

Song Jam

In Children's Chapel

WHAT IS IT?

A song or other piece of music arranged for multiple voices and rhythm parts, taught to and performed by the children at Chapel.

PURPOSE

To enhance the quality of children's Chapel by:

- * **Energizing and engaging the children**
- * **Teaching creative cooperation**
- * **Generating an experience of musical communion**
- * **Giving the children success and satisfaction in making music**

KEY FEATURES

- * **KEEP EACH PART VERY SIMPLE**, with the possible exception of the melody line and parts performed by "ringers" who prepare in advance. Generally, do numerous repetitions of a single verse or chorus, rather than multiple verses.
- * A carefully crafted **PLAN FOR TEACHING** the song and the parts, as well for conducting the "performance." Layer in and fade out the parts. Strong section leaders when possible.
- * Arrangements which are **DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE** – set in a proper range; more challenging parts assigned to older children, those with musical training, or adults.
- * Start new songs with simpler arrangements and **ADD PARTS OVER SEVERAL SESSIONS**.
- * Choose songs which promote enduring **UU VALUES** (spiritual perspective, community, social justice, multi-cultural respect, environmental awareness, etc.) The song used on a given Sunday **NEED NOT RELATE TO THE LESSON THEME** for that day.
- * Use the **SAME ARRANGEMENTS OF A GIVEN SONG** over time. This may mean at times that a certain song is the province of a certain Song Jam Leader. Avoid confusing children and weakening the experience by doing it "differently" unless as part of a concerted effort to alter the arrangement.
- * On occasion, a Song Jam piece may be **PRESENTED AT THE ADULT WORSHIP** service or an intergenerational service.

LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

- A warm and encouraging demeanor with children.
- Ability to develop, teach, and lead song arrangements effectively.
- Commitment to producing excellent Song Jam events.
- Willingness to apprentice, consult, and collaborate with others as needed.
- There is a preference for a leader to present at both Chapels on a given Sunday (same song).

WHO IS IN CHARGE?

Initially **THE MINISTER** is in charge of the Chapel liturgy, including this element. This may eventually be transferred to either the **D.R.E.** or the appropriate committee. In general, screening, development, and scheduling of Song Jam pieces will be done by the **SONG JAM TEAM** at periodic gatherings.