

What Do Keystone Church Musicians and Clergy Need?



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(UCC Musicians Association)

Room 18

1:30pm - 2:30pm

● HYBRID / LIVE BROADCAST

What do Keystone Church Musicians and Clergy need?

Sharing session on what resources and assistance
is needed to grow your worship life in the UCC today.

Question Set #1

- ▶ How many of you are Church musicians?
- ▶ How many of you are Clergy?
- ▶ How many of you are both?
- ▶ How many of you are neither?
- ▶ How do you make your situation work?
- ▶ How do you feel about what you do?

Some Facts for Question #1

- ▶ In the Keystone Conference:
 - ▶ Of the 332 churches in the 2024 Directory that had a website, only 143, or 43%, listed any church musician at all.
 - ▶ From that 43%, only 20% (28 churches) listed multiple church music persons serving their congregations.
 - ▶ I am sure that there is much underreporting.

Question Set #2

- ▶ Who on your staff plans worship?
 - ▶ Is it solely the job of the Pastor?
 - ▶ Does the Music staff member(s) have input into worship?
 - ▶ Are there any laypersons involved?
 - ▶ Do you have a Worship Committee?
 - ▶ Do you have a Creative Worship Planning Team?
 - ▶ Does anyone besides the Pastor care about what happens in worship?
 - ▶ Does the Pastor take suggestions on worship practices?

Worship Resources

- ▶ ***PREPARE! An Ecumenical Music and Worship Planner*** - David Bone and Mary Scifres - Abingdon Press
- ▶ [Practical Resources for Churches](#) - Resources offer solutions that are practical for your church and congregation, offered by our most valuable resource: our consultants.
- ▶ [Reformed Worship](#) - a ministry of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship is dedicated to connecting, equipping, and inspiring worship leaders, pastors, musicians, and worshipping communities around the world through the sharing of proven practices, thoughtful articles, imaginative resources, and collaborative learning, all rooted in the Reformed tradition.
- ▶ [UCCMA](#) - The United Church of Christ Musicians Association, Inc. is a non-profit, national organization with a membership made up of musicians, clergy, and interested laity in the United Church of Christ and beyond. We are a grassroots, independent organization run entirely by volunteers and supported by members. Our mission is to inspire, educate, and nurture those who minister through music and the arts.

Question Set #3

- ▶ Does your congregation sing in worship?
 - ▶ Who picks the hymns and responses?
 - ▶ Do the hymns, etc. foster strong singing?
 - ▶ Who leads the singing?
 - ▶ Do you use a hymnal? Which one?
 - ▶ Do you have any keyboard accompaniment?
 - ▶ Do you use hymns not found in the hymnal?
 - ▶ How do you teach new hymns to the congregation?
 - ▶ Do you ever sing outside your comfort zone?

Addressing Congregational Singing

- ▶ The Center for Congregational Song - is the resource and outreach arm of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. We are a non-profit organization seeking to encourage, promote, and enliven congregational singing. We are ecumenical, which means we work with folk from a variety of traditions and denominations to build deep and meaningful conversation, create useful resources, and help practitioners, poets, and composers build their skills.
- ▶ Hymnals
 - ▶ New Century Hymnal - Do you use it or not? Why not?
 - ▶ Other hymnals to consider:
 - ▶ Then Let Us Sing! - United Church of Canada - printed and digital
 - ▶ Lift Up Your Hearts - Faith Alive - Reformed Churches
 - ▶ The Chalice Hymnal - Chalice Press - Disciples of Christ
 - ▶ Voices Together - MennoMedia - The Mennonite Church USA and Canada
 - ▶ Hymns of Truth & Light - Central Congregational UCC, Dallas, TX
 - ▶ Glory to God - Westminster John Knox Press - Presbyterian Church (USA)

Hymns not found in the hymnal

- ▶ [The Hymn Society](#) - collections of hymns and worship songs that speak to various topics and issues - some free and downloadable
 - ▶ Hymns in Times of Crisis
 - ▶ Singing Welcome - Refugees and Immigrants
 - ▶ Songs for the Holy Other - LGBTQIA+
 - ▶ Resounding Voices - hymns composed by women
 - ▶ Lists of hymns for other events and occasions
- ▶ [Carolyn Winfrey Gillette](#) - Hymn texts for existing hymn tunes - very useful, topical and organized by lectionary.
- ▶ [Amanda Udis-Kessler](#) - website of free-use, no-licensing progressive religious hymns, worship songs, and rounds. Original music of various topics, occasions and uses that you can use free of charge.
- ▶ [Justice Choir](#) - free downloadable songs from the Minnesota-based Justice Choir to encourage more community singing for social and environmental justice

Other Hymn Information

- ▶ Hymn accompaniment for churches without keyboard players:
 - ▶ New Century Hymnal recordings - \$325. for 34 CD's
 - ▶ Hymn Commons - has many MP3 hymn accompaniments on piano and organ that are downloadable for free.
 - ▶ Free Classic Hymns - Download and listen to 250 free hymns with lyrics. No copyright Christian music. Piano hymns and worship songs in MP3 form.
 - ▶ Sarah Bereza - <https://sarah-bereza.com/category/music/congregational-singing/>
 - ▶ Sing Hymns.net - Hymn accompaniments on CD's or MP3 files
 - ▶ Small Church Music - almost 15,000 hymns and songs that can be downloaded free to accompany congregational singing.

