Arts Camp through the neighborhood ministries of First Presbyterian Church, Aurora, Illinois. The project was a collaborative effort between the Neighborhood Arts Center and the Neighborhood Kids Cub, two existing ministries of the church. Participants in the Worship Arts Camp had the opportunity to experience and respond to God's story through a variety of creative arts. The Worship Arts Camp provided an opportunity for children and youth to explore and develop skills in the arts and to experience the arts incorporated into worship.

Yu, Alan Chi Lun (2010)
Discipleship Training for "The Jubilant" Worship Team at Ambassadors for Christ in
Canada, Vancouver, British Columbia

2011

Allen, Bradford J. (2011)
Enriching Our Experience at the Table of the Lord in Holly Springs Baptist Church,
Inman, South Carolina

ABSTRACT: This thesis and supporting material documents the need for Southern Baptists to consider the rich experience that is found within the observance of the Lord's Supper. Instead of treating the observance as an appendage, three distinct Lord's Supper observances were developed to lead the worshipper into a more enriching Eucharistic service. By enhancing this element of our worship it is hoped that personal spiritual renewal and regeneration might occur within our congregations.

Armentrout, Stanley H. (2011)
Developing the Ministry of the Worship Choir at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport,
Louisiana

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis was to show growth in the worship leadership capability of an adult church choir through the use of a thesis project study aimed at encouraging spiritual growth and deepening foundational understanding of worship through song. Growth in these areas was based on three different means of testing. The thesis project was implemented over a six-week period and included six thirty-minute instructional sessions, six weeks of customized devotions, and practical tips for more effective worship leadership provided by a choir leadership team. The project concepts implemented for this project could be used elsewhere.

Austin, Calvin D. (2011)
Implementing Intergenerational Corporate Worship in Oak Park Baptist Church of
Gainesville, Florida

ABSTRACT: Longer lives and rapid technological advancements have intensified generational conflicts. In the USA, generations are coexisting that have significantly different communications preferences (print, broadcast, and digital), each of which impacts how life in community is viewed, expressed, and experienced. Generational conflicts have also affected the gathered worshipping community. Like huge tectonic plates, the collision of generations has erupted into "worship wars." Sadly, like tectonic divergence boundaries, some generations are missing in many congregations as well. This thesis advances the idea that intergenerational worship is prescribed in Scripture and, therefore, should be pursued and practiced. A series of four intergenerational worship services and teachings, utilizing a planning team and congregational evaluations, exposed our church to postmodern approaches to worship that included all three communications preferences and involved all generations in worship.

Castle, Suzanne M. (2011)
Discerning the Role of the Ministerial Artist for the Search Worship Gathering, Fort
Worth, Texas

ABSTRACT: In our midst it seems that many artists worshipping today seem to lack an awareness that art is a ministry. Using scriptures spanning the Old Testament, Apocrypha, Gospels and Revelation, the author details a community of faith's journey into art as incarnational ministry. Included is a peek into the worship life of artisans and an invitation for the reader to join a conversation of reclaiming arts as a representative

mechanism to define incarnation, and how progressive Christians can claim a call towards more inclusive art in worship space.

Charter, Vernon (2011)

Embracing a Diverse Hymnody for Community Chapel Services at Prairie Bible Institute, Three Hills, Alberta

ABSTRACT: Paul's teaching in Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19-22 provides a theological framework for understanding the place of hymns in corporate worship. The systematic use of hymns in the weekly community chapel services at Prairie Bible Institute, Three Hills, Alberta, provided an opportunity to test, in a worship setting, the conviction that historic hymns are a valuable resource for enriching and renewing corporate worship at PBI. Feedback from worship teams and members of the chapel congregation, confirmed this conviction, as worship leaders expanded their ability to evaluate and choose worship songs, and the congregation was enriched and edified in their worship.

Chau, Kai Ton (2011)

Developing a Pastoral Heart for Volunteer Worship Music Leaders at Scarborough Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

ABSTRACT: Jesus has exemplified the characteristics of a Good Shepherd—one who leads, ministers to, and cares for his flock. Likewise, worship leaders should develop a pastoral heart toward ministry and people, particularly those who serve alongside of the congregation. Supported by biblical, theological and historical research, seven sessions of teaching and discussion were designed to help volunteer worship music leaders to develop a pastoral mindset as servant-leaders, to serve the people, and to love the flock. The project concluded with a personal action plan that serves as a guide and reminder for the project participants.

Chu, I-Hsi Danny (2011)

A Worship Training Course for Home Group Leaders at the Atlanta Chinese Christian Church North, Johns Creek, Georgia

ABSTRACT: Worship is the primary reason we come together as the body of Christ each week. ACCCN was built on the foundation of home groups. Home group leaders play an important role in influencing our congregation's worship experience. Therefore, training home group leaders should be the highest priority. My thesis project has resulted in a training course of six sessions for home group leaders of ACCCN, to give them a fuller understanding of Christian worship, to prepare them to lead worship more effectively in home group settings, and to equip them to help the congregation develop an appropriate approach toward corporate worship.

Collins, David D. (2011)

Expanding the Understanding of Worship Leadership at North Central University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ABSTRACT: Worship and worship leadership at North Central University are understood within the context of music and sermon-driven worship. When students, staff, administration and faculty say "worship," what they mean is the praise and worship music that is presented in the chapel services each day classes are in session. This thesis and the accompanying teaching implementation are an attempt to increase the understanding of worship and worship leadership for the student body, the faculty and administration, and, most importantly, those students preparing to be worship leaders in churches and other ministry opportunities.

Cook, David Christopher (2011)

Developing a Plan for Spiritual Renewal Using the Arts at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, San Diego, California

ABSTRACT: This action research study developed an art-focused theological statement collaborating with the Senior Pastor at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, San Diego, California. The statement guided the content of four classes. Data was collected from a group of parish arts leaders. The weekly classes were coordinated with daily art-based devotional activities. Individuals' responses were recorded in Reflective Journals. The theological statement was assessed for its effectiveness as an agent of spiritual transformation. Anecdotal evidence was triangulated with Likert scale self-assessments. The results of the classes were critically evaluated with recommendations for future research in developing the church's sacred arts program.

Cooper, Alan D. (2011)

Designing an Ancient-Future Worship Model for the Church of Christ, Midlothian, Texas

ABSTRACT: The thesis examines a pilot project to develop an alternative, contemporary worship service for a Stone-Campbell Church of Christ in North Texas. Instead of employing a modern evangelical praise model to reverse a numerical decline in the church's membership, the foundation of this new service uniquely melds the Ancient-Future fourfold worship pattern of the early church—Gathering, Word, Table and Sending—with the Restoration Movement's "Five Acts of Worship"—Singing, Prayer, Preaching, Communion and Giving.

Cromwell, Michael R. (2011)

Employing the Creative Use of Psalms at Hillside United Methodist Church, Woodstock, Georgia

ABSTRACT: My primary concern of the current worship services at Hillside UMC is the absence of God's voice through Scripture. In an effort to rectify this problem, I have devised a four-part solution to increase the amount of Scripture used in our worship services through the utilization of the book of Psalms while maintaining the ancient tradition of the use of Psalms in corporate worship. I employed the use of Psalms through an eight-week creative presentation of the Psalms, a three-week sermon series, a daily devotional to accompany the three-week sermon series, and a four-week, pastor-led Bible study on the book of Psalms.

Davison, Donald Mark (2011)

A Course on Words Associated with Holy Communion for the Worship Leadership of St. John's Anglican Church of Uganda, Kamwokya

ABSTRACT: This thesis describes the research, implementation and evaluation of a course on the words, terms and concepts associated with Holy Communion. The course was offered in the month of July 2009 to the worship leadership of St. John's Anglican Church of Uganda in Kampala. The goal of the course was to increase the knowledge of the worship leadership of St. John's with respect to Holy Communion, to deepen their worship experience and to equip them in their own worship leadership responsibilities.

Durbin, Karen J. (2011)

Developing a Ministry-Specific Course on Biblical Worship for the Brethren in Christ Denomination

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to develop, teach, and evaluate the first course in corporate worship for the Brethren in Christ denomination. The class was based on biblical patterns and characteristics of divine-human encounter and Brethren in

Christ core values. Through evaluation tools, participants demonstrated the successful assimilation of newly learned biblical concepts. Now situated within the educational arm of the Brethren in Christ, this class will continue to equip ministry leaders in planning corporate worship based on God's intention for encounter, Spirit-led transformation for the purposes of God's mission: restored relationship in Jesus Christ.

Gardner, Teresa J. (2011)

Establishing an Online Course on the Biblical and Theological Foundations of Dance Ministry through Zion Center for Worship and the Arts

ABSTRACT: The purpose of my thesis project was to develop an online educational tool to equip dance ministers, and others interested in the use of dance in Christian worship, with the biblical and theological foundations of dance ministry. A six-session course was developed and implemented through the website of Zion Center for Worship and the Arts (ZCWA). ZCWA is an ecumenical, non-profit, ministry organization established for teaching biblical worship and training Christian artists. The effectiveness of the course was evaluated according to 1) the course's content, presentation and online process, and 2) benefit to the participant's ministry application and personal growth.

Gingrich, Shawn M. (2011)

Encouraging Family Worship to Prepare for Corporate Worship at First United Methodist Church, Hershey, Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT: The project intended to encourage family worship at home and renew multigenerational worship gatherings in the church through preparation with Scripture, song, and prayer. A secondary intention was to help parents discover their important biblical role of teaching and leading their children in spiritual matters. The primary goal of the project was to resource parents with home worship materials which would enable the families to have more meaningful corporate worship experiences and in turn encourage an ongoing practice of family worship for the participants.

Lee, John B. (2011)

Rediscovering the Musical use of the Psalms in the Context of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to rediscover the musical use of psalm singing within the context of worship experiences at Travis Avenue Baptist Church. A renewed emphasis was placed upon psalm singing with the intent to enhance the understanding of the journey common to all believers as portrayed in the psalms. Original compositions combining selected psalm texts and familiar hymns were central to the effort to aid each worshipper in identifying with the journey of David's life from transgression to transformation to spiritual triumph.

Partlow, Claire (2011)

A Pilot Project on Worship Contextualization in Diverse Urban Churches of the New Jersey District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

ABSTRACT: Reaching diverse urban populations with the Gospel will entail worship contextualization decisions. Contextualization does not require dilution of our core doctrines but instead ensures that the one, true faith will become "rooted" in the target culture. This project designed and tested a pilot lay/clergy training workshop with five goals: (1) encourage historic freedom in worship planning; (2) train laity in the fundamentals of Lutheran worship; (3) train laity and pastors to plan culturally-vibrant worship gatherings; (4) foster participants' awareness of the paradigmatic nature of

both social and sacramental rites; and (5) offer tools for making difficult contextualization choices.

Porter, David W. (2011)

Developing Worship Seminars for the Inter-Church Community in the Pays De Gex, France

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to develop and implement a short course for Church leaders in the Pays de Gex area of France. It addresses the biblical, historical and theological foundations for worship. The course also seeks to explore the issue of core values and the function of worship segments in a Free Church context, with special emphasis on a creative use of Scripture and of the liturgical calendar.

Rider, Euley C. (2011)

Enhancing the Use of Psalms by the Worship Leadership Team at Moffett Road Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama

ABSTRACT: The purpose for this thesis was to increase the level of understanding and appreciation the Worship Leadership Team of Moffett Road Baptist Church had for the use of Psalms in corporate worship and for the team to embrace using the Psalms in their worship planning sessions. The thesis project was implemented over a seven-week period and included seven teaching/worship planning sessions, and six weeks of private devotional material. The worship planning sessions resulted in a series of five worship services which creatively used Psalms to enhance the corporate worship experience.

Tsang, Herbert H. (2011)

Developing Worship Seminars for Lay Worship Leaders at Church Music Ministry of Canada

ABSTRACT: The majority of Chinese churches in North America rely on volunteer lay leaders to be in charge of worship planning. The design of corporate worship services and the selection of different worship materials fall on the shoulders of these lay leaders. Systematic training in the areas of biblical, theological, and historical foundations of Christian worship is much needed for such lay leaders. Recognizing the lack of training and materials, and in cooperation with the Church Music Ministry of Canada, I developed and implemented a seminar with materials for both foundational knowledge and practical training in worship studies.

Wright, Jay D. (2011)

Renewing Corporate Intercessory Prayer at New Grace Church, Fleming Island, Florida

ABSTRACT: Corporate intercessory prayer is an important part of weekly worship at New Grace Church bearing liturgical, theological, historical, and missiological weight. Yet, oftentimes this act of worship is engaged with little thought to development of capable leaders or heartfelt participation on the part of the people. A theological review of six representative biblical texts on corporate intercessory prayer reveals an integral connection between prayer and the mission of God. This research forms the foundation for the ministry interventions conducted at New Grace in order to bring about more intentional participation in corporate intercessory prayer.

2012

Arant, Wilma A. (2012)

Discipling an Ecumenical Study Group in the Christian Year on the Campus of First Baptist Church in West Monroe, Louisiana

ABSTRACT: My doctoral thesis project seeks to enlighten those who preach, teach, and seek personal knowledge of the Christian Year regardless of denominational affiliation. This task is successfully accomplished through the authoring of a market-worthy Christian Year worktext and then presenting selected activities to an ecumenical study group at a one-day event on the campus of the First Baptist Church of West Monroe, Louisiana. Five hours of lecture and hands-on instruction are coordinated to lead the focal group toward a Christo-centric spirituality through exploration of the Christian Year.

Brooks, Steven D. (2012)

Implementing a Resource Guide For The Christian Year At Cypress Church, Cypress, California

ABSTRACT: This thesis centers on a lack of understanding by an Evangelical Free Church of America congregation concerning the observance of the Christian Year and the positive impact such an observance can have on a worshiping community. An overview of major components of the Christian Year was presented in lecture and educational meeting formats. The utilization of a resource guide developed by the author assisted in providing worship opportunities throughout Holy Week, thus enhancing the corporate worship experiences of the congregation and encouraging spiritual formation to occur in the lives of the worshippers.

Faulkner, Clayton S. (2012)

Discerning the Meaning of Church Membership at Theophilus Church, Houston, Texas

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis was to develop a better understanding of the meaning of church membership at Theophilus Church, a non-denominational church started in the summer of 2010. A series of five discussion sessions were held to explore the biblical, historical, and theological meaning of membership in the church. Included in the discussions was a case study of how three other churches of similar approach philosophically and practically do church membership. The discussion sessions resulted in a "Statement on Belonging to Our Community" that will guide the development of a future catechesis for new members.

Garmon, Martha L. (2012)

The Artistic Presentation of Scripture in Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fremont, Nebraska

ABSTRACT: This action research project sought to implement artistic expression of Scripture presentation at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fremont, Nebraska. An ensemble was formed to memorize and artistically present Scriptures in worship for a six week period. This ensemble began by studying the Scriptures to be presented and committing them to memory. Subsequently they used artistic methods to present the Scriptures in worship. The purpose of the artistic presentations was to help the congregation feel God's presence, hear and see Christ in the word, and be led by the Spirit to apply the lessons and revelations to their daily lives.

Ginsburg, Nancy T. (2012)

Enhancing Awareness of the Signs and Symbols in Worship at Ashford United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas

ABSTRACT: In worship, signs and symbols of our faith often share God's story in a very meaningful way. The signs and symbols project at Ashford United Methodist Church utilizes and evaluates various methods of information dissemination including e-news, worship guide text, worship guide insert, informational booklet, sanctuary visit, worship

service, hands-on workshop, and seminar. Both basic awareness and depth of understanding of the signs and symbols in use within the worship space are considered. Questionnaire responses provide insight into the roles Christian upbringing, family, various aptitudes, and personal interest play in one's association with the signs and symbols of our faith.

