

# Intergenerational Worship – Is it reasonable and possible?

(Sectional D23)

Symposium 2008

Friday and Saturday: 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

## Description:

Many churches are asking whether they can really keep all generations working together, or whether it would be better to separate the generations according to their preferences in worship. Some voices suggest separation. Other churches with limited resources wonder if they are inferior because they have no choice in the matter. On the basis of research for the recent book The Church of All Ages: Generations Worshiping Together, several of the participants will explore the issues involved, highlight some of the findings, and stimulate your further reflection on the matter.

## Presenters:

Norma deWaal Malefyt – Church Musician, Worship Planner, Instructor of Organ and Keyboard Skills for Worship, Resource Development Specialist in Congregational Song at Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

Stan Mast – Worship Planner and Minister of Preaching at LaGrave Ave. Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Howard Vanderwell, Former Pastor, Worship Planner, Resource Development Specialist for Pastoral Leadership at Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Adjunct Professor of Worship at Calvin Theological Seminary.

## I Will Extol You, O My God

185

1 I will ex - tol you, O my God, and praise you, O my King;  
 2 Each gen - er - a - tion to the next shall tes - ti - mo - ny bear,  
 3 Your might - y acts and glo - rious deeds we shall with awe con - fess

yes, ev - ery day and ev - er - more your prais - es I will sing.  
 and to your praise, from age to age, your won - drous acts de - clare.  
 and sing of your great good - ness and your per - fect right - eous - ness.

Great is the LORD, our might - y God, and great - ly to be praised;  
 Up - on your glo - rious maj - es - ty and hon - or I will dwell,  
 Most gra - cious and com - pas - sion - ate is God, who reigns a - bove;

his great - ness is un - search - a - ble, a - bove all glo - ry raised.  
 and all your grand and glo - rious works and great - ness I will tell.  
 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise, un - bound - ed is his love.

Text: Psalm 145:1-8; vers. Psalter, 1912, alt.  
 Tune: English; adapt. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874

CMD  
 NOEL

## Intergenerational Worship: Is it reasonable and possible?

A. Why is This a Pressing Issue Today?

B. The Diversity of Efforts to Address the Issue?

C. Some Biblical Principles:

1. The Unity of the Church
2. The Pattern of Biblical Worship
3. The Church as a Covenant Community
4. The Formation of Faith
5. The Continuation of the Church

D. Values to Guide Worship Planners:

1. All chapters in life's journey are equally valuable.
2. Avoid stereotypes.
3. Worship planning should be age-inclusive.
4. Encourage activities that encourage worshipers to be age-inclusive.
5. Plan periodic intentionally inclusive worship services.

## ONE CHURCH'S EXPERIENCE

LaGrave Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, MI

OUR SITUATION-- Two Commitments: formal, liturgical, traditional worship and our teens.

OUR PROCESS-- Books, consultants, churches, classes, interviews

### OUR FINDINGS

Passion—not style, but convention

Participation—behind the scenes, in the pew, up front, afterwards

Place—valued and loved

Parents—regular attendance and teaching

Programs—not just fun activities, but quality education

### OUR RESULTS

Participation—“The Church of All Ages”

Passion—cutting edge

Place and Parents—Minister of Congregational Life

# **ISSUES FOR WORSHIP PLANNERS**

## **Living Out Your Passion**

### **Worship Planning Team Organization**

### **Team Activities**

### **Creative Planning**

### **Education Times**

# "The River of Congregational Song"

G.I.A.

LITURGICAL  
FOLK

O.C.P.

Latin America

WORLD

Asia

PSALMODY  
&  
CLASSICAL  
HYMNODY

Taizé

Africa

"PRAISE &  
WORSHIP"

1<sup>st</sup> Wave

Maranatha!

