

Subject: Community Outreach – Multiple services

Submitted by: Rev. Don V. Morgan
RevDon@Prodigy.net

**Trends and information for all Unity leaders
Unity in spite of multiple worship services**

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We've often included information about multiple worship services in past issues. As increasing numbers of congregations add services, the question of community often arises. George Bullard has shared ten "harmony factors" in his e-zine, The Bullard Journal:

1. Use common themes and topics in all services regardless of style or leader.
2. Be consistent with worship leaders in each service. At the same time, include periodic messages from the senior pastor during worship.
3. Conduct regular fellowship events including all participants. Be sure to include activities where participants engage with each other.
4. Include information and affirmation about what is going on in each worshipping "community" during each service.
5. Incorporate prayer about each "community," and with persons who attend other services.
6. Hold spiritual and strategic retreats bringing the leaders from each "community" together. Build the common vision among these leaders.
7. Develop strategies to enhance each "community," and to better serve the targeted populations of each.
8. Make up small groups with cross sections of leaders and participants from different "communities."
9. Hold quarterly blended-style worship services including all the "communities."
10. Find a gathering place in your building for weekly community time. This can take place before, during, after, and between services.

Robert Webber, professor of ministry at Northern Seminary provided further recommendations concerning worship in an interview with Bullard:

Effective worship has substance, structure and style, in that order.

Segmenting worship by generations may be necessary and practical, especially for larger congregations. For those of less than 135, it is not recommended.

The future of the church is small, not big. Megachurches work especially well for Baby Boomers, but later generations in the Postmodern world view prefer small. Small groups are about nurturing deep community, not about growing the church, to this group.

The three languages of worship are mystery, story and symbol, representing God, Jesus, and Spirit, respectively.

Music must serve the text and point to the relationship—which is what worship is all about. If the music is only about style, it is performance, not worship.

Postmodern is not just a pumped up contemporary—it is a shift in world view. Being innovative and consumer oriented works especially for Boomers. Later generations in the postmodern view want to connect with the past, and look for trans-cultural and trans-generational.

Community is best expressed outside of worship. Community is very important to Postmoderns, and it is developed in one-on-one or small group situations.