

A1: Leadership of Congregational Song Organ

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.

Helpful things to understand The goal of this course is to equip organists who have little or no formal training in church music to lead congregational song with sensitivity, enthusiasm, confidence and joy. This is a course designed to integrate the participant's experience into a deeper and broader base of skills in hymn-playing and service accompanying. It is of profound importance that the instructor show respect for and interest in every participant's experience and dedication.

Participants will come to this course at many levels of experience. They will be playing a wide variety of instruments. Many of the participants will be playing in churches with electronic organs. Many will have limited ability at the pedals. It may be helpful and beneficial to divide the class into two or three sections if instructors are available. The goals of every instructor of this course must be to support, reinforce, encourage and inspire. There must be no hint of condescension.

As stated in the introduction to the course, it is very important that instructors feel free to be flexible with the curriculum and modify assignments as needed. For some participants the assignments in anthem accompaniment and simple improvisation will need to be replaced with additional work in basic hymn-playing. It may be necessary for some participants to continue training into a second year. However, the course completion requirements must remain the same for all participants.

The present curriculum includes service music and hymnody from both the Lutheran and the Episcopal traditions. Ideally, the course should be taught by musicians from both traditions who work as a team. Instructors may not own all of the materials included in the curriculum, but it is important that they be knowledgeable of both traditions. (Check with coordinator for materials available in the local LPM Resource Library.)

Materials Participants should own copies of the primary books of their own church. As possible, they should also buy the other books, including those from the other denomination.

All of the following books are included in the curriculum:

- *The Hymnal 1982, Accompaniment Edition*
- *Wonder, Love and Praise*
- *Lutheran Book of Worship, Minister's Desk Edition*
- *With One Voice*
- *Indexes for Worship Planning*
- *Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS II)*

- *This Far by Faith*
- *A New Metrical Psalter*
- *Himnario Ecumenico Espanol*
- *Libro de Liturgia y Cantico.*

See the supplies and books listed on pages 6 and 7, including titles by David Cherwien, James Engle, Robert Farlee, David Heller, Austin Lovelace, Thomas Pearce and John Williams.

In addition, instructors will need to have copies of 3 or 4 anthems with simple accompaniments for the work in Sessions 7 and 9.

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:

- (1) It allows the class to sing often, taking note of issues encountered as singers, and
- (2) It allows 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

This course needs to be taught over time. While some dioceses and synods may choose to cover the other LPM courses in five plenary sessions instead of ten, it is most desirable that *Leadership of Congregational Song* be taught in ten sessions so that participants have time to absorb the material and develop skills. If scheduling is possible, this course is very effective when spread over the entire two years.

It is possible that some participants may need private lessons. Some may not be able to complete the work at the end of one year. In many LPM programs, special arrangements have been made to provide additional help for those participants in a second year so that the course completion requirements may be attained.

This course should be taught on a small organ rather than a large instrument in a cathedral church. There always should be an opportunity for participants to discuss the organs on which they play in their home churches.

It will be important to locate a fine guitar player for Sessions 5, 6, and 7.

You as the instructor of these participants can have a profound influence on the participants as they grow in confidence in leading the congregation's music.