

## Worship development

### **Starter:** *[In pairs]*

Describe a time when you discovered a hidden talent that someone had.

### **Reading: From 'Let the People Worship'**

[Methodist Conference report on Worship 1988]

*Read aloud, then allow time for everyone to re-read it for themselves along with the personal focus questions and reflect alone.*

**The term 'preacher' needs to be understood more broadly than the word immediately suggests, for the role of the preacher is clearly wider than that of preaching. It involves a major responsibility for the whole act of worship. This responsibility needs to be exercised in conjunction with others as a member of a team which will include the local organist and stewards and any other person or group with particular responsibility for local worship. We recognize that this approach involves a greater commitment of time, but if worship is of primary importance, then other activities are, by definition secondary.**

**Preachers lay and ordained, need to think carefully about their relations with worship consultations, so that opportunities may be provided for the local congregation regularly to contribute to the shape and style of acts of worship. In this way, the preacher becomes more aware of the needs of the local congregation.**

**Recognition is needed that some people have a vocation to be leaders of worship, but not to be preachers. This is understood in other traditions, as well as in Methodist churches in some other countries. Ways need to be found to affirm this vocation and to relate it to the vocation of preaching so that each may complement the other. Such a person could become a coordinating figure within the local church.**

### **Personal Focus Questions:**

1. What thoughts come to mind as you read this? What might God be saying to you through it?

## 6. Sharing Leadership

2. In what ways do you already share the preparation and leadership of worship?
3. How well do you really understand the needs and talents present within the congregations you share worship with?
4. What within you resists the ideas expressed in the reading?

*Share together in threes the results of your individual reflection.*

*When you have finished your discussions, return together as a group and share any insights. Now share together in these applications.*

### **Applications:**

1. List the problems of sharing leadership with Worship Leaders or members of the congregation? How can each of these problems be resolved?
2. What are the advantages of sharing leadership of worship with others?
3. As a result of these discussions what action plans need to be made?

### **Review** *(individual thought)*

As an individual how will you use the ideas you have heard in this session?

### **Follow up**

If you would like to develop these ideas further then you could organize a workshop with Rev Liz Childs 01469 569770.

**Worship**

End with a time of worship that uses some of gifts of people in the group.