More Congregational Singing stuff

- ▶ [The Convergence Music Project](#) - The Convergence Music Project came into being in 2015. Our goal was to create a whole new genre of so-called “Sacred Music.” We like to use the phrase “Just and Generous Worship Music” to describe who we are, and we are committed to providing beautiful new songs to deepen and serve the worship experiences of congregations and individuals who embrace a more inclusive and justice-focused path. Leaders include Cameron Trimble, Bryan Sirchio, Christopher Grundy, Richard Colligan, Audra Moran, and Ken Medema. There are Standard and Small-church memberships available.
- ▶ [Nick Page](#) books - will give instructions on how to lead singing with groups.
 - ▶ *Sing with Us Songbook* - Hal Leonard Publishing
 - ▶ *Sing and Shine On!* - Multicultural Songbook - World Music Press
- ▶ *Halle, Halle: We Sing the World Around* - C. Michael Hawn - Choristers Guild
- ▶ *Music by Heart: Paperless Songs for Evening Worship* - compiled by New Music Project - Church Publishing

The Legal Questions?

- ▶ What kind of license does my church need to have?
- ▶ If we Livestream, what do I need to know legally?
- ▶ Is everything we do in the service covered by a license?
- ▶ Do you have Copyright Compliance? Ensure you have the rights to stream any music or content used during the service.
- ▶ How do you obtain necessary licenses from organizations like CCLI or OneLicense for hymns and worship songs.
- ▶ Are you mindful of privacy laws regarding the recording of individuals without consent.
- ▶ How can I use movies, videos and other media in our services?

Types of Streaming Licenses

► Music Licenses

- Churches require specific licenses to stream hymns, worship songs, and other musical works during their services. These are typically obtained from performing rights organizations that represent composers and publishers.
- The primary church streaming license is the [CCLI streaming license](#), which covers everyday needs like printing songs and projecting lyrics. The CCLI catalog is extensive and should cover most churches' worship needs.

► Video and Film Licenses

- Licenses for video and film encompass a broad range of content, from movie clips used in sermons to full-length films shown at church events.
- Special licenses are needed to stream this content legally, which differs from those required for personal or home viewing. Though not as commonly used as the CCLI streaming license, the [CVLI copyright license](#) is among the more popular church video license services.

Licenses

- ▶ CCLI - CCLI encourages worship within churches, organizations, and schools in multiple countries around the world. Beginning as a ministry of the Church and a service to the Church, CCLI was founded in response to a growing need to educate the Church about copyright, to protect the Church from the consequences of copyright infringement, and to encourage greater utilization of copyrighted works in church life.
- ▶ ONE LICENSE - One License Holders have access to thousands of congregational hymns, songs, and service music from today's top liturgical music publishers to use in worship aids, service bulletins, and projections to inspire congregational singing. Our list of Member Publishers is regularly growing, and as new ones join, you will immediately have access to their catalogs. A ONE LICENSE subscription is comprehensive, convenient, and cost-effective. Our rates are based on the average weekly attendance of your congregation.
- ▶ CVLI - Through an agreement with studios and producers, the CVLI Church Video License provides legal coverage for churches and for other ministry organizations to show motion pictures and other audiovisual programs intended for personal, private use only. Coverage includes showing the full-length feature film.

Finding Church Musicians

- ▶ Advertising job vacancies:
 - ▶ Through UCC Associations and Conferences
 - ▶ Through Professional organizations - ie. American Guild of Organists (AGO), American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), National Association for Music Education (NAfME), etc.
 - ▶ Through the UCCMA - <https://uccma.wildapricot.org/Job-Listings>
- ▶ Other denominational musician organizations
 - ▶ [Presbyterian Association of Musicians](#)
 - ▶ [ALCM job listing service](#)
 - ▶ [The Fellowship of United Methodists in Worship & Music Arts](#)
 - ▶ [National Association of Pastoral Musicians \(Catholic\)](#)
 - ▶ [Association of Anglican Musicians](#)
- ▶ Other possibilities:
 - ▶ Posting at local Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries
 - ▶ Talking with local public and private music teachers for teachers and students who would benefit from a music job.
 - ▶ Ministeriums

How can the UCCMA help you?

- ▶ As the National UCCMA President:
 - ▶ I need to know what you are looking for in the way of help and resources.
 - ▶ I need to know what you are doing that would be helpful to other congregations.
 - ▶ I need to know what your concerns are for the future of music and worship.
 - ▶ I would love to have you with us as part of the solution to why more people are not coming to our UCC churches.
 - ▶ I would love for you to join our Small Town and Rural (STAR) Initiative.
 - ▶ I would love for you to join our Spiritual Royalties Initiative.
 - ▶ I would love to have you come to our website and see what we already have there that could help you right now. Take advantage of our free 90-day membership to peruse the website and the UCCMA Journal for articles and free music that could serve your needs.
 - ▶ I would love for you to come and be a part of our 2026 Summer Conference in Columbus, OH, July 8-11.
 - ▶ My contact info: ericdundore@uccma.org