Grant, Jonathan M. (2012)

Discipling Christians at New Life Community Church, Grimsby Ontario in Living Out the Fullness of Baptism

ABSTRACT: This thesis gave New Life Community Church the opportunity to explore the connection between our baptism and living out the Christian life. Through Sunday services, small group and personal study curriculum, baptism is presented as more than simply an act of obedience but rather a life-changing encounter with God's grace through cleansing waters, the filling presence of the Holy Spirit and the full inclusion into the community of God. The result of this wonderful encounter is a life of purpose, commissioned and equipped by God to live out our new identity as a Christ follower.

Harding, Ouida W. (2012)

A Pilot Project in Developing Standards for Key Music Leadership Positions in the Black Baptist Churches of New York City

ABSTRACT: Among United Missionary Baptist Association (UMBA) churches in Metropolitan New York, there appears to be a liturgical impasse among clergy— an inability to distinguish among music leadership types, resulting in one size fits all musical support. Clergy no longer consider a musician's personal encounter with God in and through Jesus Christ as fundamental to music ministry. Many churches have moved from reverent, empowering worship to worship that simply panders to the emotions. The purpose of this pilot study was to develop standards to assist pastors and others with discerning the qualities, gifts, and character of musicians in the church.

Henry, David L. (2012)

Exploring God's Compassion with Cell Leaders at New Community Christian Church, Salina, Kansas

ABSTRACT: For many Christians, judgment passages overshadow the compassion and mercy of God in the Old Testament, and ultimately, passages that reveal the compassion of God are diminished in our theological formation. The resulting dilemma of this misinterpretation of the Old Testament is disengagement from these Scriptures. This thesis explores Old Testament passages which demonstrated the compassionate nature of God to the Israelite people. The intended outcome is that familiarity with this aspect of God's nature encourages the methodical reading of Old Testament passages, allowing them to contribute more significantly to the church's theology concerning God.

Lo, Yilee C. (2012)

Enhancing Participation in Congregational Singing at the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston in Lexington, Massachusetts

ABSTRACT: My thesis project addressed the problem of non-participatory congregational singing in Sunday worship services at the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston. The number one reason why people did not sing in worship was the lack of familiarity with the congregational songs sung due to the pronounced demographic shift of the church membership and the song selection overload. Thirteen one-hour Sunday School classes were designed to teach the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of assembly

singing, and the actual singing of the songs. The culminating Christmas Eve service demonstrated the effectiveness of the thesis project.

Magruder, Gregory C. (2012)

Celebrating Fifty Days of Jubilee at Parkview Baptist Church in Gainesville, Florida

ABSTRACT: Many churches in North America are stagnant or in decline. They need a process to revitalize their spirit and ministry. "Breakout" churches go through a "chrysalis" process that propels them from decline to growth. My thesis shares plans that were developed to bring about revitalization of Parkview Baptist Church in Gainesville, Florida. The congregation engaged in corporate and private worship and the study of the grand themes of Jubilee and the Great Fifty Days of Easter to generate a process of renewal. The church was challenged to embrace new vision, ministries, and staff as a result of the "chrysalis" process.

McCaffrey, Genilyn M. (2012)

Enhancing Biblical and Theological Foundations in an Upper Level Worship Course for Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, Kansas

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to help students at Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, Kansas, successfully articulate biblical theologies of worship. After conducting biblical, theological, historical, and sociological research, I prepared and taught a series of lessons to MCC's Principles of Christian Worship (WOR422) class. The lessons included a step-by-step methodology to help students prepare their own biblical theologies of worship. Methods of evaluation included peer review, pre- and post-tests, a rubric designed to measure students' projects, and a survey and interview of class participants.

McNair, Janice L. (2012)

A Study of Death and the Practice of the *Ars Moriendi* at First-Centenary United Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: Death is a reality in everyday life, but are we prepared to face it? In the 15th century, the church was successful in talking about death, and accompanying people through the process of dying. Does the 21st century church do as well? This thesis explores the medieval *Ars Moriendi*, the Art of Dying, developed to help persons resolve the spiritual crises faced as they approached death. These ancient books also served as resources for developing the Christian virtues of a good life. This thesis study culminated in a contemporary *Ars Moriendi*, book and audio CD for use by First-Centenary United Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Melson, Joshua P. (2012)

Understanding the Psalms as an Expression of Human Emotion at the Presbyterian Church of Toms River, New Jersey

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis was to examine the wide range of emotions contained in the psalms, develop a deeper understanding of the psalms among the members of the Presbyterian Church of Toms River, and teach members to use the psalms to express their own emotions to God in public worship and private devotion. The purpose was accomplished by a series of five classes that studied the emotions in the psalms and by a focused effort to increase the use of sung psalmody in the church's worship.

Nail, Woodrow W., Jr. (2012)

Developing a Lord's Supper Ministry to the Homebound at First Baptist Church, Plant City, Florida

ABSTRACT: The thesis/project addresses the need to provide communion for the homebound of the First Baptist Church. The homebound often feel disconnected, neglected, and forgotten because they are unable to attend the regular celebration of the Lord's Supper services with their church community due to chronic illness or aging issues. The project involved training the deacons as the providers who administer communion to the homebound, establishing a database of the homebound members of the church, and developing a manual that facilitated the training of deacons in administering the Lord's Supper to the homebound of First Baptist Church of Plant City, Florida.

Paulson, Gerald D. (2012)

Developing a Curriculum to Enhance the Spiritual Formation of the Students at Vanguard College, Edmonton, Alberta

ABSTRACT: Believers in Jesus Christ have an innate desire to be like the one they serve. There is a struggle, however, to find adequate teaching on the subject of Christ-likeness and being spiritually formed to him. Just as we are seeing a rise in spirituality in this generation, we are also seeing a corresponding decline in the teaching of foundational doctrines, biblical disciplines and creeds of the church. This thesis and the supporting curriculum seek to develop a foundational support for the teaching of spiritual formation for the students at Vanguard College in Edmonton, Alberta Canada.

Richardson, Ronald P. (2012)

Rediscovering God's Initiative in the Sacrament of Communion through Art at Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community, Sacramento, California

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to rediscover God's purpose in sacramental actions, specifically communion at Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community. Artistic representations of theophanic experiences in the life of Abraham were looked at with the intent to enhance the understanding that sacramental actions are God-initiated, that we can understand God's covenants and the new covenant given through Christ by elements other than the spoken word, and that by rediscovering the power of sign and symbol we engage the worshiper in the drama that is God's story.

Shelley, Jeanine L. (2012)

Introducing a Process of Spiritual Growth through the Choir Rehearsal at Saint Andrew United Methodist Church in Saint Andrew, Florida

Soice, Nathan L. (2012)

Developing a Seminar on the Worship Leader for Independent Christian Churches in Central Illinois

ABSTRACT: This thesis was conceived as a resource for worship leaders serving Independent Christian Churches. The purpose of this project was to develop a seminar for worship leaders to understand better the biblical, historical, and theological aspects of worship leadership. The project's development culminated in the teaching of a seminar that involved nine area worship leaders representing seven local churches. An additional goal of the project was to establish a supportive network and an ongoing dialog between area worship ministers. The intent was to offer a solution through the implementation of this project and the sharing of worship ministry resources.

Tyler, Thomas D. (2012)

Developing a Conference on the Role of the Pastoral Musician in the African American Church within the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area

Vermilya, Emily A. (2012)

Training and Equipping Mentors of Worship Students at Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana

ABSTRACT: The impact of intentional mentoring is exemplified throughout the biblical narrative and church history as new generations of church leaders have been called to assume responsibility for the furthering of the Gospel and the ministries of the church. This action research thesis studied the effects of the training of mentors for undergraduate worship students at Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana. Grounded in the examination of key biblical figures, the historical legacy of John Wesley, and research in the role mentoring plays for postmodern people today, original training materials and workshop curriculum were developed and used for the purpose of equipping local church leaders to serve as worship ministry mentors. The effect of this intentional training was measured for both the mentor and mentee's experience in supervised ministry.

2013

Albrecht, Tamara M. (2013)

Developing Conflict Resolution Skills For Church Musicians in Greater Atlanta, Georgia

ABSTRACT: This thesis develops a course of study to equip church musicians in Greater Atlanta, Georgia, with conflict resolution skills. Conflict between clergy and church musicians has occurred since the early church. While degreed church musicians are academically and artistically trained to serve as worship leaders, too often they do not command the same respect, status, authority or support as ordained ministers. Lack of conflict resolution training leaves church musicians vulnerable when conflict and abusive situations occur. The thesis project presents biblical, historical, contemplative, and social-scientific models for training church musicians to effectively respond before, during, and after conflict situations.

Anderson, Lindel M. (2013)

Developing a "Foundations of Christian Worship" Course at Indiana Bible College

ABSTRACT: The thesis and project develop a foundational course of study that explores the subject of Christian worship for Indiana Bible College in Indianapolis, Indiana. The research revealed a great need and a tremendous interest at Indiana Bible College for a college course presenting the biblical, historical, and theological aspects of worship. The desired outcome was to develop a course of study that will enhance the understanding of Christian worship, equip the students to make coherent choices when planning worship, and to value the fundamental principles of worship study and practice.

Brown, Lonnie A. (2013)

Developing and Implementing a Unified Covenant Ecclesiology for the Membership of the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg, Maryland

ABSTRACT: This project sought to develop, implement and evaluate a course addressing the biblical, historical, theological and contextual dimensions of the biblical covenant idea at the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg (FBCG), Maryland. The course was implemented within the FBCG Vision Community, a group charged to discern God's will for our future. It sought to 1) improve participants' understanding and practice of the biblical covenant concept, 2) establish covenant as the unifying factor between God and God's people, 3) establish covenant as the unifying factor for the church as a people, and 4) contextualize baptismal practice in relation to biblical covenant.

Burns, Robert K. (2013)

Reclaiming the Telling of the Biblical Story Through Scripture Presentation at Crestwood Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA

ABSTRACT: In a world where public Scripture reading is at times performed in a flat, inexpressive manner, the purpose of this project was to train congregation members to present Scripture with expression and creativity appropriate to the particular biblical text, and then to execute such presentations in Sunday worship. The project explores the biblical, theological and historical foundations for public Scripture reading as well as the dynamics that impact the effective oral presentation of the Scriptures. Six sessions of classroom instruction and eight Sundays of Scripture presentations in worship constituted the project.

Carter, Michael L. (2013)

Enhancing an Understanding of the Christian Year as a Way of Telling God's Story in Worship at First Baptist Church of Vero Beach, Florida

ABSTRACT: The Christian Year tells God's Story of redemption through Jesus Christ. For nearly one hundred years, First Baptist Church of Vero Beach, Florida, has told unconnected parts of the Story in its worship services. Believing that First Baptist Church is ready for, and will benefit from telling the whole gospel Story through an enhanced understanding and a greater utilization of the Christian Year, this action research thesis, employing a five-session retreat and a Musical Service, studied the Christian Calendar and its rhythm in proclaiming God's Story.

Chism, David, M. (2013)

Developing a Christocentric Worship Revival for the Congregation of Friendship Baptist Church of Columbus, Mississippi

ABSTRACT: This work catalogues a ministry project held at Friendship Baptist Church, a small Southern Baptist congregation in Columbus, Mississippi. Friendship's model for worship was archetypical of what liturgical historian Lester Ruth has called the "personal story," meaning that their worship content was principally individualistic and anthropocentric. This thesis explores the biblical, historical, and theological foundations necessary to plan, implement, and assess a Christocentric model of worship based on the cosmic story of the eternal Christ. Special attention is given to the concepts of baptism, incarnation, atonement, and Communion as they relate to worship in an evangelical, low church setting.

Congdon, Judy A. (2013)

Exploring the Role of the Organ in Christian Worship Through a Course at Houghton College, Houghton, NY

ABSTRACT: At a moment in history when the pipe organ is judged by some as irrelevant for the music of Christian worship, the purpose of this project was to educate organ students in the story of the organ music's development, a history deeply intertwined with the practice of Christian liturgy. The project explores the fourfold service of Word and Table and the Christian Year as these relate to a wealth of organ music in Western Europe from the tenth century to the present. Nine weeks of classroom instruction, along with assignments suited to the main topics, constituted the project.

Edgerton, Paul C. (2013)

Encouraging Fuller Participation in Congregational Singing at the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Wilson, North Carolina

ABSTRACT: Saint Paul's teaching in Ephesians 5:15-20 and Colossians 3:15-17 links the potential for believers to be full of the Word and Spirit to the practice of singing "psalms,

hymns, and spiritual songs” together. Exploring the way in which a range of song types function within the larger corporate contemplative event of Sunday worship provided an opportunity for the congregation of The Church of the Redeemer in Wilson, North Carolina to participate more robustly in congregational singing. The parishioners who engaged in the study reported more meaningful participation in the various types of song examined at the conclusion of this project.

Fortunato, Frank E. (2013)

Equipping Pastors for Effective Presentation of Scripture in Worship in Good Shepherd Community Churches of India

ABSTRACT: The pastors and worship leaders of The Good Shepherd Community Churches, a rapidly growing denomination spread across India and associated with Operation Mobilization India, regularly invite teachers and mentors to help their leaders grow in their pastoral responsibilities. In recent days, the GSCC leaders realized the need to have an increased focus on worship leadership. This project explored how pastors of the GSCC could creatively use the Scriptures in congregational worship, through calls to worship, pastoral prayers, and sharing of biblical stories. The foundation for this project comes from three biblical passages where the Scriptures were presented in public gatherings.

Giang-Lin, Khiet K. (2013)

Developing an Outreach and Evangelism Program for Mentoring People to the Christian Faith at the Newmarket Chinese Alliance Church

ABSTRACT: In the search for an outreach/evangelism program that would lead unbelievers to become believers and worshipers, I found that many programs are missing the overarching redemptive story of God. This thesis aims to recover God’s Story, a biblical meta-narrative for mentoring people into the Christian faith. In six to eight sessions of storytelling, the major biblical accounts were told in chronological order from Genesis to Revelation. Participants learned the basic Christian beliefs, and how to relate to God, themselves and others from the perspective of God’s amazing stories.

Gregson, Timothy H., II (2013)

Developing a Course on a Holistic Understanding of the Lord’s Table for the First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, Illinois

ABSTRACT: The issue I addressed at First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, Illinois, was essentially one of unity in and among the parishioners. One of the fundamental problems was in their deficient understanding of what Communion is and what it does for the body of Christ. The deficiency was manifested particularly in the different ways they practiced Communion in the two worship services held on Sunday mornings. As a remedy, I created and taught a six-part course exploring the many facets of the eucharistic jewel, applying each to the specific concern of unity in the church of Jesus Christ.

Hammer, Daniel S. (2013)

Rediscovering the Relationship Between Worship and Service at John Knox Presbyterian Church, Normandy Park, WA

ABSTRACT: This action research thesis studied the effects of training worshipers at John Knox Presbyterian Church, Normandy Park, WA, regarding the relationship between public worship and outward service. Grounded in biblical, theological, historical, cultural and missiological reflection, this thesis offered participants the opportunity to encounter God’s heart for service through worship and guided devotion, to envision more fully the

relationship between worship and service through the receiving of teaching on the subject, and to put their devotion and learning into practice by actually offering service to others outside the church walls as an act of worship.

Janisch, Julie A. (2013)

Educating Worship Leaders to a Discipleship Culture at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, St. Albans, West Virginia

ABSTRACT: The purpose of my thesis was to educate worship leaders (ushers, choir, etc.) about the difference between membership and discipleship cultures. Lessons on discipleship, the Wesleyan quadrilateral, spirituality, and leadership were led by peers in small group settings. The main focus was to encourage worship leaders to embrace an "I want to serve" attitude (discipleship culture) as opposed to an "I want to be served" mentality (membership culture). An expected outcome of my project was to start a conversation about the biblical model of discipleship which could then continue throughout the congregation.

