

TGIF Chapter (To Gather In “Fellowship”)

Local FUMMWA/Ann Arbor District Sharing Conference Program Material

Saturday, July 19, 2008

10:00 a.m. to noon

(Pizza luncheon to follow – pizza, salads, desserts, & beverages)

Welcome

Welcome to the first ever, Ann Arbor District Local Church FUMMWA sponsored Worship Sharing Conference.

And welcome to The Dundee United Methodist Church. You made it from the parking lot to here in the sanctuary, so even though you've seen pretty much the whole church, I'd still like to take care of a little housekeeping.

Bathrooms are right though those rear doors located on the back wall.

Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall which is out those same rear doors and then turn left and keep going east through the next set of double doors (behind the registration table) until you see the tables and smell the food.

If there is anyone left who needs a packet, name tag, or needs a plug or accommodations for an instrument, please let me know now.

A correction – the letters in the front of your packets give permission for use of the music to be shared later - not use of the songs we will be singing from the hymnal and Faith We Sing Supplement during worship.

If in the course of the morning you have any special needs, please see Diana Brown. She/he has graciously volunteered to be the hospitality representative.

Many of you already know me, my name is Lora Crombez and this is my home church and Rev. Doug Olson is my pastor (he stood and was recognized) I'm a certified lay speaker, member of the church adult choir and chime choir and I've been a member of two sacred vocal bands, His Workmanship in the 1970s and I currently lead The 151st.

I got together with my husband, Rene, in college at while touring Europe with the Eastern Michigan University Madrigal Singers some 20 years ago during my vocal music education undergrad work - but the education I value most is the 15 years I spent studying the Song of the Lord with the International Worship Symposium and at various church events.

I have loved God's music for 33 years. I've been receiving and now it is time to give back. It is my sincere prayer that in these 30+ years I have gathered and created something of value that can be shared - just a little bit of it - with you today.

Let's get started with prayer . . .

Opening Prayer – “Heavenly Father, we thank you for the shed blood of your dear Son that allows us to be in relationship with you and with each other. And we thank you for the opportunity to freely meet together as musicians . . . to gather in your presence today for worship, fellowship, and sharing . . . that we might be inspired and strengthened in our calling as worship leaders. We praise you for your loving kindness and mercy that allows us to ask your blessing on this time together and to ask the deep desire of our hearts . . .

Sang - BLOW UPON ME O' WIND OF GOD . . . 2 times through

Attendees asked to end this sung prayer ending with a “4-1 AMEN“

You sound so good, I think God would like to hear a little more from you . . .

Please stand and sing.

Praise & Worship (Hymnal & Faith We Sing) 4 songs:

1. Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing - first 3 verses– pg. 57 red hymnal - in G
2. Shout To The Lord – pg. 2074 in The Faith We Sing - black book – hit E7- in A

The promise we have in Him . . . it is only because of who He is that we can trust His word. He is love. Faithful. And holy . . . let's sing to Him now.

3. Holy, Holy, Holy – page 2007 – in C
Sing it through twice –

Can anyone think of another two syllable attributes of God?

Speak it out.

Loving. Faithful. Awesome. Righteous. Mighty. Worthy. Savior. Precious . . . etc.

(Attendees added new verses to this worship song.)

Went back and sang the first verse of **Oh for a Thousand Tongues** to Sing without accompanying instruments . . . **very slowly**.

Thank you, beautifully sung, you may be seated.

Introductions

I believe you shouldn't spend the day with strangers . . . so let's see who is out there.

Could we take a minute to **"Share the Peace"** with at least three other people you don't know. Only you don't have to be peaceful about it.

I have an assignment for you: Since your name and home church are on your name tag - tell someone what you do there (**your role**) and a **memorable fact about yourself**

Example: I sing here and play chimes and minister with sacred vocal band The 151st and my memorable fact is I have 15 cats.

Mrs. Snell played the piano while people shared the peace. When she stopped playing people took their seats.

A Vision or Message: For today's gathering and for this group

Calling together a group like this has been on my heart for along time.

And I do it not because Dundee has all the answers, because we don't. And it's knowing that we don't . . . and yet having that desire to be better that compels me to call you together, knowing I'll share today, but I'll pick your brains tomorrow.

One of the final observations that lead me to just take the plunge and organize this meeting was watching two musician friends from the band The 151st over the last three years. I warned them I was going to talk about them.

