

LPM: What's in it for you?



The Leadership Program for Musicians serving Smaller Congregations (LPM) covers key areas in church music education, liturgical education and spiritual formation. It is open to musicians, pastors, choir members, interested lay persons, anyone of any age from any denomination! Not sure yet what it's all about? Most LPM programs welcome visitors to observe and see what's going on.

Contact your LPM Regional Coordinator (see the [Affiliates](#) page on the LPM website:

<http://www.lpm-online.org/affiliates.php>), or

[Anna Leppert-Largent](#), LPM Consultant-Coordinator (<http://www.lpm-online.org/contact.php>) for more information on an LPM program in your area. Seeing us in action is the best way to see how we can help you.

The program seeks to respond to many concerns:

- Church musicians working in small churches struggle with new ways of doing things and new materials.
- Young people and others, who have the potential skills to be a congregation's musician, but need encouragement and support.
- Established musicians value an opportunity to gather and learn from one another and establish a network of support for their ministries.
- Pastors and laity with an interest in the music of the church need a boost to their worship lives.

The program can be taken in part or whole; in other words, you can take only the classes that meet your needs. However if all course requirements are met, the LPM Certificate in Church Music is awarded at the successful completion of the program.

Classes call on participants' imagination and creativity, asking them to explore the different opportunities music in worship presents, such as diverse ethnic repertoires and styles and music's role in evangelism, parish liturgy, and parish life. Attention is particularly given to the needs and ways of smaller churches.

The program's ultimate goals are to give participants an increased commitment to music ministry, and self worth as lay ministers, to improve their musical, pastoral, and leadership skills, and to expand their own and their parishes' visions of the variety of music and leadership practices.

What's in it for me?

Here is a summary of each course and the type of work that you are asked to do.

I. Philosophy of Music Leadership/Ministry

This course helps participants to define their role as leaders in music and worship and to explore that role from the perspectives of history, theology, and pastoral concern. You assess your own parish's situation and the importance of recognizing and using the gifts members of your congregations have to offer. The use of the voice for music leadership is emphasized. Students are asked to write a short paper summarizing their theological understanding of church music and to lead a group in singing several pieces of music of different forms and styles. This course was completely revised in 2007.



II. Teaching New Music to the Congregation

This course helps you train both congregations and less able choirs. The background and analysis of hymns and tunes, and ways in which to introduce different kinds of music not previously experienced by your congregation, are studied. Hands-on practice with the group is included so that all can "have a go" with the encouragement of their peers. Your assignment is to teach a hymn, song, or service music selection in one of several situations, such as to an intergenerational group attending a parish supper.

III. Leadership of Congregational Song

This course helps you develop the skills to lead the congregation in singing hymns, songs, and service music. Teaching is given both to keyboard players, whether on organ, piano or synthesizer, and to those who play a non-keyboard instrument (guitars or other instruments). So those involved in leading contemporary music will particularly benefit from this class. Emphasis is placed on adapting music to a given situation, and you learn to adapt two-staff music for organ, prepare arrangements for guitar and melody instruments, realize the notation used in the psalms, and look at the principles of improvisation. Assignments include teaching and leading the group in singing music of many different types and styles. The guitar track of this course is being revised in 2007.

IV. Survey of Christian Hymnody

This survey covers historical analysis and playing and singing of materials in various styles. You also explore other hymnal resources. Assignments involve writing an entry for your bulletin on the hymns used and preparing a service such as Vespers or an Easter Vigil service. This class is being revised in 2007-2008.

V. Liturgy and Liturgical Planning: Foundations for Christian Worship

This course uses books of worship and other materials as starting points with emphasis on developing cooperation between pastor and musician. Aims include developing awareness of the congregation's pastoral needs and the use of negotiating skills, the church year, and the role of silence in worship. Your assignment is to plan several different liturgies, such as Sunday morning

communion, a funeral, a wedding, and to write about the liturgical circumstances for which you have planned. This course was completely revised in 2007.

VI. Resources for an Effective Music Program

This course looks at the congregations and worship committees, and at the help we need for our jobs, local resources, methods of communication, networks, and collegial assistance. It also covers practical concerns such as simplifying music for particular situations, arranging hymns and service music as anthems, children/youth choirs, handbells, and developing skills in critical thinking and analysis as a help in decision making. Assessment is done by class discussion, and a short paper outlining your plans to develop and strengthen your church's music program.



VII. Principles of Choral Leadership

This class consists of two five-week courses: Conducting for Church Musicians (to learn basic conducting skills) and Voice Training for Choirs

(to learn techniques for vitalizing choral singing).

The Leadership Program for Musicians

“empowering musicians in churches to lead worship that is vibrant and participatory”