Moore, Ray Harlan (2013)

Expanding Congregational Worship Education Through Online Resources at Bethany First Church of the Nazarene, Bethany, Oklahoma

ABSTRACT: To be fully engaged in a worship service, believers need a basic level of understanding as to the nature and purposes of worship. Worship is most effective in a context of both faith and knowledge. In an increasingly secular world, such background is often lacking especially among new attenders. The challenge is to provide such understanding through a meaningful medium of delivery to reach as many as possible. This thesis and project seek to provide worship education through online means at Bethany First Church of the Nazarene in Bethany, Oklahoma.

Ng, Simon C. Y. (2013)

Training Church Leaders to Evaluate the Theological Content of Contemporary Music at the Joy Family Church, Shenzhen, People's Republic of China

ABSTRACT: Many Chinese churches have in recent years sought to renew their worship by adopting the use of contemporary Chinese praise and worship songs. The responsibility, however, falls on the worship leaders to be able to select songs that are appropriate for worship. I accordingly designed and implemented a practical workshop that trained worship leaders in the areas of biblical, theological and historical foundations of Christian worship. The task was accomplished with worship leaders acquiring the skill to select songs that are appropriate for the four-fold patterns of worship, as well as the biblical texts set for each service.

Perigo, Jeremy A. (2013)

Leading a Workshop on Contextual Songwriting for Worship Musicians at Burn 24-7 Middle East

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to develop and implement a workshop on contextual song writing for worship musicians at Burn 24-7 Middle East. The project addresses the biblical, theological, and historical issues surrounding the contextualization of congregational song placing particular focus on the current musical styles of the Middle Eastern context. The workshop endeavors to train Middle Eastern worship musicians in the creation of original congregational songs that emerge from their own diverse musical context and are rooted in biblical, Spirit-inspired content.

Powers, Jonathan A. (2013)

Deepening Baptismal Spirituality in the Offerings Community of First United Methodist Church Lexington, Kentucky

ABSTRACT: Baptism is the ancient rite of initiation into the body of Christ, marking complete re-orientation of life, identity, belief, behavior, and belonging in Christians. Catechism has been a common historical method of disciple-making as it seeks to instill principles of baptismal spirituality in catechumens. When baptism is understood as little more than a symbol of personal commitment in the church, the focus of complete re-orientation in baptismal spirituality is lost. My thesis advances the idea that catechism is still a valid method for renewing baptismal spirituality in the church today. I explore biblical, historical, and theological foundations necessary to plan, implement, and assess a holistic baptismal catechesis forming Christians in Christ-likeness, freeing them to worship the Triune God in Spirit and in truth.

Robins, Linda L. (2013)

Employing a Four-fold Pattern of Worship in the Worship Curriculum at Southwestern Assemblies of God University (Waxahachie, TX)

ABSTRACT: Southwestern Assemblies of God University is a Bible-based institution for theological and professional studies. The purpose of Southwestern Assemblies of God University is to prepare students spiritually, academically, professionally, and cross-culturally to fill evangelistic, missional and ministerial roles worldwide. This thesis and supporting curriculum proposes a cognitive approach to the elements of a four-fold pattern of worship and how to incorporate this pattern into the corporate worship service. A nine-lesson series establishes the biblical basis for a four-fold pattern, describes the Assemblies of God's historical pattern of worship, and provides opportunity for the students to develop a four-fold worship service.

Sammond, Christopher A. (2013)

Developing the Ministerial Role of the Worship Choir at North Fairfield Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ohio

ABSTRACT: The Worship Choir of North Fairfield Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ohio had a tendency to view itself as a performing choir, such as that of a community or school choir, and not a worshiping one. As a result, the congregation had taken on a role of spectators. By developing rehearsals that emphasized spiritual formation and sharing with the choir specific scriptures relating to worship, I was able to help the choir understand and embrace their role in the weekly worship service as lead worshipers. The result was that the church became more transformed in Christ and, as a result, its worship services became more true, deeper and alive.

Shepherd, Christopher Scott (2013)

Establishing Family Worship at First Baptist Church of Paris, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: Statistics reveal a lack of familial spiritual formation in Christian homes. Family worship is an ideal solution to this problem. In my project, I aimed to inspire and equip families at First Baptist Church of Paris, Tennessee, to adopt family worship practices. After establishing a biblical, theological, and historical basis for the practice, I implemented my project in two phases. First, I created a website (www.familyworshipproject.com), which featured articles, videos, worship guides, and other family worship resources. Second, I taught a class about family worship practices. Familial spiritual formation increased in my context as a result of the project.

Snaterse, Rodney J. (2013)

Renewing Corporate Intercessory Prayer at Bethel Community Church, Edmonton, Alberta

ABSTRACT: Corporate intercessory prayer (i.e. The Prayers of the People) is a highly valued aspect of weekly worship at Bethel Community Church. Yet, our understanding of this act of worship is often limited, resulting in a weakened desire and ability to engage in it passionately and effectively as a corporate worshiping body. Building on the foundation of five representative biblical texts that reveal the integral connection between prayer and the mission of God, this ministry project involved churchwide instruction and leadership development for the purpose of facilitating full and faithful participation in the Prayers of the People.

Thomson, Douglas A. (2013)

Developing a New Testament Worship Component in the Theology and Practice of Worship Course for Heritage Baptist College, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

ABSTRACT: This project was designed to contribute a New Testament module to the "Theology and Practice of Worship" course at Heritage Baptist College, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. The project identifies five distinctively New Testament concepts of worship, excluding baptism and communion, while recognizing some level of continuity with Old Testament worship. Theological study, the presentation of five lectures, and several evaluation tools were involved in fulfilling the objectives of the project.

Tice, Steven M. (2013)

Utilizing Memorization to Enhance the Proclamation of Scripture in Corporate Worship at Bellerose Baptist Church, Queens, NY

ABSTRACT: This project endeavored to develop, first among a small group team and ultimately in the congregation, an appreciation of the capacity for memorization to take us into a deeper understanding of Scripture, thereby increasing our learning and transformation. The Scripture Presentation Team at Bellerose Baptist Church, in Queens, NY memorized scriptural texts verbatim and also utilized the storying of Scripture to explore memorization in an oral context. This process was intended to encourage our people to more naturally experience and share the gospel not only among the gathered congregation but also with their friends outside the church.

Tropeano, Kellie S. (2013)

Engaging Children in Intergenerational Corporate Worship at First Baptist Church of Reading in Reading, Massachusetts

ABSTRACT: Intergenerational worship is a theme that is seen throughout the Bible and throughout history. Children attend corporate worship services at First Baptist Church of Reading from a very early age; yet over time, they became increasingly excluded from the worship activities, resulting in a large part of the body of Christ missing. This project involved churchwide instruction on the importance of intergenerational worship and a series of family-friendly worship services that attempted to teach the children how to worship appropriately. Both children and adults participated in the project and were encouraged to worship with all their heart, soul, and mind.

Weatherby, Elizabeth, M. (2013)

Implementation of Ancient-Future Worship in Chapel at Kingswood University, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada

ABSTRACT: The implementation of Ancient-Future worship is the avenue through which our chapel planning team has been able to undergird already stated values of convergence and historical connection with theological intentionality. Through seminar

instruction and weekly debriefing, our student worship leaders have moved to a new breadth and depth in worship planning that is grounded in the biblical past-future orientation of God's story. Although Scripture usage has become a pre-dominant element, the shift to a more dialogic structure has allowed for the incorporation of a variety of elements, allowing greater involvement of non-musicians as significant partners in worship leading.

2014

Akin, Darrin G. (2014)

Enhancing the Observance of the Lord's Supper through Formational Education at First Christian Church, Yuma, Arizona

ABSTRACT: One of the distinguishing marks of Independent Christian Churches is our weekly observance of the Lord's Supper. Our congregations, however, tend to approach the meal as a somber time of personal confession rather than a joyous, corporate event. The purpose of this thesis was to explore the biblical and historical foundations of this sacred meal and to develop a four-session seminar to educate a small group within the church on the Lord's Supper. Four facets of the meal were introduced to the seminar participants: remembrance, thanksgiving, communion, and the eschatological significance of the meal.

Blough, Janie N. (2014)

A Pilot Program for Building up Community Through Congregational Song at the Châtenay Mennonite Church in France

ABSTRACT: Congregational singing is a powerful agent for worship and transforming Christian communities. Choosing songs that glorify God, transmit central biblical motifs, and edify the congregation requires worship leaders to draw upon both theological knowledge and practical skills. This dissertation describes the development of a program for leaders of the Châtenay Mennonite church to enhance their understanding of the nature of the church in an Anabaptist perspective. The church is presented as the called, covenantal people of God, an ecclesiology that becomes a hermeneutical guide for song selections that reflect congregational diversity in line with Anabaptist core convictions. This project was tested in the Châtenay congregation in view of wider implementation in other French churches.

Brown, Marcus W. (2014)

Enhancing the Understanding of Worship Through a Course on Revelation and Response for Grace Baptist Church, Woodbridge, Virginia

ABSTRACT: This thesis presents the development and implementation of a seminar course on the cycles of revelation and response found in Christian worship. The seminars are presented from the perspective of a Southern Baptist tradition and emphasize the application of Jesus' Greatest Commandment to congregational worship. Forty-one different attendees, from ages fourteen to seventy-nine, participated in the eight-hour seminar. Participants met during four two-hour sessions during consecutive Sunday afternoons. Each session included follow-up email questionnaires and participants completed initial and post-seminar assessments. These evaluations documented the participants' changes in attitudes and opinions toward worship as they occurred over the four-week period.

Buxton, Erik L. (2014)

Establishing a Course on the Biblical, Historical and Theological Foundations of Christian Worship at the Mount Pisgah Christian School

ABSTRACT: This thesis presents the development and implementation of an Introduction to Christian Worship class for high school students at a Christian preparatory school affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The sessions presented biblical, historical and theological perspectives on worship to discover the significance Christian worship has in the everyday life of a Christ follower. Twenty-five attendees, from ages fourteen to eighteen, participated in the sessions. Participants met for ten fifty-minute sessions. Each session included a reflection questionnaire. Students also completed pre-class and post-class inventories. These evaluations documented the understanding gained by students.

Castro, Christian A. (2014)

Developing a Course to Expand the Understanding and Appreciation of Christian Worship at Elohim's Fold Church in Doral, Florida

ABSTRACT: Worship is vital to the life of the local church. Her theology of worship prescribes the manner in which she expresses core beliefs, contributing profoundly to the spiritual formation of her people. Local church leaders should endeavor to educate her members in the area of worship studies, safeguarding a communal understanding of worship that is grounded solidly in biblical, theological, and historical foundations. This research project in worship education in the form of a six-week seminar was designed for a local Spanish-speaking church community; it aimed at expanding members' understanding, appreciation, and spiritual formation in Christian worship.

Cummings, Richard W. (2014)

Developing the Course "Biblical, Historical and Theological Reflection in Visual Art" at the College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Missouri

ABSTRACT: This doctoral thesis addresses the lack of evident biblical, historical and theological foundations in evangelical art majors at College of the Ozarks. The intervention, which manifested as an undergraduate course, is described and evaluated. Biblical exploration includes the image of God in humanity, Adam's creativity in naming the animals and the fabrication of the tabernacle by sinful humans. The historical impact on Protestant attitudes towards visual art is explored through Calvin's theological paradigm. Theological exploration includes the holistic nature of the image of God in humanity and a discussion of Trinitarian worship as applied to the practice of visual art.

Dyrland, Jay E. (2014)

Training a Worship Planning Team to Integrate Worship and Mission at Journeys Church, Saskatoon, Canada

ABSTRACT: This thesis project details the development, training and implementation of a worship planning team for the purpose of integrating worship and mission in the liturgical life of Journeys Church. Participants met for a full-day worship workshop and were equipped in the fourfold pattern for worship. A planning team developed worship gatherings for the season of Advent, concentrating on the gathering and sending portions of worship. The data collected from evaluations document the learning that occurred during the implementation of the thesis project.

Freeman, Jennifer L. (2014)

The Incarnational Presence of Jesus: An Experience for Christian Formation for Students at College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Missouri

ABSTRACT: This thesis seeks to understand God's intention for relationship with humanity from creation to the Christ event through three scriptural passages. Particular attention was focused on understanding the nature of God in the *imago Dei* and how that nature is reflected in humanity (Gen 1:26-28). John 15:1-11 shows how Jesus provides his followers the means to remain in relationship with him and the Father through the Holy Spirit. Romans 12:1-8 clarifies relationship with others in the body of Christ. Following historical and theological research, a guide for small groups was written for college students.

Gilmore, Dawn S. (2014)

Developing a Biblical Foundations of Christian Worship Course for the Master of Music Degree at California Baptist University, Riverside, California

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to develop a Biblical Foundations of Christian Worship course for an anticipated Master of Music degree in Worship Arts at California Baptist University. After designing a course outline, I tested some of the course material in both an undergraduate music class and an undergraduate theology class. The demonstration included a pre- and post-demonstration questionnaire to determine what the students knew prior to the lesson and what they may have gleaned through a single class session. CBU music alumni and California pastors and worship leaders were surveyed to ascertain their thinking regarding the educational needs of worship leaders.

Jones, Jessica Howe (2014)

Exploring the Dialogical Nature of Prayer in Study and Liturgy at Church of the Redeemer, Anglican in Jacksonville, Florida

ABSTRACT: This project was completed so as to educate believers regarding the scriptural and historical basis for dialogical prayer, how our liturgy reflects dialogical prayer, ways to make dialogical prayer meaningful and purposeful, and to offer scripts to open communication with God. It was completed in an attempt to move believers toward a basic theological premise that intimacy with God is the most rewarding relationship available to humankind.

Kaufman, Jacob D. (2014)

Establishing a Mentoring Program with Student Worship Leaders at Central Christian College, McPherson, Kansas

ABSTRACT: This action research thesis explores mentoring worship leaders at Central Christian College of Kansas. After recognizing some cultural, liturgical, and leadership difficulties among the worship leaders, I implemented a weekly mentoring dynamic into the MU-EN Ministry Team course. Grounded in a biblical, historical, and theological foundation, this thesis gives evidence to the development and implementation of the following: contextual theology of mentoring worship leaders, mentoring sessions exploring the transformational power of the Holy Spirit, worship leading and design, unity among the worship leaders, critique of student-led worship experiences, and re-designing of the course with a mentoring element.

Keller, Kristin M. (2014)

Creating, Designing, and Teaching Strategies that Cultivate a Lifestyle of Worship within the Millennial Generation of Oneness Pentecostals in The Ohio District

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis and action research project was to create, design, and teach strategies rooted in biblical, historical, and theological foundations that

cultivate a lifestyle of worship within the Millennial Generation. The action research was tailored to Millennial leadership with the goal of providing leaders with tools that would have a direct effect on Millennials and their perspective on worship. A priority of daily worship, along with a biblical understanding of sacrificial living, can transform this generation by rooting them in a lifestyle of worship; thus fulfilling their often unacknowledged desire for a life-changing encounter with God.

Li, Simon (2014)

Implementing a Spiritual Formation Curriculum with Children and Parents in the Joshua Loving Education at Home Program in Roslyn, New York

ABSTRACT: This project is to develop a spiritual formation curriculum combined with music instruction for the children and parents of the Joshua Loving Education At Home program in Long Island, New York. The curriculum is based on the biblical, historical, and musical resources of the Good Shepherd metaphor, a powerful image that is frequently used in the Bible. The goal of this project is to reassure both children and parents of their intimate relationship with God through the implementation of family devotions and assignments for children in a music-lessons setting.

