

# CREATIVITY IN WORSHIP

*A seminar on creativity shared as an elective seminar during the worship conference in Troy, IL.  
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*You are amazed because of this? You will see greater things than this.*

*— John 1:50*

*Creativity is the defeat of habit by imposing originality and change.*

*— Andy Law*

I have the privilege of traveling around to other churches on a regular basis. Sometimes, we don't get to see too much, because the schedule is not typical on the Sundays we are there. However, I do get a chance to visit and see what others do. Most of the time, I am encouraged by how people are willing to try new things, move forward, and make things happen.

## **There are some cautions to being creative:**

- Remember how dependent we are on God –we don't want to make the creative aspect what we worship – we want to worship God creatively.
- We don't want to mistake creativity with innovating – creativity is thinking of things and innovating is acting on them.
- We don't want to assume that the church, as a whole, is ready to embrace every creative idea – since the act of worship is participatory for the whole congregation, help all generations, personalities and styles worship in their “native tongue”.

## **But there's so much that outweighs the bad:**

- Creativity will spark people
- Creativity will capture people's attention.
- Creativity will help people be inspired
- Creativity will help people learn and enjoy the time
- Creativity can help people feel connected
- Creativity can help increase momentum
- Creativity can engage the senses and emotions
- Creativity can cost nothing

## **Creative in what areas pertaining to worship:**

Sometimes, when I am reading quick articles, just hearing a thought might spark something in me as I think about my own church and worship services. So, without any real commentary, I have just listed some thoughts below on areas where your creative gifts might help quicken the hearts of the congregation that counts on your hours (as few as they may be) to help people engage. Pick one or two areas and work on them.

- Creative in hospitality – as people are coming through the door.
- Creative in the church building – taking what you have and making it work.
- Creative in decorations for worship.
- Creative in creating moments for people.
- Creative in content for worship.
- Creative in marketing for worship.

- Creative in the altar / banners / décor / themes for worship.
- Creative in the music for worship.
- Creative in the people that you invite to take part in worship.
- Creative in the way that you will do your bulletin / media / displays / lyrics / etc.
- Creative in special music / drama / video that touches emotion.
- Creative in ending a service / responses / application.
- Creative in starting a service .
- Creative in inviting someone in to help with the service.
- Creative in flow of the service.
- Creative in the ways that you incorporate people who have gifts in your congregation.
- Creative communion music / components to communion / flow / style.
- Creative in responding to baptisms.

God is creative and loves his children to be so too. With this in mind, take risks to make things happen – with all that is in us... if we have been changed, we will see greater things than the old stuff!

As I heard Andy Stanley say, there are three things that help keep (or get) the momentum going. 1) New, 2) Improved or 3) Improving – when those things are happening, people are being creative.

How can you make something new happen in your church and worship services? When you do, let it be known. What about improving something - making something better this weekend? Pick something this week, and allow your creative juices to flow.

**I** – I am (can be) a creative person (just start assuming that).

**D** – Daily think of something new that pertains to the area you are working on – doesn't matter how silly or out of this world it may seem – just be thinking.

**E** – Expand your areas of creative input – see a concert, take a walk, read quotes, visit a creative friend, look through magazines, visit another church, read scripture, get ideas.

**A** – Apply an idea you have come up with.

### **Some things I have seen in the past few weeks:**

- ~ Praise band sang “I Am Free” and the kids in the church came up and echoed / did motions.
- ~ Special music song with harmonica, upright bass, mandolin and guitar.
- ~ Sign language to a song during worship.
- ~ Communion servers from the congregation came up front earlier and took part in the in the liturgy.
- ~ Ushers prayed after bringing up the offering.
- ~ Kids served as ushers.
- ~ Kids read the scripture and call to worship.
- ~ One church that had worship service during the Sunday school hour, had all the families and kids in the worship, did one song, welcome and then prayed before sending kids off to Sunday school for the hour.