The music ministry of the 151st has taken us to many churches in the Ann Arbor District and to other denominations - and one thing that I noticed these members of the band do was visit the kitchens of all the churches at which we ministered.

They'd look at everything and take notes and draw pictures and make diagrams and lists of ideas to bring back to use here. We've seen some wonderful innovations, not only in the kitchen area, but we even stole the idea for our nametag holder from Belleville First.

We church people have created cookbooks and shared recipes, and as a nation we have entire cable networks devoted to cooking, home repair, health, etc. Not to mention cooking and craft magazines. An industry for the do-it yourself-ers to share and improve. I'm sure everyone here could describe an adaptive re-use of an ordinary household item for another purpose or could share a handy tip.

So, I've been watching the sharing of ideas informally and commercially in many areas for years and thought, "What if this practice was formally applied to worship arts!"

That is when The Holy Spirit began to put this word in my heart for fellow worship leaders to stress the importance of what we do and how we are a key to transforming the world.¹

I'm probably not going to tell you anything you don't already know, but as mothers and teachers are fond to say, "Let me remind you . . ."

I have three scripture stories to share with you.

Scripture #1: Luke 10:38-42 – It's the Mary and Martha Story – this one is short so I'll read it to you:

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: **But one thing is needful:** and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

I could focus on Martha because as a musician I am very busy and "careful and troubled about many things" . . . but I'm already proficient at worrying about the workload and complaining. (Did I hear my husband say "Amen.?"?)

So, I'd like to look at three ideas presented here about Mary.

1. She **also** sat at the feet of Jesus (maybe like Martha, only Mary didn't leave).
2. She chose the ONE "needful" thing and the good part – defined as needful and good by Jesus – now that's an endorsement!
3. She chose something can't be taken from her.

Sat at the feet of Jesus? -itsimply means to sit down near – in the presence of.

Good Part? means - good thing, portion or share of benefit, valuable or virtuous for appearance or use.

Needful? means needed, demanded, required, from a word meaning “ to furnish what is needed.”

Never Taken Away? Literally, never removed, cut off, or taken away by force.

I know you didn't come for a sermon, but this story and the two others are at the heart of what we as worship leaders do and why you've been called together.

Here we have two women, wonderful “church people,” but each with a different focus. And Jesus sets the record straight. One thing is needed. Sitting at His feet. It is an even better choice than serving. That's a radical idea. Jesus says sitting near him is the **one** needful thing. It is the one valuable and necessary thing that can never be taken away.

When Jesus is in the room where else could Mary's attention be?
Only on Jesus.

As musicians we need to sit at Jesus feet and lead others into his presence. Why?

So what happens to people when they sit at Jesus feet?

What happens when they come into the presence of God?

As the Bishop put it a few months ago - **They become disciples** (just like Mary and the others gathered in the house that day) **for the transformation of the world** – it happened 2000 years ago **and it can happen today.**

That is where the business of worship leaders enters in.

What a privilege to lead people into the presence of God and tell them to sit and enjoy – rather than get up and get busy! It is in His presence where the Holy Spirit can transform lives and - eventually the world.

In the New Testament, the presence of Jesus was a place of healing, teaching and life-giving. Jesus hasn't changed.

Psalm 22 says in verse 3, "But you are holy, you that inhabits the praises of your people."

God meets with us when we thank and praise him and then the Holy Spirit does the work in the hearts and minds of the worshipper.

How awesome is that - to be given the privilege of leading worship and leading the people we care about into the presence of Jesus.

Let's look at two specific examples of people in the presence of God:

What happened to Isaiah in the presence of the Lord – You can read Isaiah 6:1- 8 for yourself, it will sound familiar . . . (went to next page)

Isa.6 Verses 1 to 10

[1] In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

[2] Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

[3] And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

[4] And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

[5] Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

[6] Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

[7] And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

[8] Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

But what happens in God's presence was this -- Isaiah was convicted
(Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I

dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips) and he was **cleansed**(the angel said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged)and he was **called**(Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?).

I assert that this can happen weekly to those who enter our doors when we lead them into God's presence. When they sit at Jesus' feet.

Isn't this a wonderful opportunity to facilitate the work of conviction, cleansing and calling in our community?

Let's look at another worship incident.

Now some of you may be thinking, "But I worship in difficult circumstances! We don't have a choir, or talented instrumentalist, or a supportive pastor, or (you fill in the blank).

