

## A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PERSPECTIVE ON CHANGING WORSHIP STYLES

### TRADITIONAL CHURCH

### CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

### FUTURE CHURCH

The Church has worship services where preaching, music, programs etc. are served attendees	The Church has worship services where the preaching, music, etc. is shared between the minister and laity	The church doesn't have worship services, <u>instead</u> worship gatherings which include preaching, music, etc. for different people, groups and mindsets
Services designed to reach those who have had previous bad experiences in a religious community	Services still designed to reach those who have had previous bad experiences, may begin to recognize those with no experience in church	Gatherings are designed to include and translate to those who have had no previous church experience
There is the need to be different but not too different	There is the need to break the stereotype of what church is about	There is a need to break the stereotype of what a UU is
The sermon is the focal point of the service	The sermon is usually the focal point of the service	The holistic experience is the focal point of the worship gathering
Room arrangement focuses on individuals being able to see the platform	Room arrangement is flexible with moveable pews	Room arrangement focuses on community seating striving to feel more like a living room or coffeehouse while worshipping
Worship uses microphones but no other technology	Worship uses modern technology (PowerPoint, etc.) to communicate with a contemporary flare	Worship gathering seen as a place to experience the ancient, even mystical (and uses technology to do so)
The preacher designs and leads the service	The preacher and worship leader design and lead the service	The preacher and the worship leader direct the design of worship gatherings and lead by participating in the worship gathering
Aesthetics are minimally addressed beyond the structure.	Minimal attention to changing design and aesthetics of worship space.	Weekend service team includes the minister as teacher, the musical leader, the artists, the photographers, the video and PowerPoint team, the sacred space team, etc.
Music is traditional hymns and classical presentations with organ and piano	Music is a mix of traditional, folk, rock, and international mainly with jazz and rock beat – use video screens	Music is eclectic, set to beat or meditative and synched with videos

<b>TRADITIONAL CHURCH</b>	<b>CONTEMPORARY CHURCH</b>	<b>FUTURE CHURCH</b>
Lighting is accepted as it is in sanctuary	Light and cheery sanctuary valued	Darkness valued as it displays a sense of spirituality
No symbols are used in service or seen in sanctuary	Use chalice and share symbols of major world religions	Chalice and other symbols are brought to forefront in service especially in video format
The message is communicated with words	The message is communicated with words but also uses video screens and story	The message is communicated through a mix of words, visuals, art, silence, testimony and story
Emphasis on explaining the UU truth	Emphasis on explaining a variety of truths	Emphasis on explaining and experiencing what and who is truth

Adapted from Dan Kimball, Emerging Worship (Zondervan) 2004 and National Pastors Conference Paper, 2004 by Rev. Dr. Ken Brown, District Executive, Pacific Southwest and Dr. Angela Merkert, Congregational Consultant, Merkert, Brown & Associates, 2005.