

## Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations

# A2: Leadership of Congregational Song Guitar

### Overview for Instructors

*This sheet is intended to be copied, by a local LPM coordinator, and given to the instructor with the course material and a copy of the Introductory Guide to Lutherans and Episcopalians.*

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- Helpful things to understand** The primary goal of this practical track is to experience how the guitar can be used to accompany and at the same time lead congregational singing.
- Knowledge of basic guitar chords is necessary as the course is not designed to teach one how to play the guitar from scratch, but rather how to interpret the music and encourage singing.
- Materials** Of the resource materials listed on page 6, *Come Celebrate* is published specifically as a guitar resource and contains material that is very idiomatic to the instrument.
- Assignments** Each session includes an assignment. An important part of the assignment is for the participant to prepare an accompaniment for use in class the next session. This is important because it allows: (1) the class to sing often, taking note of issues encountered as singers, and (2) each person to lead the congregational song at the organ while people are singing.
- Feel free to adjust the assignment list appropriately. There may be too much for each session's assignment list and in some cases not enough. At least one hymn should be prepared by each participant for leading the class at the next session.
- Hints for teaching** The Guitar Strum Guide (p. 25) may appear pedantic to the natural or self-taught guitarist. Care should be taken not to discount or discourage the natural, instinctive way in which some people approach playing the guitar. Such natural players also should be challenged to become more disciplined in their use of the instrument. At a very basic level, the guide suggests that there are more ways to accompany singing than to use one or two "all-purpose strums" for everything.
- The sessions on creating guitar arrangements of traditional hymns (Sessions 5 through 7) should include some time with keyboard players, where possible.