Well, I'd like to share the story of the three Hebrew captives that are thrown into the fiery furnace – do you remember that story? - again you can read the entire story later in Daniel 3 verses 12 -30 . . . (go to the next page)

Dan.3 Verses 12 to 30

[12] There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

[13] Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.

[14] Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, **Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?**

[15] **Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?**

[16] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

[17] If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

[18] But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

[19] Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

[20] And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

[21] Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

[22] Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

[23] And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

[24] Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

[25] He answered and said, **Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**

[26] Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

[27] And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

[28] Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

[29] Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language,

which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. [30] Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon.

6

For Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshiping God was a conviction, not a preference.

And because they chose to worship, just the three of them, with their own resources – without the benefit of temple and priest and with an antagonistic civil authority – something miraculous happened.

In the presence of God their enemies were destroyed (the men that threw them into the furnace), they were preserved and protected (not even a hair singed or the smell of smoke on their clothes), what bound them fell away and was consumed - freeing them to walk in the midst of the fire with THE SON OF GOD.

How many of us wish to not only stand in the time of trouble, but to be loosed and walking in the midst of the fire with Son of God?

Finally they were a witness to the power of God (and the Bible mentions how the king was impressed and declared the power of these men's God).

Worship of the one true God was worth their lives. They worshipped illegally and chastised. They worshipped incarcerated and punished. They would worship alive until delivered or dead.

This conviction - the devotion to the worship of the one true God brought them into the presence of the Son of God before the incarnation, and ultimately resulted in a great deliverance and freedom.

This is such a great time in which to be a sacred musician –we have the privilege of following our convictions and being the “front men” for God's special weekly visits to the gathered community of faith – the church.

A lot goes into preparing a site for a head of state's visit. And think we get to prepare weekly for the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

With worship we create a climate for God to dwell in and for the Holy Spirit to work. My challenge to you is found in this last scripture . . . this is my

idea of the ultimate worship service! It is worship at the dedication of Solomon's temple,

Maybe the people of Arise can relate . . . I was there for the ground-breaking – is the building done?

The account is found in 2Chronicles 5:1-14.

[1] Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.

[2] Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

[3] Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month.

[4] And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark.

[5] And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up.

[6] Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

[7] And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims:

[8] For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

[9] And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day.

[10] There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

[11] And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course:

[12] Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

[13] It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;

[14] So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

As we:

- 1. come together**
- 2. are arrayed in white linen** - which speaks of being clean through Jesus Christ our Savior
- 3. with our tools of the trade** (our instruments, voices & music)
- 4. standing before God** in his holy place
- 5. and the most difficult part – as one,**
- 6. making one sound! (For the Lord is worthy to be praised -- For he is good; for his mercy endureth forever!**

The presence of God will be so real and so thick in our churches as to render our work impossible and unnecessary because the glory of the Lord fills the house! The Holy Spirit does the work.

I challenge you, I dare you to believe that this can happen in this day! That people can come into our churches and be touched by the Holy Spirit during the worship service and say, “God is here!”

This “worship work” is so wonderful –this is why we need a chance to pray together, and worship together and to share - best practices, experiences, and effective materials, so the King of Kings and Lord of Lords can be worshipped, and worshippers can be nurtured and the kingdom furthered.

And as we share, support and inspire each other . . . along the way maybe we’ll become a friendship and support network for each other.

There is a joke that goes . . . A pastor got up to talk about finances and he said from the pulpit, I have good news and bad news. The good news is

that we have enough money for our project, the bad news is it is still in your pockets.

Well, I have good news and bad news for you. The good news is we have everything we need to make each of our local churches' worship even more vital and meaningful, the bad news is – those wonderful ideas are scattered all over the District.⁹

So let's review:

Being in God's presence is vital for the continuance of spiritual life as we know it and even wish it to be.

Wonderful things happen in God's presence

Worship leaders facilitate bringing people into God's presence

Sharing Conferences help equip worship leaders for this important ministry.

Will you be a part of the next and most future sharing conferences?

That is what this coming together is about . . . every church worshipping more mindfully – consciously, reflectively, and then taking note of practices and elements - of what works - and then coming together periodically to share those discoveries.

*So far this has looked like the “Lord Crombez Show,” but in my former life as a special education teacher for adjudicated teenaged sex offenders, I was introduced to the concept of the **sharing conference**. Even though there is a lot of literature on sex offender treatment – it is still a young discipline and many programs are still learning valuable things in the field, which are shared at regular intervals among all kinds of practitioners– social workers, therapists, counselors, care-givers, teachers, family members – everybody connected with the transformation of the lives of perpetrators and victims/survivors come together to share. It didn't matter how many letters were after your name, the value was in the content of your idea about what worked, with whom, and in what setting.*

That idea is transferable to this setting. The possibilities are only limited by you, the participant.

