

# Finding the GIFTS

## Intergenerational Worship Inventory

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Take time in your context to listen carefully, preferably discussing and sharing with a team in what you notice.

### **Generational Gifts**

Do I deeply appreciate the perspectives and experiences of each generation?

How are all ages invited to participate? Do all generations participate in planning/designing worship?

How might this worship element (i.e. Scripture Presentation, prayer, sermon, etc.) uniquely be heard by a certain generation?

How might this worship element uniquely be shared in community by a specific generation?

In what ways am I listening to different generational attitudes and perspectives as we plan worship together?

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### **Intercultural Gifts**

Do I value the heart languages, migration experiences, ethnic and cultural values and perspectives, as well as geographical locations, of those who participate?

Do we practice regularly receiving and sharing our gifts of culture with one another in worship and in the life of our faith community?

Do I empower minority cultures, whether it be ethnicity, age, gender, or other cultural diversity, to use their unique voices in worship?

Locate people placed in the margins of your faith community. How might we bring them to the center of faith community to share their unique gifts? What might you need to do to bring them intentionally to the center and empower them to share bravely their gifts?

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### **Faith Experience Gifts**

Am I open to receiving the stories of those in my community—am I listening carefully for those testimonies that need to be shared in our larger community?

How do I listen to and include the varied experiences of faith that are in my community?

Do I value the faith experiences of children and youth as much as those of adults? How might a child's experience of faith, in regard to a topic, relate to other generational experiences? How might a teen's experience of faith uniquely contribute to our faith formation?

Are children and youth physically present to participate and listen to stories of faith in our worshiping community?

How might the faith experience of an individual be expressed in this worship element for us today?

How might I include the individual and collective stories of my community as a gift in worship?

Consider alternative art forms and practices that might enable more people to share their faith stories that embody more than just words (i.e. art, music, poetry, dance, cooking, etc.).

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## **Talent Gifts**

What are the talents (e.g., music, art, drama, etc.) present in our congregation?

How might we go beyond the normal talents used in worship to include other gifts?

How might we creatively use non-verbal roles in worship?

How might I intentionally seek people and ask them to use their gifts in worship?

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## **Surprise Gifts**

Am I open to receiving and sharing in the surprise gifts that I encounter in my faith community?

How do we listen for the Spirit to show us the surprises to be found in our unique faith communities?

When I encounter a surprise gift, do I stop to affirm that gift in the person who has it, and how do I approach inviting that person to share his or her gift in worship?

How do spirits of experimentation and curiosity help me cultivate surprise gifts in my faith community?

Can you name any surprise gifts you have recently encountered? How might a spirit of collaboration when designing and planning worship enable more of these surprises you encounter to be utilized in worship gatherings?

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