Lim, Budiarto (2014)

Establishing a Ministry Team to Enhance Scripture Reading in Sunday Worship at the Indonesian Congregation of Bukit Batok Presbyterian Church, Singapore

ABSTRACT: The public reading of Scripture is a neglected worship practice in many Indonesian churches. There is evidence that most of the pastors and worship leaders do not prepare the reading of Scripture. This thesis seeks to enhance the public reading of Scripture by establishing a ministerial team of readers. The enhancement of the reading considers the unique nature of biblical genres and how to interpret those texts orally. The thesis provides biblical foundations, historical examples, theological reflection, a general guideline of oral interpretation, and a cultural understanding showing warrant to use artistic elements for the public reading of Scripture.

Lott, Samuel Joseph (2014)

Training Scripture Proclaimers at Maples Memorial United Methodist Church in Olive Branch, Mississippi

ABSTRACT: Liturgists at Maples Memorial United Methodist Church have never been trained or given expectations for their lead role in corporate worship. My challenge, as worship leader, has been to train liturgists and incorporate creative arts in the proclamation of Scripture. In this thesis I researched the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of scripture proclamation. I offered two training sessions where liturgists were equipped with effective tools for public speaking and hands on training in creative arts to effectively proclaim the Scriptures. My project was implemented over a five-week period in April 2012.

Melidona, Paul A. (2014)

Enhancing Worship through Developing Greater Multicultural Participation at Living Water Community Church, Bolingbrook, Illinois

ABSTRACT: This thesis addresses the enhancement of worship through developing greater multicultural participation at Living Water Community Church, Bolingbrook, IL. On three different Sundays our three main cultural groups, Filipino, Latino, and Ghanaian, alternated the presentation of music, dance, prayer, and spoken Word ministry elements. The main goal of the project was the interaction of the cultural groups as they led worship among the nationalities that are present at Living Water

Community Church. Survey results following the implementation of this project helped to formulate conclusions and recommendations for future ministry development in the area of multicultural participation in worship.

Monroe, Chris C. (2014)

Recovering the Centrality of Baptism at Barstow Free Methodist Church, Barstow, California

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to introduce leaders at Barstow Free Methodist Church to a fuller understanding of the biblical, theological, and historical basis for viewing baptism as central to the conversion, disciple-making, and ongoing spiritual formation of Christ followers. The accompanying Baptism Study Guide was developed to present supporting material in eight teaching sessions over a four-week period. Standard assessment tools employed revealed that church leaders gained a deeper understanding regarding the role of baptism. They recognized the need for intentional catechesis beforehand and the perpetual need to live out the meaning of their baptism.

Ross, Jared A. (2014)

Developing a Chapel Planning Team for Intentional Worship at Barclay College in Haviland, Kansas

ABSTRACT: Planning worship in a team setting allows for more creativity, diversity, and intentionality than planning alone or "doing what we have always done." This thesis addressed the issue of intentional planning of worship in the chapel services at Barclay College. A planning team was formed and prepared through training sessions to plan intentional worship for Barclay College. The team planned eight chapel services in the fall semester of 2013 implementing worship actions that moved beyond song and sermon to create space for the people to encounter God and respond to him. Such worship is faith formative and transformational.

Shoumaker, Clifton Alan (2014)

Employing the Psalms as a Vehicle for Healing at Angola State Penitentiary, Angola, Louisiana

ABSTRACT: This project dealt with the issue of anxiety and stress among inmate ministers at Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. Through a two-day seminar on employing the psalms as a source of healing, inmate ministers were introduced to concepts of healing through praying and singing the psalms. The project culminated in a worship experience where long-term prison inmates found forgiveness and healing from their sins. They discovered in the Book of Psalms a powerful devotional resource to help them cope with living in such an oppressive environment.

Siah, Lidya (2014)

Developing a Process of Spiritual Formation for New Mothers at Bukit Batok Presbyterian Church, Indonesian Congregation, Singapore

ABSTRACT: Many mothers in Singapore have in recent years chosen to work as full-time workers, and put their children in child-care centers. Their busy lives and their low view of motherhood have led these mothers to neglect their own spiritual needs. So, I developed a project centering on spiritual formation, aimed at facilitating spiritual engagement with God in the context of pursuing motherhood at home. The spiritual formation included a biblical, theological, and historical study of worship as communion with God. The project aimed to equip mothers to develop a growing relationship with God in the midst of their hectic lives.

Smith, Darrell L. (2014)

Introducing and Engaging the Feast of Sukkot at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas

ABSTRACT: The feast of Sukkot has been celebrated for thousands of years because of the formative truths it espouses about God and God's people. Although Christianity has maintained a connection to Passover and Pentecost, the link to this third primary feast of Judaism has been largely disconnected. This project sought to introduce the theological and liturgical implications promulgated by Sukkot and began a feasting relationship with the Father who calls us to remember and trust in his provision and protection, the Son who came to tabernacle among us, and the empowering presence of the Spirit, continuously dwelling in our midst.

Staples, Marsha D. (2014)

Confronting Attitudes Concerning Racial and Cultural Differences at New Life Providence Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia

ABSTRACT: This study documents a seminar entitled "Every Tribe, Tongue and Nation" offered to a sampling of members as well as non-members of New Life Providence Church in Virginia Beach, VA. The seminar examined unaddressed attitudes related to racial/cultural differences that hinder worship, reconciliation, evangelism, and worship renewal in a multi-ethnic worship setting. It also examined the difference between racial diversity and biblical racial reconciliation and provided a framework for further honest dialogue between members of this and other trans/multi-ethnic congregations. It further delved into the often overlooked aspect of racism as sin, and the role it plays in the attitudes of congregational members in a trans/multi-ethnic setting.

Stewart, Timothy S. (2014)

Implementing the Five Major Actions of Worship at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church in Punta Gorda, FL

ABSTRACT: In 1990 changes were suggested for the ordering of worship in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The alternative is to order worship according to five major actions: gathering around the Word, proclaiming the Word, responding to the Word, the sealing of the Word and, bearing and following the Word into the world. In this thesis I explored the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of the actions. Additionally, I discussed my project. It was to teach a series of seven classes to introduce the new order and, following the classes, to implement the new order in our three Sunday worship services.

Swanson, Jon E. (2014)

Implementing a Study on Biblical Generosity at Lifepoint Church, Everett and Lake Stevens, Washington

ABSTRACT: Biblical generosity is often viewed solely in terms of stewardship. As a result, teaching on generosity is expressed in terms of money. The purpose of this project was to foster generosity in the everyday lives of Christians while refuting wrong assumptions about biblical generosity. The project explores the biblical, theological and historical foundations for biblical generosity. Even when the theme of biblical generosity is studied through the narrow lens of finances, generosity has more to do with surrender, friendship, wholehearted devotion and simplicity. The project consisted of research, three weeks of sermons, four weeks of classroom instruction, and assessment.

Turner, Joseph Paul (2014)

Restoring the Language of Lament through the Liturgy of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Barrie, Ontario, Canada

ABSTRACT: This project sought to restore the language of lament in the liturgy of Emmanuel Baptist Church through teaching implements and liturgical resources. God, through his ancient followers, revealed a language to process pain and express trust in his faithfulness. In a post-modern culture that suppresses suffering and medicates grief, this project attempted to reconnect an ancient language with the Christian as we consider how the church might become a place of authentic worshipers who openly express suffering and find comfort the liturgy.

Vogan, Jeffrey P. (2014)

Developing a Course on the Fundamental Principles of Christian Worship for Willow Creek Church, PCA, Winter Springs, Florida

ABSTRACT: A plan for congregational education is an essential and foundational component to reforming worship practices in a church. This thesis presents the development and implementation of a course of study on the fundamental principles of Christian worship from a Presbyterian and Reformed perspective, with a special emphasis on intergenerational worship. Fifty-three congregants, from age eight to eighty-two, participated in an eight-hour seminar. They met for two-hour sessions over four Sunday afternoons. Along with reflection and application responses to each session, the participants completed pre- and post-seminar surveys, which gave evidence to their changes in attitudes toward worship in the church.

Wong Siu Kay, Jade (2014)

A Pilot Project for Training Worship Leaders to Facilitate Congregational Singing at Wing Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church in Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: This thesis demonstrates the significance of congregational singing in worship. In an effort to address the issue of passivity in congregational singing in Wing Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church, I accordingly designed and implemented a practical workshop to train worship leaders in the areas of biblical, theological and historical foundations of congregational singing. Additional focus was also given to the pastoral role and leadership skills of worship leaders. This project resulted in a significant improvement of worship leadership, which in turn facilitated congregational singing

Yeo, Teck Beng (2014)

Developing a Training Program for Scripture Reading in the Youth Impact Worship at Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church in Singapore

ABSTRACT: There is a pressing need to provide training in the public reading of Scripture in the Youth Impact Worship. There has never been training conducted for lectors at Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. Lectors were ill-prepared when reading the Scripture in worship. Consequently, worshipers were disengaged from the word of God in worship. To address this issue, I developed a training program to explore the biblical, theological and historical foundations to support the rationale of enhancing Scripture reading in worship and to impart skills set that will help lectors enhance the delivery of Scripture reading in worship.

2015

Autry, Clyde Otis, III (2015)

Initiating a Recovery of the Manifestations of the Spirit in Worship According to First Corinthians Twelve through Fourteen at Heritage Bible College, Dunn, North Carolina

ABSTRACT: A major tenant of worship renewal is full participation by all the gathered worshippers. The Pentecostal tradition has held that, according to 1 Corinthians 12 – 14, one way this tenant is realized is through the nine manifestations of the Spirit. But in recent years such phenomena in Pentecostal worship have declined significantly. This project endeavors at a Pentecostal college, in chapel worship and a small group, to initiate a recovery of the Spirit's manifestations. As the biblical, theological, and historical premises of such practices are explored, new insights into God's activity in worship emerge.

Bacheller, Craig L. (2015)

Deepening Eucharistic Spirituality in the Foursquare Church of Fort Myers, Florida

ABSTRACT: The crisis facing Eucharistic spirituality is the desupernaturalization of the Eucharistic table. Today's secular and materialistic society celebrates the individual more than God. Worship models lead participants in event-driven worship. Many modern worshippers have a limited understanding of the source of true spirituality, which is found only in the Trinitarian mystery, and not through a narcissistic journey into God. This thesis promotes the view that true spirituality emanates from the Trinitarian mystery through theotic union, and contends that the Eucharist discloses the understanding of union with Christ in a way which deepens spirituality.

Bennett, Richard Scott (2015)

Participation in Corporate Worship Gatherings at the Campuses of Mount Paran North Church of God at Marietta and Canton, Georgia

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to see the impact of informed emphasis on worship as the activity of the entire community, and the subsequent effects of this emphasis on the planning and implementing of corporate worship gatherings at the campuses of Mount Paran North Church of God. The training program focused on informing worship leaders as prompters in the worship gathering rather than performers, and on informing the congregation as active participants rather than passive observers. Additionally, worship-planning teams were provided tools and resources for planning gatherings that promote maximum congregational participation.

Bogdan, Przemyslaw M. (2015)

Developing a Seminar on Christ-Centered Preaching for Evangelical Pastors in Poland

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to offer training to Polish ministers and pastors of Evangelical Free Churches in the area of Christ-centered preaching. The project explores the biblical, historical and theological foundations of Christ-centered preaching and interpretation of Scriptures. The findings of this project were shared with the Polish evangelical community. Created as a one-day seminar for pastors and church leaders, the program proved to be applicable to charismatic as well as evangelical churches.

Bomar, Stephen Thomas (2015)

Enhancing the Observance of Communion through Education at North Fresno Mennonite Brethren Church Fresno, California

ABSTRACT: This thesis was written to deepen the congregational observance of the Lord's Supper at North Fresno Mennonite Brethren Church, Fresno California. Research focused on incorporating the temporal aspects of past, present, and future into a Lord's Supper liturgy. Biblical support for the project was provided through the exegetical study of Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Luke 24:13-35, and Philippians 2:1-18. Project implementation included four small-group training sessions that met for the purpose of planning and

leading a Lord's Supper service. Pre- and post-tests were given to measure the changes. Qualitative and quantitative analyses are provided. Appendices provide a Lord's Supper liturgy.

Clayton, Jennifer Harris (2015)

Creating and Implementing a Children's Worship Curriculum at Elfinwild Presbyterian Church, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT: The education of children in matters of faith and the actions used to express that faith in worship have been a hallmark of God's people since the giving of the Law in the Old Testament, when God commanded the people to teach his ways to their children at all times. Home, work and church are all meant to be places in which children learned about God, their identity as children of God, and the actions that God's people use to express that relationship. This action research project addressed worship education for children by focusing on a specific area of need at Elfinwild Presbyterian Church: the lack of an educational bridge for children between Children's Church and the adult worship services. Supported by the biblical foundations of worship education, the theological identity of the Reformed faith, historical practices and sociological research, a curriculum was created, implemented and evaluated to intervene in this worship context.

Dishongh, Joseph Timothy (2015)

A Worship Theology Course for Mentoring Worship Leaders at the San Antonio Stone, Son Antonio, Texas

Friesen, Patrick D. (2015)

Enhancing the Performance of Scripture in Worship at the Gospel Fellowship Church in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada

ABSTRACT: The Gospel Fellowship Church is a small congregation willing to examine and explore different aspects of liturgical practice. Like many evangelical churches, the practice of reading the Scripture as part of regular worship services has decreased in quality and quantity. The congregation has demonstrated an eagerness to improve in this aspect of worship. This project describes a series of Sunday School lessons as well as a targeted weekend training seminar designed to increase the quality with which the Scripture is presented.

Garmus, David P. (2015)

Developing a Workshop that Addresses the Role of Forgiveness in Christian Worship by Inmates at Putnam Correctional Institution in Palatka, Florida

ABSTRACT: My project addressed the need for inmates at Putnam Correctional Institution to forgive and to receive forgiveness by others. Their lack of forgiveness had become a barrier to a relationship with God in worship. My workshop was intended to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ and encourage them to accept God's forgiveness of self, to forgive others, and to worship the Lord.

Kaloger, Lou (2015)

Developing a Course on Liturgical Art and Architecture for Trinity College of Florida

ABSTRACT: Ecclesiastical art and architecture is never simply decorative. Knowingly or unknowingly, each artistic and architectural choice, no matter how seemingly utilitarian, is theological and contributes to one's experience within a church setting. The purpose of this thesis project was to design a course for the students of Trinity College of Florida that would explore the liturgical and formational role of sacred space and place from the early house church to the modern megachurch.

Layland, Wendy C. (2015)

Increasing Participation in Communion at Good News PCA Church, St. Augustine, Florida

ABSTRACT: This project was completed to educate believers regarding the scriptural and historical basis for participation in Communion through an eight-week Sunday school class. The project's goal was to move believers toward a basic understanding of the continual welcome, spiritual nourishment, and hope for the future that God extends to all believers at the Communion Table.

Moore, George P. (2015)

Developing a Seminar on the Theology of the Lord's Supper for Jersey Village Baptist Church in Jersey Village, Texas

ABSTRACT: My project addressed the need for broader understanding of the church ordinance referred to as the Lord's Supper. My workshop was intended to demonstrate how a fuller appreciation of this ordinance could create a greater sense of fellowship or unity among the congregation resulting in a more meaningful worship experience. An expansive view of the Table experience could promote living a Eucharistic lifestyle, which is a life of thanksgiving; a life of praise; a life of worship; and most of all, a life of obedience to the teachings of our Savior and Lord Christ Jesus.

Riegert, David R. (2015)

Developing a Course for Small Groups on the Practice of Consistent Personal Prayer at Pickering Pentecostal Church, Pickering Ontario Canada

ABSTRACT: This thesis project was designed to educate believers regarding the scriptural and historical basis for consistent personal prayer—prayer that is planned in terms of time, place, and content and also unceasing—continuing in the midst of daily activities. This project was completed in an attempt to move believers toward a basic theological premise that personal growth in prayer is a vital element in the Christian journey to deepen our relationship with God. The structure used for this formational process was a six-week small group curriculum with a focus on temperament type and personal prayer practices.