2<sup>nd</sup> Wave

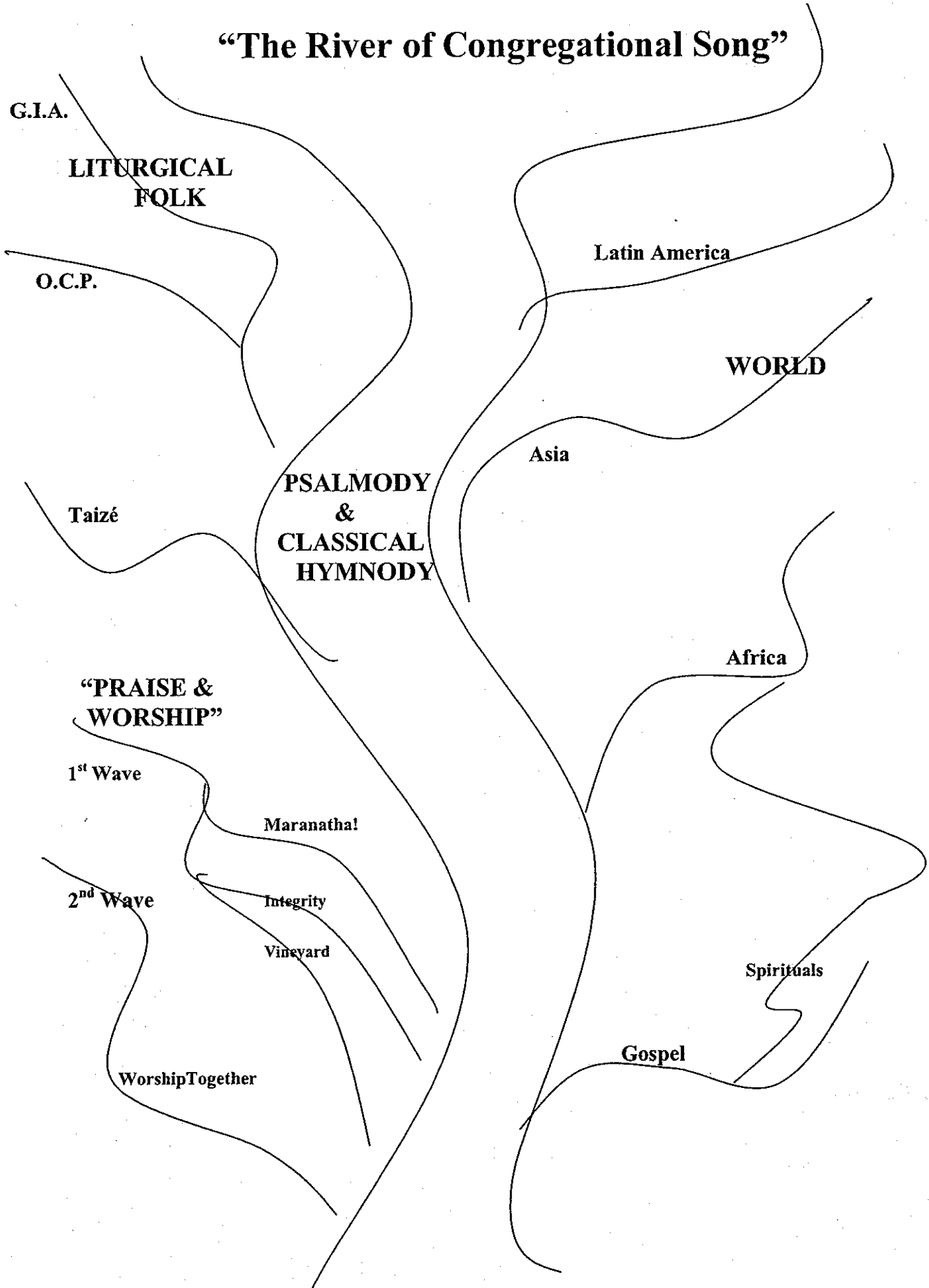
Integrity

Vineyard

Worship Together

Spirituals

Gospel



## The Servant Song

Eb(D) Ab(G) Bb7(A7) Eb(D) Cm(Bm)

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we are trav - 'lers  
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll  
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Fm7(Em7) Bb(A) Ab(G) Bb7(A7) Eb(D) Ab(G) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
 on the road. We are here to help each oth - er  
 of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you,  
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

Fm(Em) Ab(G) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

let you be my ser - vant too.  
 walk the mile and bear the load.  
 speak the peace you long to hear.  
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 let you be my ser - vant too.

Text and music: Richard Gillard (b. 1953); harm. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1929)

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