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Wisdom for Leading through Changes in Worship in Diverse Communities

Michael C. Chen
LaSalle Street Church

Steven Guthrie
Belmont University School of Religion

John Huizinga
Lombard Christian Reformed Church

Maria Monteiro
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Kathy Smith
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Seminar A7: Wisdom for Leading through Changes in Worship in Diverse Communities

**Michael C. Chen, Steven Guthrie, John Huizinga, and Maria Monteiro;
moderated by Kathy Smith**

Thursday, January 28
10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Calvin Symposium on Worship
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Is your worshipping community facing change in worship and looking for wisdom and advice? Do you believe change is needed in your worship and wonder how to initiate it in healthy ways? In this session a panel of leaders who have introduced and managed change in worship in very different worshipping communities will share their wisdom, stories and best practices. From smaller and larger churches and universities, these leaders have experienced the joys and challenges of leading authentic worship in changing communities that vary denominationally, racially, in size, and in local context. The panel will be moderated by Kathy Smith, manager for the Vital Worship Grants Program, and will include representatives of two universities and two congregations that have engaged in Vital Worship grant projects.

OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION: Kathy Smith

Vital Worship Grants Program

Panelists: Vital Worship Grant Project Directors:

Michael Chen, LaSalle Street Church, Chicago, IL

Steven Guthrie, Belmont University, Nashville, TN

John Huizinga, Lombard Christian Reformed Church, Lombard, IL

Maria Monteiro, Baptist University of the Americas, San Antonio, TX

2. STORIES OF CHANGES, BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

--from the panelists

--from the attendees (in groups of 2-3 or 4)

3. PRINCIPLES AND WISDOM REGARDING PROCESSES OF CHANGE

--from the panelists

--from the attendees: what wisdom did you hear from our panel? What would you add from your own experience?

4. BEST PRACTICES FOR DEALING WITH CHANGE IN INSTITUTIONS AND IN WORSHIP

--from the panelists

--from the attendees: What examples can you add from your own ministries or those you know about?

5. QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

--What more would you like to learn from our panelists, about dealing with change, or about directing a grant project?