Roberts, Christopher S. (2015)

Developing a Course on the Principles of Christian Worship at Fruitland Baptist Bible College, Hendersonville, North Carolina

ABSTRACT: The thesis explores biblical, historical, and theological principles of Christian worship. Three pericopes are examined: Isaiah 6:1-8, which reflects a rhythm of revelation and response; Mark 12:28-34, which affirms that expressions in worship are multi-sensory; and Romans 12:1-5, which reveals that the worship of God through Jesus transforms the individual and unifies the body of Christ. The material is organized into a six-session teaching module for Music 302 students at Fruitland Baptist Bible College in Hendersonville, North Carolina. The project aims to establish a foundation from which reflection upon the principles of Christian worship may develop.

Schecher, Mary K. (2015)

Congregational Song as Spiritual Formation at First Baptist Church, West Allis, Wisconsin

ABSTRACT: As the sun rises on Sunday, so does the song of God's people. Corporate singing is and has been a critical part of worship since the beginning of the church, an audible reminder that while we may sing individually, we are also singing as the Body of Christ. As a worship action, song brings the community together to express and deepen their faith. Congregational song represents one way in which worship participants

experience their faith. This project was designed to study how song acts as a vehicle for spiritual formation, using congregational song from the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season.

Scott, Sarah J. (2015)

Developing and Implementing a Practicum Into the Curriculum for Worship Studies Majors at Vanguard University of Southern California, Costa Mesa, CA

ABSTRACT: A need for balance between cognitive learning and practical experience in the equipping of new leaders is exemplified throughout the biblical narrative and history of the church. This action-research project studied the impact of practical implementation of a synthesis of the core course material in the Worship Studies major at Vanguard University of Southern California, Costa Mesa, California. Rooted in the study of major biblical leaders and the historical models of John Wesley and D. L. Moody, an original curriculum was developed and used for the purpose of equipping future worship leaders through a required practicum experience.

Sloma, Matthew D. (2015)

Developing a Program that Forms Student Leaders through Shaping Worship Theology at Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama

ABSTRACT: An understanding of worship theology is essential to the formation of student leaders. This thesis presents the development and implementation of a foundational Christian worship class that shapes a biblical worship theology for students. Data from approximately two hundred graduates and current students show the need for why a series of classes on worship was developed. Eighteen middle and high school participants attended six classes on worship and leadership. The students engaged in open discussions on worship in addition to completing written pre- and post-class surveys and reflections. Final analysis reflected a change in students' worship understanding and practice.

Suum, David Go Lian (2015)

Training Pastors and Worship Leaders in the Four-Fold Model of Worship in Evangelical Churches of Myanmar

ABSTRACT: This thesis addresses the need for a four-fold worship model in the Evangelical churches of Myanmar. The model facilitates deep, meaningful worship that engages worshipers with God. Being supported with biblical, theological, and historical foundations of worship, the model consists of four movements such as the Gathering, Word, Table, and Sending. Each movement includes various acts of worship. Twenty-one leaders of evangelical churches and three para-church organizations tested the model. Each one of them has made the commitment to implement the four-fold worship model in their churches, and to share with other churches.

Williams, Jolie A. (2015)

Embodying God's Word for Wooded Hills Church, in Colgate, WI

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to challenge worshippers at WHC to develop their physical worship to include narrative driven movement that would impart meaning without words to the congregation. A six-week class was developed and taught to willing congregants of WHC, and participants developed and presented three Scripture enactments to the church in three separate WHC Sunday worship services. The classes were evaluated through in-class discussions and questionnaires, and the presentations were evaluated for their effectiveness by leadership questionnaires and discussion, as well as congregational feedback.

Williams, Theodorus (2015)

Introducing Touch in Corporate Worship within Wooded Hills Church, in Colgate, WI

ABSTRACT: This project addresses the introduction of tactile contact into the corporate worship within Wooded Hills Church, in Colgate, WI. Biblical, theological, and historical research is presented along with social, scientific and ministerial concerns. A practical project was implemented in the form of a six-week course taught to willing congregants. Participants engaged in four sessions and two worship services wherein touch was introduced. Feedback was analyzed by means of a touch measurement rubric, and conclusions and recommendations were reached based upon the project implementation, results and worship praxis of Wooded Hills Church.

Wong, Irene Ging-Chai (2015)

Introducing a Course on the Christian Year at the Sabah Theological Seminary, East Malaysia

ABSTRACT: The thesis project was conceived with the aim of deepening and increasing the understanding of the Christian year among Chinese students at the Sabah Theological Seminary, to enable them to explore its value for contemporary church worship, particularly in their future ministry. The project involved research into the biblical, historical and theological foundations of the Christian calendar, the development and teaching of a seven-week course on the foundation and component elements of the Christian year, and pre and post course testing to measure change in students' understanding and provide data for qualitative analysis of the course's effectiveness.

2016

Allred, Jeffrey A. (2016)

Servant Leadership in the Sanctuary Choir of Vineville Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia

ABSTRACT: Humility and servitude characterize the personal stance of servant leaders. The formational understanding of servant leadership is eschewed by not only our modern, Western civilization, but has been disdained by cultures dating to antiquity. This thesis traces the historical, formational understanding of servant leadership as demonstrated by Moses and Jesus, and connects it to believers' baptismal vows and opportunities to demonstrable humility and servitude.

Arant, Perry Todd (2016)

Exploring the Dialogical Nature of Scripture Reading in Worship at Apex United Methodist Church in Apex, North Carolina

ABSTRACT: The lay readers at Apex United Methodist Church lacked an understanding of how the reading of Scripture in worship serves as part of a dialogue between God and his people. The majority of lay readers believed that Scripture reading served as a preliminary action to the sermon and failed to realize how Scripture helps to initiate the divine-human conversation in worship. To address this issue, a series of classes were created to teach lay readers how they bring forth God's word to the congregation. A workshop was also held for lay readers to practice their newly-learned skills in reading Scripture.

Argot, Beth Ann (2016)

Developing a Spiritual Formation Curriculum in the Worship Arts and Media Program at Life Pacific College, San Dimas, CA

ABSTRACT: This thesis explores integrative knowing and loving God, knowing self, and deliberative spiritual formation as the foundation for a theocentric life that will form strong leaders of Worship Arts. This study explores both the biblical, historical, theological, and philosophical basis for knowing as well as sociological and psychological tendencies of artists that interfere with spiritual formation. The resulting project, a college-level spiritual formation workshop, examined how artists could see and relate to God more deeply, see themselves as God sees them, and begin to see and challenge their embedded theology by creating and enacting a deliberative approach to spiritual formation.

Asche, Richard D. (2016)

Developing a Culture of Transmission of God's Story at Emmaus Church Community

ABSTRACT: At Emmaus Church Community, parents lacked resources to communicate the whole story of God, and how it is experienced in weekly worship gatherings, to their children. Because of this challenge, children were ill-equipped to participate fully as members of the gathered community. The purpose of this thesis was to develop the biblical, historical and theological foundations of a culture of transmission of story. The thesis project took the form of an eight week course for parents and children and thematically consistent children ministry curriculum. The course explored biblical theology of worship and the major elements of worship gatherings at ECC.

Berry, Robert C., III (2016)

Practicing Ancient Liturgical Acts in Ministries of Healing at the Wakefield Baptist Church in Wakefield, Rhode Island

ABSTRACT: This dissertation and project demonstrates that, through the use of several sacramental acts in liturgies of healing, we may participate in Christ's work of redemption, reconciliation, and restoration of all creation. Through liturgies of healing God reaffirms his covenantal promises and engages those who suffer in acts that place them in touch with the Great Story of God's redemption at work in their lives. While some liturgical acts are commonplace to Christians whose faith was formed through sacrament-based liturgies, this project introduced practices to those within a Free-Church tradition for whom such acts may be foreign, or even unwelcome.

Bobbitt, Kayleen J. (2016)

Exploring Incarnational Living at Grace Bible College, Wyoming, Michigan

ABSTRACT: This thesis and the accompanying curriculum propose the idea that the primary act of worship in the life of a Christian must be daily incarnational living as expressed in self-surrender to God and self-giving service to others. A unit of study, constituting seven instructional sessions with a culminating ministry event, introduces college students engaged in worship and ministry studies to the biblical, historical, theological, and practical foundations of incarnational living as expressed in the living sacrifice imagery of Romans 12.

McNeely-Bouie, Barbara E. (2016)

Encouraging Spiritual Formation Through Scripture Meditation in Choral Music at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida

ABSTRACT: Along life's spiritual journey, spiritual formation ensues. Spiritual formation is inevitable. Circumstances exist that evoke spiritual formation to materialize. Believers encounter three seasons of life: orientation, disorientation, and reorientation, which challenge our faith in and focus on God. The research project's seven one-hour workshops were developed to encourage college choir members about Scripture meditation and its effects on spiritual formation. Additionally, the project examines the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of Scripture meditation. Research has found that believers are happier and live longer when Scripture meditation exists as a primary part of their everyday lives.

Bradford, James W., II (2016)

Developing a Worship Model for the Ministry and Administrative Teams of Shalimar United Methodist Church Shalimar, Florida

ABSTRACT: This project was designed to assist Shalimar United Methodist Church in enhancing the connection between its vital worship life and its vibrant ministry life. A pilot group of the church staff and two lay leaders studied the church's vision and mission statements relating the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of worship and ministry. This study culminated in the creation of a worship model designed for the ministry and administrative teams of the church. This worship model allows for a deepened understanding that worship is in response to the Lord's revelation and is the foundation for a missional life through the faith community.

Coleman, Jessica A. (2016)

Enhancing the Ministry of the Word by Developing a Lectionary-Based Bible Study at Faith Community Church of the Nazarene, St. Johns, Florida

ABSTRACT: This thesis addressed the limited and narrow role of Scripture in the liturgy at Faith Community Church of the Nazarene. Its purpose was to enhance the Ministry of the Word by nourishing the memory of the community in the gospel and in the celebration of God's mighty acts in history—God's story—through a time of instruction and reflection, culminating in a lectionary-based Bible study at FCC Nazarene, St. Johns, Florida.

Harada, Jun (2016)

Developing and Facilitating a Worship Seminar for Lead Worshipers at Fellowship of the Rockies, Colorado Springs, Colorado

ABSTRACT: My project was designed to develop a better understanding of the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of worship for lead worshippers at Fellowship of the Rockies in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The seminar was created to teach as well as for the participants to encounter God in a fresh way and build community with each other. In addition, the goal was for the seminar participants to have a deeper understanding of worship as they share their own stories utilizing their experiences along with their talents in the midst of communicating the fullness of God's story.

Hetrick, Karen J. (2016)

Cultivating an Understanding of Covenantal Worship at Mt. Auburn United Methodist Church, Greenwood, Indiana

ABSTRACT: Worship began as God's idea. God designed creation for relationship with him. God provided the covenant system for his beloved, but sinful, people to participate with him in relationship. God initiated worship so his people could respond to God's self-revelation. God's people often forgot their covenantal promises. Now, the body of Christ needs to recall the covenantal roots of its worship. The purpose of this project was to design a process whereby persons at Mt. Auburn United Methodist Church might cultivate an understanding of their worship as a corporate expression of their covenant relationship with God.

Horowitz, Samuel J. (2016)

Developing a Spiritually-Formative Christian Family Meal Liturgy at Living Waters Anglican Church, Green Cove Springs, FL

ABSTRACT: The table of Holy Communion has been at the center of the Church's corporate worship as the place where God's story is not only proclaimed but enacted. As otherwise-mature Christian adults find themselves increasingly unprepared to disciple another person in the faith, even in their own homes, this project demonstrated how churches can equip families to intentionally make use of narrative for spiritual formation around the table of the domestic church.

Jordan, Nicole J. (2016)

Implementing an Introduction to Active Listening at the University of Northwestern, St. Paul, Minnesota

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was to broaden college students' understanding of what it means to listen for God's voice. The project was done in the context of an introduction to music course through lecture and guided listening assignments. The thesis explores the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of the mandate to be aware of God's self-disclosure in all of creation, with a specific focus on hearing the word of God through music.

Montgomery, Christopher J. (2016)

Imagining Sacramentality as a Kingdom Hermeneutic with Pastors in Central Plains Mennonite Conference

ABSTRACT: This thesis sought to explore how the sacred actions of Christian worship—baptism and communion—could function as a hermeneutical lens for the Kingdom of God and the various empires which attempt to subvert Christ the King's call to singular allegiance. A cohort of pastors from Anabaptist congregations in the Midwest was assembled to imagine together how such an interpretive framework on citizenship and sacramentality could be applied in various contexts. The end result was a primer for congregational use in training lay worship leaders and parishioners on the subject material.

Nance-Coker, Elizabeth (2016)

Exploring a Model for Communal Lament at Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, Lexington, South Carolina

ABSTRACT: This thesis project was conducted in order to seek understanding of the ways in which the Psalms of Lament could be incorporated into the weekly worship of the gathered community of Christian believers. These Psalms serve as a model for prayer which addresses God in movement from despair into hope. This work was accomplished in order to provide accessibility to a variety of resources for speaking, singing and praying these Psalms in diverse communities of faith.

Randolph, Rew A. (2016)

Implementing a Study of Parousia During Advent at First United Methodist Church Fort Walton Beach, Florida

ABSTRACT: This project, which emphasized *parousia* in Advent, was designed to help the congregation of First United Methodist Church develop a sense of urgency and expectancy concerning Christ's return in worship and Christian living while remembering that Christ is made present to us now through the Holy Spirit. A six-week class on *parousia* was developed and implemented prior to Advent for congregants. The class participants and members of the staff wrote devotions for a devotional guide which was used by the congregation during Advent. The music and liturgy during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany worship services were designed to emphasize *Parousia*.

Rasmussen, Rune (2016)

Developing Ancient-Future Worship in the Lutheran Church in Norway, in the Diocese of Agder

ABSTRACT: Ancient-Future worship connects the biblical, historical, and present cultural aspects of worship and restores the basic acts of worship. I demonstrate that three loadbearing concepts are foundational for implementing Ancient-Future worship renewal: (1) learning from the entirety of church history, not limiting our viewpoint to denominational development; (2) rooting worship in God's story, as the early church did, so that we embody God's mission; and (3) focusing on taking part in God's story through *anamnesis* and *prolepsis*. The action research component was the development and implementation of a training weekend for three Norwegian Lutheran churches.

Robinson, Darla Jean Mason (2016)

Bringing Scripture to Life at Palmdale United Methodist Church in Palmdale, California

ABSTRACT: Due to inadequate preparation and training, the liturgists at Palmdale United Methodist Church often read the Scripture in a flat and unimaginative way. I taught a four-week class emphasizing the importance of research, performance studies, creativity, and rehearsal. We then presented Scriptures for the following four weeks using a choral reading, readers' theatre, tableaux, and a medley of song and dance. My project was implemented over an eight-week period of time during November and December, 2014.

Rogers, Jeffry A. (2016)

Developing a Course on the Foundations of Worship for Musicians at First United Methodist Church of Ocala, Florida

ABSTRACT: As leaders of worship, musicians are called to lead believers to engage in the dialogue of God's revelation and their response. Understanding and facilitating this engagement requires knowledge of key foundations of worship. This research project developed a class on key foundations of worship specifically designed for lay-musicians, which took the form of a four-week seminar. Through understanding key foundations of worship, the goal of the sessions is for the participants to better understand their function as leaders of Christian worship, helping to facilitate the dialogue between God and worshiper.

Rushing, Gary E. (2016)

Developing Community Expressions of Lament for the Contemporary Service of Faith United Methodist Church, Fort Myers, Florida

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis project was to create expressions of communal lament for the contemporary worship service of Faith United Methodist Church. This was accomplished in a class setting through lecture and dialogue examining biblical lament, lament in American history, and lament in the songs of the American church. Amidst a growing neglect of communal lament within the 21st century church, this project sought to reunite the biblical usage of the communal laments found in the Old and New Testaments with post-modern church worship, creating an enduring liturgy of ritual and song within a contemporary, four-fold worship style.