Now there is an organization with a lot of experience in music and worship arts that was around before I was! And they are our sponsors today, The Fellowship of United Methodists Musicians and Worship Arts, affectionately known as “The Fellowship.”

So . . . What is The Fellowship of United Methodists Musicians and Worship Arts?

I don't want to take a long time with this or pressure you into joining an organization – but I' like to give honor where honor is due and draw your attention to the a few items in your packets.

1. The information sheet.
2. The application
3. The “Welcome Letter” from the president of the organization.

During lunch you can look at the items on one of the side tables – this is what we've received so far from membership. Look at them, but please don't take them – they are our only copies. Much of this information can be found for free on their web site.

We've prayed, we've worshipped, we've been encouraged out of our comfort zone with the word, now I'd like to share some vocal music with you . . . **Sharing:**

Sing A New Song – a vocal read through – take these songs home and use them)

- 1) Come And Worship (Introit or Call To Worship)
- 2) John 3:16 (Communion or Altar Call)
- 3) The Benediction (as a benediction)
- 4) Corporate Prayer
- 5) Anyone like to learn a couple of choruses? Sing Unto God, Praise The Lord Alleluia, a processional - Worthy Holy Jesus

Next Time:

Where do we go from here? . . . before we look at the questionnaire, would anyone like to share their thoughts?

Filling out the questionnaire . . . now I hate these things.

I think I've done one in all of the years I've been taking classes, attending conferences, and participating in workshops.

But it is essential for what happens next.

I can't impress on you enough how important it is that you fill this out.

FEEDBACK . . . Answer the questions below. Your comments will assist us in planning what happens next. Please check the items that best describe your thoughts. Please comment.

1. The format of prayer, worship, Word, sharing, and meal was:

- a) lacking a component -- list item here _____
- b) is appropriate for now - list suggestion here _____
- c) is too long and involved, please drop the _____

2. The day (Saturday) chosen for the conference was:

- a) poor -- list suggestion here _____
- b) appropriate -- list suggestion here _____
- c) perfect

3. The time of day (10 to noon) chosen for the conference was:

- a) inconvenient - list suggestion here _____
- b) acceptable - list suggestion here _____
- c) very satisfactory

4. The amount of time spent at the conference was:

- a) too little - suggestion _____
- b) just right
- c) too much - suggestion _____

5. The time spent in corporate singing and worship at the beginning was:

- a) too little - suggestion _____
- b) just right
- c) too much - suggestion _____

6. The content of the message was:

- a) too basic - suggestion _____

- b) appropriate and encouraging
- c) not relevant - suggestion _____

7. The amount of music shared was:
- a) too little - suggestion _____
 - b) just right
 - c) too much- suggestion _____

8. The type of music shared was:
- a) not relevant to my church's situation, not at all applicable
 - b) somewhat helpful and useful in my church setting,
 - c) very helpful and useful in my church setting, very applicable

9. How often would you like to see events like this held?
- a) Not at all
 - b) Quarterly or Seasonally - suggestion _____
 - c) Monthly

10. Interaction of participants - Did you feel engaged?
- a) not at all, I was a spectator
 - b) comfortable with level of participation
 - c) uncomfortable with level of participation, - suggestion _____

11. Overall, the conference was:
- a) unsatisfactory
 - b) satisfactory
 - c) very satisfactory

Contact information:

Name: _____

Home Church: _____

Role(s) in home church: _____

Voice part/Instrument _____

Contact Information:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

e-mail: _____

How long would you need for "convenient" notice of future gatherings?

- a) less than one month
- b) at least a month
- c) longer than one month - suggestion _____

I would be willing to:

Give the Welcome

___ Lead in Prayer

___ Lead in Worship

___ Share an encouraging message

___ Share an idea/song/? Something done at my church

___ Contribute a dish to pass

___ Work with organizers to plan the next event

The organizers would like this gathering to meet the needs of those in attendance. What would you like to see happen next? What would like addressed the next time we gather? (Types of ministries, season items, more vocal music, etc.)

Close with prayer and blessings on the food.

Dismiss to Fellowship Hall for meal.

Afterglow conversations.