

Sample LPM Presentation

to workshops, plenaries, clergy or lay gatherings

Updated 7/2/08

This presentation is intended as an outline for board members offering a “first look” at LPM for gatherings of any kind. It can be adapted, amended or updated as needed.

It helps to have two people alternating between sections, but could be done by one person. If two persons are involved, it is suggested that you divide sections ahead of time so the whole presentation can flow smoothly.

Since our history is on-going, the History section may need updating regularly. If time is short, this section might be left out. You can always refer attendees to the website for this history.

Used in its entirety, this presentation lasts about 45 minutes. Adapt it for shorter or longer presentations as needed. The “Question & Answer” period at the end sometimes requires additional time. Conversations can continue after the group is dismissed.

Things you’ll need:

1. Laptop (to run LPM PowerPoint presentation)
2. CD: LPM PowerPoint presentation
3. Projector and screen (or wall, if it’s usable)
4. Philosophy “teaser” (download from LPM website – Documents page)
5. Hymnody course outline/teaser (download from LPM website – Documents page)
6. Handout (“What’s in it for you?” – available on the LPM website)
7. Brochures (see end of this presentation – LPM National brochure; sample local LPM program brochures)
8. LPM buttons (Ask Me about LPM) – wear it for the presentation
9. Pad of paper, pencils – so you can take down names and contact info of participants for follow-up at a later time

Welcome

2 minute TTYP (“Turn to Your Partner”) activity

Questions to ask partner: Name, Location, Position held, and why are you here?

PowerPoint presentation

Use the PowerPoint CD, either the sound version or the scripted version. The script is also on the CD. Be sure to setup and try out the presentation ahead of time. Technology is great when it works well, but is embarrassing when it does not!

Mission Statement

The Leadership Program for Musicians, Inc. (LPM) seeks to prepare capable and confident musical leaders who will enable their congregations to sing well and take their part in the liturgy of the church.

History

In 1988, The General Convention of the Episcopal Church asked the Standing Commission on Church Music to find ways to help musicians in small churches, especially those with fewer than 100 communicants. Under the direction of Dr. Marilyn Keiser, Dr. Carol Doran and Dr. Raymond Glover, the present design of LPM was created. As the PowerPoint presentation states, this two-year program is taught and administered by trained coordinators-- local clergy and musicians, and related to its local needs. The program takes into account the musician's need for liturgical education and spiritual formation, as well as musical skills. It is intended to include interested clergy or anyone who believes in the mission of building up music in churches, and to build community and continuing collegiality among those participating.

Course writers were selected and the first Leadership Conference was held in July of 1995 to instruct people, like me, from across the United States how to set up and administer a local LPM program. At this point the six courses offered were:

- * Leadership of Congregational Song (organ and guitar only)
- * Hymnody
- * Liturgical Planning
- * Vocal Training
- * Teaching New Music and
- * Resources for an Effective Music Ministry

In 1999, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was invited to become a full partner in this endeavor. This ecumenical union resulted in revising the curriculum and cooperative programming. The previous courses were reorganized and expanded:

- * Leadership of Congregational Song (now includes voice and piano)
- * Principles of Choral Leadership (2 parts: choral conducting and vocal production)
- * Philosophy of Church Music (extended to cover both years)

In 2005, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) joined LPM. The United Church of Christ Musicians' Association became our most recent partner in 2007.

In July 2007, the first online delivery of LPM course materials became available through LeaderResources.org

Also in 2007, revisions were completed for Liturgy and Philosophy. Hymnody course revisions are about to be published as we speak, and the guitar track of Leadership of Congregational Song is in revision.

To date, more than 40 local programs have been started. Some 85 classes have graduated with more than 538 LPM certificates awarded. Participants from other denominations have also found the courses offered through LPM to be helpful in the worship life of their churches. LPM is open to everyone!

Courses

Let's explore some of the courses.

Philosophy of Music Leadership/Ministry (Share teaser – available on LPM website)

Leadership of Congregational Song

This course helps you develop the skills to lead the congregation in singing hymns, songs, and service music. It is divided into 4 areas of teaching: keyboard players, whether on organ, piano or synthesizer, and to those who play guitars or lead with their voice only as a cantor. Emphasis is placed on adapting music to a student's given situation, and one learns to play 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 fellow students in singing music of many different types and styles.