Smith, Michael F. (2016)

Embracing the *Missio Dei* in Worship at Christ Chapel in Centerville, Massachusetts

ABSTRACT: This thesis project examined the relationship between worship and mission. Embracing the *missio Dei* in corporate worship prepares God's people to advance God's mission of blessing all peoples with salvation and redemption in Christ. Strengthening the missional content of corporate worship at Christ Chapel, this project planted the seeds for the habitual practice of mission and established the goal for enhanced participation in short-term missions. Mission is the essential nature of the church. It is not merely the work of church committees, but a defining characteristic reflected in the lifestyle of the people of God.

Smolen, Patrick S. (2016)

Developing Intergenerational Worship at First Baptist Church, Hobart, Oklahoma

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project was the initiation and training of an age-diverse Worship Planning Team (WPT) for the purpose of developing intergenerational corporate worship at First Baptist Church, Hobart, Oklahoma. The WPT considered the worship styles and needs of all the generations attending the church. The biblical foundation of intergenerational worship was central to the education of the WPT. A primary application of the WPT's training was the planning of three intergenerational worship services during the Advent season, modeling the concept for the whole church.

Toney, Michael G. (2016)

Divine Revelation and Worship Renewal at University Hills Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

ABSTRACT: Through divine revelation Father God and Christ the Son initiate worship encounters that are intentionally relational. By revealing his essence and his desires through his word and by his Holy Spirit, God invites humankind to experience his presence that he might draw all people to himself and fulfill his redemptive plan in every person.

Van Voorst, Richard W. (2016)

A Pilot Study of *Sonitus Divinus* to Foster Spiritual Formation at Tampa Covenant Church, Tampa, Florida

ABSTRACT: Music can conjure various responses whether cognitive, intellectual, emotional, or philosophical, and exposure to greater varieties and various uses of music expands its ability to communicate ideas. *Sonitus Divinus* is a way that we both care for our worship and our music, but more importantly care for the spiritual formation of our congregation through worship music. It prompts the worship leader to compose, arrange, and choose music that pastorally serves the congregation, and it prompts the congregation to be responsible for seeking out that deeper meaning within that music as a means of spiritual formation.

Waites, Lisa L. (2016)

Enriching Eucharistic Participation Through Ancient-Future Worship Arts at Peace United Church in Irvine, Alberta

ABSTRACT: The Eucharist is a foundational component of Christian worship, but it has been marginalized in many post-Enlightenment churches. God's mysterious work at the Table often seems unintelligible to modern Christians. This thesis promotes the recovery of robust eucharistic teaching and liturgical expression at Peace United Church in Irvine, Alberta. I adapted Robert Webber's concept of Ancient-Future worship to include expressive worship arts. These worship arts functioned as catalysts, helping congregants respond to the transformative love made present by God in the Eucharist. At the Table, worshipers remember our faith, experience God's love, and participate in the redemptive purposes of God.

Welborn, Michael W. (2016)

Exploring Biblical Hospitality as a Worship Discipline and Way of Life for Metropolitan Church of God in Birmingham, Alabama

ABSTRACT: The discipline of biblical hospitality is a lifestyle of worship embodied by the Godhead, seen throughout Scripture, and a chosen response of every believer. The purpose of this project was to increase an awareness of the discipline of hospitality through biblical, historical, theological, and personal narratives. In the life of the believer, the practice of hospitality travels into the borders of society where all are welcomed and invited to share in God's story.

Welstead, Bret E. (2016)

Strengthening the Expression of Unity Within New Covenant Community Church in Lincoln, Nebraska

ABSTRACT: This project was completed to strengthen church unity among the pastoral staff, ministry leaders and congregation of New Covenant Community Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. The issue our church faced was that our congregation, and ministry leaders in particular, did not understand how our church ministries worked together to fulfill our vision. Through a Sunday morning message series on our vision, strategic meetings with ministry leaders, and a ministry fair as a culminating event, our vision statement was presented as an expression of unity which connects and directs all people and ministries of our church.

Yauk, David E. (2016)

Developing a Curriculum that Introduces Redeemer Church in Starkville, MS to the Priesthood of the Believer

ABSTRACT: This thesis and the supporting curriculum develop the idea of the priesthood of the believer. This work strives to understand the biblical, historical and theological framework and outcomes pertaining to the priestly nature in all of life and ministry, and it enables those in Christ's body throughout the world to understand the implications of the priestly role and rhythms as expressed in the cosmos, the church and the culture.

Young, Michael W. (2016)

Creating Community Through an Abbreviated Catechumenate Experience at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston, West Virginia

ABSTRACT: The Baptist emphasis on the responsibility and freedom of the individual to seek out their own salvation through personal prayer and Bible study, combined with the consumer mentality of modern North America, has promoted the sense of worship as a gathering of individuals engaged in private devotions. As a result, it is difficult to get congregations to participate in worship planning and discussions of worship renewal. A seminar, based on an abbreviated catechumenate experience was conducted in order to expose the congregation to the communal nature of Christianity in the hope of building a sense of ownership toward liturgical practice.

2017

Auen, Corey (2017)

Implementing a Modified Daily Office in a Non-Denominational Small Group Setting in Lynchburg, Virginia

Averett, Joan H. (2017)

Developing a Deeper Understanding of the Incarnation through Religious Icons at Memorial United Methodist Church, Fernandina Beach, Florida

ABSTRACT: This thesis was written to help worshippers at Memorial United Methodist Church, Fernandina Beach, Florida grow in their awareness of the incarnation using religious icons. Research was conducted through teaching and by studying the results of prayer with icons at home and in worship. Biblical support for the project was provided in Genesis 1:26-27, Exodus 25:8-22, and Colossians 3:9-16. Historical study focused on

writings on the incarnation. Research addressed theological commonalities between Eastern Orthodoxy and Methodism.

Backens, Daniel V. (2017)

Implementing Confession of Sin in Corporate Worship at New Life Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Baltaeff, Diane S. (2017)

Enhancing the Foundations of Christian Spirituality Course at Eastern University, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT: One of the ways God defines acceptable worship throughout Scripture includes caring for the poor. Caring for the poor is not an auxiliary or optional activity of following Christ; it is a central and inseparable expression of worship. The purpose of this thesis project was to enhance the Foundations of Christian Spirituality course at Eastern University by including a focus on the relationship between caring for the poor and worship. Students were guided to explore caring for the poor as an expression of worship to our triune God motivated by and in response to God's love, compassion, and gospel.

Barnes, Leslie P. (2017)

Implementing Spiritual Transformation through the Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop in Akron, Ohio

ABSTRACT: Ongoing spiritual transformation should be an observable component of every Christian's core spiritual identity. This project used worship arts rituals to implement spiritual transformation at a performing arts workshop. The concern was that the students might not know their relationship with God should resonate in every facet of life and the spiritual formation experienced would still be available to them once they left workshop. This project demonstrated ways in which worship arts rituals are transforming. The project provided youth of the greater Akron, Ohio area with applicable tools to assist in continual spiritual formation that will prove evident in their daily lives.

Bell, Douglas G., Jr. (2017)

A Pilot Project for Recapturing a Trinitarian Focus in the Worship Life of First Baptist Church, Tempe, Arizona

ABSTRACT: As human beings, we were created to interact with the Divine. In the incarnation of Christ, part of the veil that obscured our view of the Creator was removed and the three persons of the Godhead were revealed. This project was intended to show the benefit of recapturing a Trinitarian focus within the worship services at First Baptist Church of Tempe by leading a sample group of the congregation in reflecting on the nature of the triune God and the ways that the Trinity impacts the act of worship.

Brown, Dewey E., Jr. (2017)

Developing a Discipline of Regular Prayer as Connection to God at St. Marys' Episcopal Church, Dade City, Florida

ABSTRACT: This project was completed to educate St. Mary's parishioners regarding the scriptural and historical basis for connecting to God through regular prayer. It was completed to guide believers toward a basic theological premise that connecting to God through regular prayer, both private and corporate, has been and remains a key aspect of the Church's faith journey.

Chang, Sunny W. (2017)

Introducing the Christian Year to Tidewater Korean Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia

ABSTRACT: This thesis explores the importance of remembering God's saving narrative by means of the Christian Year. The tradition of the Christian Year is grounded in biblical, historical, and theological foundations. My project focused on integrating the practice of the Christian Year into the worship life of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church. The design of the project featured a five-session seminar on the Christian Year. Participants in the seminar engaged in discussion about the components and the benefits of the Christian Year, culminating in a discussion of what components they desired to implement for the upcoming Cycle of Life, Lent-Easter-Pentecost cycle.

Fenters, Stewart, H. (2017)

Developing Contemplative Spirituality at Church at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

ABSTRACT: This thesis explores the importance of communal contemplation that facilitates listening to God. The practices of the Christian contemplative tradition are grounded in biblical, historical, and theological foundations and should be an integral part of the worship life of the local church. The project focused on integrating contemplative practices into the worship life of Church at Charlotte, an Evangelical Free Church. The design of the project featured an eight-week study course on the contemplative life. Participants in the course planned and led a contemplative prayer service entitled, "A Night of Quiet."

Gibson, James A. III (2017)

Renewing the Ministry of the Baptized at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Grahamville, South Carolina

ABSTRACT: Baptism unites believers with Christ in a community of service to God and one another. All who are baptized into Christ are sealed with the Holy Spirit and share in a common ministry, or priesthood. Empowered by the Spirit, all baptized Christians receive particular gifts to be used in service to Christ and his kingdom. A deeper understanding of baptism and what it means for baptized Christians to be a people set apart will cultivate a renewed commitment to servant leadership in the worship life and ministry of the church.

Gorini, Robert (2017)

Implementing Dialogical Prayer through Lectio Divina with the Psalms at the Rock Church of Daytona Beach, Florida

ABSTRACT: This thesis examines biblical, historical, and theological foundations for dialogical prayer and its implications for worship renewal. The dialogue of prayer begins with God's self-revelation. Prayer then, is a response to God's divine initiative. The language of prayer functions in the covenant community as a dialogue between God and God's people. The thesis intervention project focused on implementing dialogical prayer at the Rock Church of Daytona Beach, FL by teaching the method of Lectio Divina with the Psalms through a six-week course "Praying with the Psalms."

Gospel, Kevin, M. (2017)

Mentoring a Worship Planning Team through Convergence Worship Training for the e(x)tol Worship Service at Newport Covenant Church, Bellevue, Washington

ABSTRACT: This thesis addresses the integration of convergence worship into the worship life of the e(x)tol community at Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue, Washington, through developing and teaching a five-week workshop on the subject leading up to a final implementation of a convergence worship guided service. Teaching young worship planners to incorporate ancient Christian practices while appreciating contemporary Christian preferences provides a much-needed framework from which to plan a worship service that bolsters the congregation's connection with God. Providing young leaders with simple, yet effective tools such as the Ecumenical Fourfold Order of Worship only serves to reinforce their calling.

Grimes, Jonathan R. (2017)

The Renewal of Scripture Presentation in Chapel Service at Crandall University in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

ABSTRACT: The students who attend Crandall University chapel services regularly experience music and preaching in those services. Scripture presentation was not an integral part of the chapel services. This project taught a small group of students how to perform and present scripture within a worship service and taught the importance of presenting the Bible publicly in worship.

Kuphal, Melody L. (2017)

Developing Mutually Engaging Worship Practices in the Community of Hosanna! Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Illinois

ABSTRACT: Corporate worship, by its name, is not an individual activity. All members of the church, just as all the parts of the body, are called to function together. This call includes children. Beyond worshiping as an intergenerational community, God's people are called to mutually engage, learning from one another and extending radical hospitality to fellow worshipers through the act of corporate worship. As a unified body, the church turns its attention to God's narrative and his saving acts through mutually engaging corporate worship.

Madeira, David W. (2017)

Developing a New Form of Congregational Psalm Chant at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: This thesis documents the development, implementation, and evaluation of a new form of congregational psalmody, here named twelve-point chant. Its purpose is to achieve a balance between the strengths and weaknesses of the prevailing alternate forms of congregational psalmody. Those forms are discussed here with an analysis of their positive and negative attributes. The twelve-point chant method is introduced, along with a description of its introduction to members of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Nashville, TN. Evaluation methods and results are included, as well as considerations for the continued development and dissemination of twelve-point chant.

McCollum, David L. (2017)

Evaluating Psalmic Expressions as They Relate to the Gathering Fold of Worship at Ruple Memorial Presbyterian Church, Blowing Rock, North Carolina

ABSTRACT: While human beings experience a full range of emotions in their daily lives, they often limit the expression of emotions based on cultural norms and individual personality traits. Negative emotions, particularly, have been restricted in corporate worship fearing the interpretation of a weakness in faith or commitment. This thesis traces the biblical, historical, and theological understanding of human emotions found

specifically in the Book of Psalms, and explores and attempts to discern their use in worship and prayer.

Michell, Kenneth J. (2017)

Deepening Participation in the Lord's Supper at Bridlewood Presbyterian Church, Toronto, Canada

Sabag, Israel Ramirez (2017)

Deepening the Knowledge of the Revelation-Response Pattern in Worship at Iglesia Presbiteriana Berith, Mexico City

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis was to enhance the knowledge and practical experience of worship as the response of God's people to his divine revelation at Iglesia Berith, Mexico City. When a believer is aware of the revelation-response dialogue going on in worship, he/she can focus attention on either being responsive to God's revelation or on responding to God accordingly.

Sunderland, Paul B. (2017)

Developing a Worship Theology for Free Methodist Worship Leaders in the Gateway Conference of Greater St. Louis

ABSTRACT: This thesis and curriculum support the belief that effective musical worship leadership demands a developed theology of worship. In particular, worship leaders must understand worship as an on-going dialogue whereby divine revelation prompts our communal response. This project sought to enable a group of local worship leaders to learn and reaffirm the components of worship, enacting revelation and response through the means of congregational worship song selection. Theologically-informed worship song choices are a vital component to congregational worship renewal.

Turnbow, Brian (2017)

Recovering Baptism as an Eschatological Event at OneRiver Vineyard Church, Houston, Texas

ABSTRACT: The canonical Gospels portray Jesus' baptism as an eschatological event connected to the coming of the kingdom of God. Vineyard churches, however, lack a constructive theology of baptism linked to the movement's foundations in inaugurated eschatology, the understanding of God's kingdom as a now-and-not-yet reality. This thesis examines the biblical, historical, and theological support for such a link, and documents how a group in one Vineyard congregation engaged baptism through a series of teaching modules and assessment tools. As a result, the group members expanded their view of baptism and began describing their own baptisms in eschatological terms.

Zarletti, Vincent M. (2017)

Introducing Worship Inculturation into the Worship Arts Curriculum at North Central University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ABSTRACT: God's love for diversity is clear throughout the entire scriptural narrative, from the creation account in Genesis 1, through the gospels and the birth of the Church at Pentecost, and to the eschatological vision of unified worship in Revelation 7. As corporate worship in our multicultural world often fails to reflect God's love for diversity, this project provided an opportunity for a small group of student worship leaders to grow into an understanding of worship inculturation and convergence worship.

2018

Allen, Rashard W. (2018)

Strengthening Communal Prayer at Hempfield United Methodist Church

ABSTRACT: This thesis focused on strengthening communal prayer at Hempfield United Methodist Church. Through an exploration of the theological, biblical, and historical foundations of communal prayer, the author sought to demonstrate that communal prayer is essential for the relationship between God and God's people. In order to strengthen communal prayer at Hempfield UMC, a four-week course was taught on communal prayer. The students demonstrated a significant change in their understanding, attitudes, and behaviors regarding communal prayer than before the class. Hempfield UMC plans to hold monthly Concerts of Prayer to continue strengthening the congregation's communal prayer life.

Biggers-Dotson, Arlicia Minette (2018)

Developing the Understanding that Worship Includes Singing at Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, Evansville, Indiana

ABSTRACT: This thesis is an exploration of singing as it relates to the definition of Christian communal worship. The tradition of congregational singing is well rooted in a biblical, historical, and theological foundation and should be a vital piece of the Christian worship structure. The project centered around incorporating congregational singing into the order of worship at Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Evansville, IN. The highlight of the project's design featured four weeks of instruction on congregational singing in communal worship.

Bond, Lori A. (2018)

Implementing the Psalms of Lament into the Worship Services at Life Stream Church, Allendale, Michigan

ABSTRACT: My thesis project was intended to gain an understanding of the value of lament and find ways in which the Psalms of lament could be implemented into the worship services at Life Stream Church. The passages from the Psalms hold excellent examples of being honest with God. In this honesty, God invites his people to bring their laments to him, presenting both our sufferings and our hopes. My thesis utilized the creative arts as an outlet to bring the Psalms of lament into the weekly worship services of Life Stream.

Brath, Walter J. (2018)

Enhancing the Significance of The Lord's Supper for Worship Arts Students at Grace College and Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana

ABSTRACT: The Lord's Supper has been the cornerstone of the church's response in worship as the place where she is shaped by the gospel week after week, offering herself as a living sacrifice to God, and being nourished by the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Many Christ followers from an Evangelical, Free-church tradition do not have the

opportunity to respond to God's revelation in their liturgy at the Table week after week. This thesis explores the biblical, historical, and theological significance of the Lord's Supper for worship arts students at Grace College and Seminary in Winona Lake, IN.

Coleman, Jeffrey L. (2018)

Implementing Justice-Oriented Intercessory Prayer at Sugar Hill United Methodist Church, Sugar Hill, Georgia

ABSTRACT: God's people are called to a life of holiness. Christian holiness is expressed through active ethical engagement and faithful liturgical participation. As worship and justice come together in fervent intercession the church is uniquely positioned to love God and love neighbor through word and deed. Building on the biblical, historical, and theological foundation that worship and justice are bound together this project intervention at Sugar Hill United Methodist Church focused on learning how to renew intercessory prayer with a concentration on justice-related issues thereby positioning God's people to be holy intercessors and Kingdom peacemakers.

Cruice, Gregory M. (2018)

Exploring Spiritual Formation through the Lord's Supper at Mandarin Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Florida

ABSTRACT: When believers in Jesus Christ celebrate the Lord's Supper, do the gathered participants realize what God seeks to accomplish through the sacrament? In this thesis, the Lord's Supper was explored as a form of spiritual formation and focused on the premise that God offers spiritual formation and shaping for believers whenever the sacrament is celebrated. A teaching model was tested with a small group of members at Mandarin Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Florida. The evaluative results indicate that there is a potential need for creating similar teaching resources for any congregation that celebrates the Lord's Supper.

Frazure, Marshall Don, Jr. (2018)

Implementing a Curriculum on the Dialogical Nature of Worship for Worship Leaders at Christ Church, Fairview Heights, Illinois

ABSTRACT: Knowing that God reveals and his people respond should be the first topic studied by a worship leader. Unfortunately, worship leaders are often caught in a cycle where music becomes their primary focus because their mentors were trained in the same way. Worship leaders need to understand that worship is a dialogue—a Divine-human dialogue in which God reveals and his people respond. If they can understand this basic concept of worship, then it is possible that worship leaders and the congregations they lead can understand how all actions of worship are part of this conversion—not just music.

Gieck, Lorn J. (2018)

Developing a Study of Biblical Gifts for Worship Teams at Millar College of the Bible, Pambrun, Saskatchewan, Canada

ABSTRACT: In contemporary North American churches, music is a primary focus for worship leadership. Worship is, however, more than music, and holistic biblical worship involves a greater variety of responses. This thesis builds the biblical, historical and foundation for gift diversity, and follows a student worship team from Millar College of the Bible. Students learn through a series of classes how to better appreciate and build a culture of gift diversity as they lead worship.

Grissom, Valerie (2018)

Cultivating Intercultural Dialogue through Story as a Spiritually Formative Practice for Worship at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Shoreline, Washington

ABSTRACT: God's story is, has been, and always will be an intercultural story, in which the triune God participates in a mutual, relational dialogue—first between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and second, pouring out into relational dialogue with humanity. Through faith in Christ, we are made one family—equal inheritors of God's blessing. God's blessing of dialogue, extended through the gift of the Holy Spirit, enables the church to extend God's dialogue to all nations. This project explores how story might cultivate intercultural dialogue in worship in order to facilitate spiritual formation.

Headley, Christopher S. (2018)

Defining Performance Music as a Sacrifice of Praise at the First Baptist Church of Dandridge, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: God has commanded his people to bring him a sacrifice of praise. Offering the sacrifice of praise is a task for every member of the congregation. Choirs and ensemble groups act as a subset of the congregation, tasked with encouraging congregational singing as well as singing performance music as an offering given on behalf of the entire congregation. This project was designed to increase the knowledge of the Sanctuary Choir at the First Baptist Church of Dandridge about the biblical, historical, and theological role of choirs and performance music and their responsibility to offer to God a sacrifice of praise.

Hung, Cheryl Chi Kuen (2018)

Developing a Course on the Use of Visual Art in Worship at the Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center of the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

ABSTRACT: Visual art should have a unique and irreplaceable role in worship, not competing but complementing the word to articulate the story of God. The purpose of this thesis project was to help local worship leaders and visual art practitioners to gain understanding of the role of visual art in worship and encourage them in pursuit of using visual art by appropriating the Christian year as a framework to tell a bigger picture of God's story.

Jones, Jonathan Michael (2018)

Using the Psalms to Develop Corporate Prayer in the First Baptist Church of Slaton, TX

ABSTRACT: The aim of this thesis was to develop corporate prayer in the First Baptist Church of Slaton, TX. Employing the Psalms as a model, seven categories of prayer were

examined during an eight-session class. Because God has covenanted with a people, the church possesses the sole right to dialogue with him in prayer; prayer then is a vital part of the corporate worship experience. My desire, in designing this project, was for the people of FBC to attain a right theology of corporate prayer so that the effect is right doxology as a local church.

Keung, Sylvester Che Yuen (2018)

Developing an Understanding of Worship as Interaction with God at Xin Zhai Zi Evangelical Church, Dalian, China

ABSTRACT: Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus in John 3 shows God's desire to interact with his people in a pattern of revelation and response. Xin Zhai Zi Evangelical Church (XZZEC) in Dalian, China, however, lacked an understanding of the essentials of participation and response to God's initiative in worship. This thesis examines the biblical, historical, and theological aspects of the interaction between God and his people, and how a small group of participants from XZZEC applied the "fourfold order" of worship to their context. As a result, the participants enriched their knowledge of suitable participation and response to God's action in worship.

Kirkwood, William D. (2018)

Restructuring Sunday Worship Toward a Fourfold Order at Hope Community Church, Hudson, Ohio

ABSTRACT: The God who created humanity is a God who continually speaks to people. The Bible reveals a pattern in God's interactions with his people: God appears and invites the person or people to approach, God speaks, there is a response to his word, and the worshipers are sent out to enact his words. The church has adopted that pattern in the fourfold liturgy of Gathering, Word, Response, and Sending. Each piece of this liturgy is crucial for the church to be transformed through this divine encounter. With the working of the Holy Spirit, biblically-patterned corporate worship can facilitate the divine-human dialogue.

Knarr, James E., Jr. (2018)

Developing our Relationship with God through Prayer at Wellspring Church, Clifton Springs, NY

ABSTRACT: Many worship acts have been practiced throughout history. These worship acts tell the story of God, yet without a relational connection with God they become simply a ritualistic exercise. Prayer remains a foundational element of worship; without a relational connection to God, prayer can also become simply a ritual and people can miss the intended purpose. Prayer is the vehicle that builds relationship with God, and understanding the dialogical conversational aspect of prayer places one in the presence of God. This thesis examined the biblical, theological, and historical support of prayer as the means to build relationship with God.

Laoyan Mosomos, Judith (2018)

A Course of Study on the Foundations of Worship at the Methodist School of Music, Upper Bukit Timah, Singapore

ABSTRACT: Worship is multifaceted and embodies scriptures, theology, history, culture, music, ethics and spiritual formation. Because it embraces these varied features, the study of worship is paramount to leadership in the church. This thesis argues that when these varied embodiments of worship are better appreciated, they enable the leader to nurture the congregation towards a deeper and fuller understanding of worship and its refreshing essence.

Leung, Yat-Hin (2018)

Developing a Curriculum on Images and Symbols at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: Images and symbols have been mediums of faith in the Christian Church; the latest technology elevates and broadens their use, mostly through computer projection in worship. Projectionists must acquire proper knowledge and proficiency to communicate the Word of God effectively, bearing the vision of becoming pastoral visual artists in worship. This thesis describes the design and delivery of a training course for projectionists in Hong Kong, revitalizing the use of traditional church images and symbols, shedding light on how this new role in worship can promote the understanding of God.

Lindsay, Cheryl A. (2018)

Developing a Worship Planning Community at Bainbridge Community Church, Bainbridge, Ohio

ABSTRACT: This project designed a framework for developing a worship planning community at Bainbridge Community Church. It provides a model for small churches with limited resources to engage members of the congregation and staff persons in planning worship in community as God calls us to community in worship. Such communities rely upon mutual dependency and divine agency to thrive and grow as they collectively celebrate unity in diversity, embrace weakness, and invite submission while rejecting isolationism. Theoretical instruction joined with practical application to equip participants to plan worship. Accountability and covenantal agreements encourage long-term sustainability and growth of worship planning communities.

Ling, Chiffon Lee Chi (2018)

Enhancing and Renewing Corporate Prayer in Worship at Swatow Christian Gilead Church, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: This project was designed to educate worship leaders to lead and prepare corporate prayer in worship with an emphasis on reflecting who God is. By adopting a biblically- and theologically-strong approach to corporate prayer, worshipers may focus on God, have opportunities to give adoration to God, and join together to praise God for his saving acts. This approach to corporate prayer should be valued and be handed down to all generations so that the whole Christian community may understand who God is and offer adoration and praise to our triune God in worship.

Noland, Rory J. (2018)

Exploring Communion as an Invitation to Spiritual Formation at Nebraska Christian College

ABSTRACT: Rather than being an obligatory ritual with little or no connection to one's ongoing spiritual growth, the Eucharist offers a multi-faceted experience rich with meaning and significance for Christian discipleship. The purpose of this thesis is to explore Communion as an invitation to spiritual formation. The project associated with this thesis incorporated biblical, historical, and theological research into a three-day workshop conducted at Nebraska Christian College. The seminar combined interactive lectures, reflection exercises, and daily table observances in a concerted effort to present the Lord's Supper as a vital, spiritually formative sacrament.

Olmon, Suzanne M. (2018)

Exploring the Formational Nature and Power of the Psalms in the Traditional Worship of Faith United Methodist Church Richmond, Texas

ABSTRACT: God's Word was given in flesh and text to mend, mold, and motivate our lives. Psalms are God-given words meant be returned unto him in worship. The psalmists and God's chosen people were aware of this truth. Somewhere along the way, other words have begun to hold a more prominent position in the prayer, praise, and profession of God's people. This thesis traces the biblical, historical, and theological understanding of the formational nature and role of psalms and explores the incorporation and encouragement of their use in worship.

Runyon, M. Renée (2018)

Developing Awareness of Revelation and Response at Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church, Spring Arbor, Michigan

ABSTRACT: God created humankind to be in relationship with him, continuing the mutually affirming bond which the Trinity has enjoyed since before time. The special connection that those created in the *imago Dei* possess with their Creator opens the door for divine-human dialogue in worship. Understanding the central truth that God engages his people in revelation and response, this research project developed a class for worship leaders and laypeople to discover and recognize means by which God speaks to his people in corporate worship, and to identify and employ dialogic practices within worship whereby they respond to God's revelations.

Tam, Jayson (2018)

Reinterpreting Baptism as an Act of Worship to the Triune God at Evangelical Free Church of China Yan Fook Church, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: This thesis addresses the anthropocentric and non-sacramental baptismal understanding at Evangelical Free Church of China Yan Fook Church. Its purpose was to evaluate, enrich, and expand the pastoral leadership's understanding, teaching, and practice of baptism as an act of sacramental worship, which connects and commits the church to the Trinitarian faith.

Wolf, William F. (2018)

Developing a Freshmen Orientation to University Chapels at Johnson University
Knoxville, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: This thesis is focused on developing a freshman orientation to university chapels at Johnson University in Knoxville, TN. Toward that end, it examines biblical, historical, and theological foundation for the claim that God forms his people through their repeated acts of worship. The research and implementation are structured around three essential elements of ritual activity – participation, submission, and repetition. The thesis addresses the formative benefit of each and explores the implications for worship renewal in the author’s immediate context and beyond.

Yune, Noel Goh Duong (2018)

Developing a Model to Deepen Spiritual Intimacy in Worship at Holland Village Methodist Church, Singapore

ABSTRACT: Despite the loss of intimacy through disobedience, God’s desire for intimacy with people endures. It is, however, the people’s consciousness of his longing for us that is less enduring. Therefore, to be more intentionally conscious of his love and desire for us, this thesis project introduces a model that is based on the Tabernacle God had provided through Moses. By way of the three parts of the Tabernacle, the model offers a pattern of progressive access from the Outer Court, through the Holy Place and into the Holy of Holies where God’s people can enjoy intimacy with him.

2019

Addington, Justin Lowery (2019)

Reclaiming a Culture of Excellence for the Worship of St. John's United Methodist Church, Rock Hill, South Carolina

ABSTRACT: God deserves our best. Through the efforts of an all-day retreat, select members of the Worship Committee of St. John’s United Methodist Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina, endeavored to learn more about excellence as it pertains to Christian worship. After studying the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of excellence, members of the group examined the current worship of the church and explored ways through which the day’s teachings could be applied to bring about positive change.

Anderson, Jeanne Marie Mullins (2019)

Reforming Baptismal Spirituality at Fredericksburg Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia

ABSTRACT: Historically, Fredericksburg Baptist Church has nurtured primarily active spiritual types because the biblical truth that God desires transformative relationships has been under-narrated and without intentional support or nurture. The purpose of this project was to educate the ministerial staff toward their realizing, initiating, and nurturing the God-oriented, God-engaged transformative relationships God desires. For reforming baptismal spirituality before, during, and after baptism, participants created a

normative baptismal script from the frame of the overarching biblical story, based on the triune God's covenant love, and the church's covenant for facilitating lifelong, personally-transformative relationships with God supported by participation in the church.

Berg-Desrosiers, Joy (2019)

Developing Understanding of and Participation in the Missional Calling of Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

ABSTRACT: Writers and theologians have addressed issues of declining numbers in the Church today with promotion of programs and attention to style. This thesis looks at the foundation of thought necessary to dialogue about a different way of thinking about membership in the Church and mission. By reflecting on God's nature, the Church's identity, and the call into being a missional people, the Church's discussion will be focused instead on a gracious God as the initiator of a call for the beloved children of God to be God's hands and feet in the world.

Blesse, Frederick E. (2019)

Fostering Unity in Diversity through the Development of Worship Planning Teams at Auberry Community Church, Auberry, California

God created and delights in diversity. Jesus' prayer in John 17 for the believers' unity was that it would reflect the unity and diversity of his relationship with the Father. The local church provides the environment to begin practicing unity, as individual Christians—uniquely gifted—together display the miracle of God's grace by serving one another and reflecting in their relationships the kingdom of God. My thesis project was developed to explore the divine prerogative of unity in the church's diversity, to see how it informs the way we believe, speak, live and worship.