Survey of Christian Hymnody

Our most recently re-written course, this survey covers historical analysis as well as playing and singing materials in various styles.

[Share hymnody handout and sing a hymn]

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. Assignments include planning several different liturgies, such as Sunday morning communion, a funeral, a wedding, and to write about the liturgical circumstances for which you have planned.

How does a Local LPM Program work?

This information is taken from the LPM website, "What's in it for you?"

Local programs are run by the coordinator(s) who are assisted by a board and highly respected instructors. Details are set by the local LPM board and each program may vary: the number of class meetings, tuition fees, location(s), instructors, and other details. This enables LPM leaders to tailor the classes to suit local needs.

Are there fees?

Yes. Fees are set by local LPM boards. The national average per year for three classes (plus Philosophy) is \$500. In some places, it may slightly more or less.

How do I pay for the classes?

The national LPM board offers the Marti Rideout Scholarship for Participants in local LPM programs. Some local programs also offer scholarship assistance. It is strongly recommended that the student and the home church split the cost of the LPM tuition — 50% from the parish budget and 50% from the student. I feel sure that your church will benefit significantly from your participation in LPM. Many programs offer payment plans.

Coordinator Training

Who is the training for and what will one learn?

Coordinators are the heart and soul of local LPM programs. They start, organize, and run the programs along with an assisting committee of dedicated, like-minded individuals committed to empowering music and worship. This training is designed to provide coordinators with the information, materials and skills they need to run a successful program. These tools include an overview of the LPM curriculum, how to start a program, fund raising, publicity, marketing, how to recruit students and faculty, teaching strategies, how to coordinate with other church entities to reach the maximum pool of students in your area, online access to curriculum and other materials, LPM website, etc. First-time coordinators train all day (8 hours; starting at 8 a.m.).

What about Recertifications?

Those coordinators coming to be recertified are having their previous training updated with all the changes and additions to LPM since their initial training. Coordinators are required to be recertified every 5 years. Recerts come for only a half day in the afternoon (4 hours; usually, 1 p.m.).

What costs are involved?

Currently, registration for coordinators is \$325; for recertification, \$200. Scholarships in the amount of \$100 for coordinators and \$75 for recertifications are available for this training on a first-come, first-served basis. See the LPM website for scholarship details. Details and a registration form for the trainings are available on the LPM website under “Upcoming Events” on the homepage.

On the Road workshops

New methods of bringing LPM to local venues have been created - LPM on the Road makes workshops available to give coordinators a boost to begin or renew their local programs. For nominal fees, these are presented by past and present LPM national Board members and can be arranged through our national office.

Some of the topics offered are:

Choral Leadership/Music for Small Choirs: A "hands on" class dealing with rehearsal techniques plus a reading session with instruction on good anthems for limited resources.

Contemporary Music: Getting Started: Beginning a contemporary service can be overwhelming. This workshop will discuss how to begin, forming and organizing a group, where to find music, and use of technology.

Handbells in Worship

Worship Folders: More and more congregations are using them.

Taizé Spirituality & Worship: Contemplative worship strives to be one of transcendence through meditation, readings, silence and music.

Teaching New Music: Addresses the challenges and benefits of learning new music as well as the pastoral and musical skills necessary to be in music ministry.

Getting Ready for Sunday — Organ Practice Techniques: practical ideas for maximizing limited practice time to prepare hymns, preludes/postludes, service music, and accompaniments.

So Now You Are the Church Musician: Practical help for people leading worship & music who weren't trained to do that! This day-long workshop introduces you to planning music for worship, playing hymns and leading the choir, clergy/musician relationships, and resources to help you do all of it better.

Currently The National Board is also in discussion with both online and in-print publishing companies for partial courses for use in your local congregations.

Question & Answer time

Allow time at the end of the presentation for participants to ask questions. Now that participants have a face to go with a name, encourage them to contact you, Anna, or any board member for questions about LPM.

Handouts to take home:

- What's in it for you? [available on LPM website]
- Brochures [National LPM Board brochures; sample local program brochures]