Chan, Eva Lap Yi (2019)

Cultivating Bodily Worship with Dancers at D.O.G.-Power Dance Ministry, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: God's presence is embodied non-verbally through body, liturgy, and aesthetics, which allows believers to not only engage God in Scriptures, but also encounter God through body movements and senses. This thesis aimed to cultivate bodily worship with dancers, and develop a biblical, historical, and theological foundation of the embodiment of God's presence in non-verbal means. The foundation provides inspiration for the planning of bodily worship, which can allow people to rediscover the nature of their bodies, which are created to worship and experience the presence of God.

Chuang, Esther Shin (2019)

The Beautiful Mosaic: Introducing Multicultural Worship to First Baptist Church of Park Ridge, Illinois

ABSTRACT: When all the nations are called to worship God, they are to worship him wholeheartedly using their cultural gifts. Thus, when all the nations are worshipping God together, the ideal is for multicultural worship to happen. Through multicultural worship,

the church extends hospitality to all cultures, celebrates all cultures, and experiences the God of all nations. This thesis project demonstrated how the church could be equipped in moving toward God's vision of a multicultural worshipping community.

De Young, Karen Suzanne (2019)

Developing a Servant Leadership Teaching Curriculum for the Grove Collective at Northwest Christian University, Eugene, Oregon

ABSTRACT: Serving is not extraneous to biblical leadership but is at the heart of it. As leadership is often misunderstood in culture, God's highest purpose and countercultural calling is for humanity to serve. God's paradoxical power embodies humility, and empowers the community to mutually serve God, and others, in relationship. This thesis presents the countercultural roles of power, humility, and community, attesting to God's priorities for serving in leadership. Subsequently, this project brings to light a story of a group of college students who have communicated a desire to deepen their understanding of what it means to serve in leadership.

Elvington, Laura Story (2019)

Developing Worship Leaders on Approaching God with Reverence, Johns Creek, Georgia

Gambill, John Luther (2019)

Developing a Curriculum on Authenticity in Worship for William Carey University, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

ABSTRACT: God's call for worship to be authentic can be found throughout Scripture, from God's call to right worship (Amos 5), to worship that is in Spirit and truth (John 4), to believers looking to heaven as a model for worship on earth (Revelation 4). Worship looks different across the many various cultures and social norms, yet it is the heart that is to be in focus. This project design and implementation provided an opportunity for the church music students at William Carey University to increase their understanding that authentic worship should be the response of God's people.

Groover, R. Creston (2019)

Facilitating the Dialogue of Worship at First Baptist Church of Jesup, Georgia

ABSTRACT: Worship is an enactment of a holy conversation where, through the power of the Holy Spirit, God begins the conversation by inviting believers into his presence. Once there, believers respond through their worship to God in gratefulness for the love he has shown us through Christ Jesus. This response can be in the form of songs, prayers, confessions, the Service of the Word, or our service to others in the Kingdom of God. God's revelation of himself to believers in worship demands and deserves a response from believers through their worship.

Hamrick, Stephen J. (2019)

Teaching Revelation and Response to Worship Leaders within the Illinois Baptist State Association

ABSTRACT: The aim of this project was to introduce the biblical pattern of revelation and response to volunteer music leaders of the Illinois Baptist State Association and to deepen their knowledge of worship response. Application of this concept helped the attendees view the structure of corporate worship through the lens of a dialogical pattern found in Scripture. The desire was to provide the participant with an opportunity to transform their worship planning methodology resulting in a more profound response to God's word.

Kung-Poon, Doris Ka Po (2019)

Creating a Retreat for Renewing Relationships in the Life of Worship at Trinity Baptist Church, Vancouver, British Columbia

ABSTRACT: This action research project was sparked by identifying that relationships between the members of Trinity Baptist Church were broken and fractured. TBC needed renewal in relationships with God and others. The journey to renewed relationships was based on the truth that reconciliation leads to renewed relationships. Based on the biblical foundations of forgiveness and reconciliation, theological foundations of identity and relationships, historical successes and failures, and sociological considerations, this retreat project was designed and implemented to help TBC live in renewed relationships with God and each other.

Lott, Trenten David (2019)

Introducing Spiritual Care into the Curriculum at Messenger College, Bedford, Texas

ABSTRACT: As Christians, we are called to love one another as Christ loved us and offer care that is concerned with the wholeness of others. Spiritual care fosters relational wholeness with God and with others. Spiritual care mirrors the sacrificial, loving care that God has shown us through Christ on the cross. This thesis explores specific aspects of spiritual care and underscores the role of pastors and laypeople offering care. This thesis also shares the story of a group of college students committed to caring for the spiritual care needs of others.

Mak, Emma (2019)

A Training Program on the Provision of Pastoral Care to Marginalized Older Adults in Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: A training course on pastoral care for marginalized older adults was constructed and implemented for the first time at the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Hong Kong. The course aimed to help Christians realize God's call for humanity to love God and others through the loving of marginalized older adults. The research data showed that students were able to acquire communication skills; they also increased in readiness to bring spiritual nourishment and worship to marginalized older adults. Furthermore, the course led students to a better awareness of the relationship between their love for God and their love for marginalized older adults.

Nance, Catherine Stapleton (2019)

Telling God's Story: A Worship Leading Course for Ministers in the South Carolina Annual Conference

ABSTRACT: This project was completed to provide specific and individual training as worship leaders to South Carolina United Methodist pastors. Its intent was to move the participants from an embedded worship style to a deliberative and contextual one by examining the weaving together of liturgy, Scripture, and prayer delivered in an excellent way. Participants were given specific and individualized methods to improve their skills, thereby increasing confidence in their pastoral role of worship leader. The project was intended to help pastors express Christian doctrine through their leadership in worship, thereby helping their congregations experience the love, hope, and promise of God.

Prom, Deborah Thompson (2019)

Developing a Mentoring Process in Worship at Legacy Church of the Assemblies of God in Princeton, Texas

ABSTRACT: This thesis dealt with mentoring in worship at Legacy Church of the Assemblies of God in Princeton, Texas. Examining the biblical, historical, and theological foundations for mentoring others on the journey of becoming better worshipers and musicians, the thesis addresses the truth that God followers care not only for their own journeys with God, but about others' journeys as well. Mentoring and discipleship are God's plan. The intervention called team members to knowledge and understanding, spiritual formation through worship and mentoring, and analysis and strategies for personal and corporate purposes.

Thompson-Haney, Brenda (2019)

Understanding Lament through Songwriting at Trinity Church of the Assemblies of God in Cedar Hill, Texas

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this thesis was to bring understanding of lament through songwriting at Trinity Church of the Assemblies of God in Cedar Hill, Texas. The goal was to prepare worship staff members to incorporate biblical lament into the corporate setting. Using pre- and post-class surveys, participant journals, and exit interview methodology, research data was gathered and analyzed. Following an examination of the biblical, historical, theological, and sociological foundations for lament, worship staff members wrote modern songs of lament based upon Psalm 13.

Venolita, Elly (2019)

Developing a Servant Leadership Spirit within the Worship Team at St. Paul Evangelical Community Church in La Mirada, California

ABSTRACT: This thesis project explores the importance of developing a servant leadership spirit, demonstrated by Jesus, and based on biblical, theological, and historical foundations. The project features an eight-week study course offered at St. Paul Evangelical Community Church in La Mirada, California. It highlights the importance of developing a servant leadership attitude in worship and ministry settings.

Wong, Helen Mok (2019)

Exploring Worship as a Divine-Human Dialogue at the Canadian Chinese School of Theology in Toronto, ON, Canada

ABSTRACT: This project was developed to cultivate and strengthen student participants' understanding of worship by emphasizing worship as a response to God's revelation. Exploring the dialogical concept of worship from biblical, historical, and theological perspectives challenged the participants' views of worship in corporate settings, with implications for church praxis concerning content, structure, style, and music. This study also highlighted the need to equip pastors and lay leaders with a robust theology of worship so that they will revitalize the broader faith community to practice worship rightly in the contemporary world.

Wong Ka Lei Isabella (2019)

Developing a Course on Liturgical Arts For the Chinese Christian Literature Council, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: This project was designed for those who seek knowledge of liturgical art. This thesis developed a course on liturgical art for the Chinese Christian Literature Council, Hong Kong, and gathered different worship leaders and Christian artists to grow their understanding of liturgical art. Exploration on the benefits of using liturgical art was covered during the teaching to help the participants to see God's glory through the use of liturgical art within their liturgical space.

2020

Baker, Meg L. (2020)

Developing an Understanding of God's Desire for Intimacy Within the Community of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Kensington, Maryland

ABSTRACT: This project endeavored to educate believers regarding the scriptural, historical, and theological support for the biblical truth that God desires intimacy with his people. Through a series of sessions, the project charted a path for believers to engage more intentionally in their personal relationship with God throughout daily living. Its purpose was to promote the understanding that intimacy with God is available to us now.

Benson, Meghan A. (2020)

Turn to God: Discovering Reorientation Through Study of the Psalms at Living Savior Lutheran Church, Fairfax Station, Virginia

ABSTRACT: This project explores the biblical, theological, and historical foundations supporting the biblical truth that God's people reorient themselves to him. Relying heavily on Walter Brueggemann's methodology for classifying the psalms according to orientation, disorientation, and reorientation, an intervention was designed to assist participant's use of the psalms as a vehicle for reorienting one's self to God. As a result of the intervention, participants reported an increased appreciation of the psalms as a

means to reorient to God, an increased comfort and acceptance in expressing emotions to God, and an increased appreciation of the relevancy of the psalter in their daily lives.

Bolkema, Anthony M. (2020)

Enhancing the Missional Sending at First Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois

ABSTRACT: This project was designed to enhance the missional sending at First Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois. Drawing from the biblical witness, historical tradition, and theological reflection of the church, this thesis focused on the sending nature of our Trinitarian God and the extension of this sending as it is embodied in the ministry and worshiping life of First Reformed Church. Throughout three workshops, participants' missional imaginations were enlivened as they explored the nexus between worship and mission and were reminded that God sends out his people.

Choi, Ho Heung Cazaria (2020)

Re-Envisioning Intercessory Prayer in Worship at Shaukeiwan Swatow Baptist Church, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: Intercessory prayer is a response to God's desire and his calling to the church to be priestly intercessors in the world. By adopting a biblically, and theologically grounded approach, this research project developed a class on key foundations of intercessory prayer specifically designed for pastors and lay-leaders, which took the form of a four-module workshop. Through understanding the biblical truth that God desires our intercessions, the goal of the sessions was for the participants to better envision how these solid foundations are conducive to leading intercession in Christian worship so that both congregational engagement and their spiritual growth can be enhanced.

Godfrey, Vince Kenneth (2020)

Developing a Seminar on Divine Revelation at First United Methodist Church, O'Fallon, Illinois

ABSTRACT: Knowing that God reveals himself is an essential belief for all Christians. Gaining a better understanding of why and how God reveals himself to his people enriches the worship experience. Recognizing that the Bible is an integral source of divine revelation can lead to the enhancement of Scripture in worship, possibly through a diversity of Scripture presentations. Through a seminar about divine revelation, participants developed an increased active awareness, pursuit, and expectation of God continually revealing himself to his people in their everyday lives and throughout the worship experience, especially through the presentation of Scripture.

Ku, Tan-Ching (2020)

Developing a Course About Music in Worship for the Musicians at the Hong Kong Association of Christian Music Ministry, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: The thesis project was designed to teach the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of worship and music to those who serve in worship and music ministry. Musicians should have sufficient knowledge about worship to support their

service and be aware of their important role and function in worship in order to assist the people in worshiping God through music. Musicians from the Association of Christian Music Ministry of Hong Kong (ACM) were the participants in this action-research project and were encouraged to apply what they learned in their ACM ministry and their own churches.

Kwan, Helon Hei Lun (2020)

Enhancing the Understanding of Congregational Singing as a Way to Proclaim God's Story at Diamond Hill Baptist Church, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: God desires his people to worship him and proclaim his name. Biblical and historical examples show that God's people proclaim his story through singing. As the congregation of Diamond Hill Baptist Church, Hong Kong (DHBC) lacked an understanding of how congregational singing functions in worship, this thesis project designed a course to teach the musicians of DHBC the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of proclaiming God's story through congregational singing.

Li, Timothy Yan Tim (2020)

Crafting Seasonally Relevant Eucharist at Shatin Swatow Christian Church, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT: Word and Table narrate God's story, revealing his works and attributes. Shatin Swatow Christian Church comes from a tradition that downplays the equal importance of the service of the Table in expressing God's story in worship. This thesis examines the biblical, historical, and theological foundations for the Eucharist as part of narrating that story, and portrays how the church participated and responded to a six-session all-church Sunday School class designed to prepare the church for a renewal of the Table. As a result, the members welcomed a new practice of bi-weekly Communion into their Sunday worship.

Markin, Johnny (2020)

Formed by Worship: Training Worship Leaders to Create Liturgy at Northview Community Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada

ABSTRACT: In light of the current popular Evangelical model of relying heavily on music and preaching, this study examined the role of liturgy in the spiritual formation of believers. Notably, it examined non-musical elements and the influence they have in shaping one's worldview in light of the affections that are cultivated as believers participate in the story of God via the liturgy. The goal of the study was to equip worship leaders to prepare non-musical elements with which to allow worshipers to more actively participate in the liturgy.

Myers, Kevin M. (2020)

Becoming Disciples: Learning How to Love God, Love Others, and Love the World at Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church, Denver, Colorado

ABSTRACT: This document and project supports the theological truth that discipleship is central to following God. The project intervention was created to teach participants the knowledge of discipleship and why it is central to living the Christian life. From the intervention, participants displayed a growth in understanding of the tenets of discipleship and methods for how to apply them in their lives.

Renford, Ann M. McGowan (2020)

Developing a Discipleship Program for Young Adults at Swallowfield Chapel, Kingston, Jamaica

ABSTRACT: God calls believers to discipleship as part of a greater plan to reconcile humanity back to God. God's invitation requires a response from believers, who by their lives and words call successive generations into relationship with the Creator. Believers respond to the love of God, which God first offers, by loving God with all that they are, and loving their neighbors out of that love for God. This call to discipleship is facilitated within the local church community as the intergenerational company of called believers grows together in loving relationship and service to God and each other.

Waddey, Mike Scott (2020)

Defining What it Means to Be Set Apart at Maury City First Baptist Church, Maury City, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: God calls people to be set apart for his purpose. Being set apart for God changes an individual's personal daily life and shapes the elemental makeup of worship on Sunday. The biblical, historical, and theological record demonstrates that being set apart is often motivated by God's mercy and involves the sacrifice of one's whole self. This thesis laid a foundation for Maury City First Baptist Church to know what being set apart is and how being set apart dictates the elemental makeup of corporate worship.

Wallace, Kenneth LaVonne, Jr. (2020)

Contextualizing Indigenous Ceremonies with Kingdom Reflections Multiethnic Worship Ministries in Montreal, Quebec

ABSTRACT: This thesis explores the concept of contextual worship as the design and desire of Creator. Through biblical, historical, and theological analysis, this work lays a foundation for the practice of cultural examination and contextualization that will allow for worshipers to use their own cultures to glorify God. This practice was demonstrated on a weekend retreat where participants worshiped in a contextualized Indigenous manner and then reflected on the worship experience. The premise is that God was at work in the culture of all peoples before missionaries arrived with the Gospel. As a result, God's people worship contextually.

Weaver, Brent D. (2020)

Introducing Story-Based Worship to Worship Ministry Students of Johnson University, Knoxville, Tennessee

ABSTRACT: The narrative of God's restorative activity past, present, and future serves as God's story of the world. God's story is our story. This thesis examines the biblical,

theological, and historical foundations for the belief that God's story forms God's people. The thesis project introduced six Johnson University worship ministry students to the formative value of worship ordered by God's story as revealed in Scripture, lived into as the Church, and rehearsed in worship. The project involved six teaching modules that incorporated thesis research and pointed participants toward recognizing story-based content, realizing liturgical formation,

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