

# Qualitative Review Team (QRT) report on the BCC World Cafes: Two Re-Imagined Services

May 28, 2024  
BCC Board Meeting

# PURPOSE

Purpose: provide an opportunity for congregants to reflect on Worship services

# GUIDING QUESTIONS

Review and provide an analysis of the narrative responses (N=87) to four questions posed in April 2024:

1. What elements of the unified service would you like to maintain in a new reimagined service?
2. What elements of worship enable you to encounter, serve, and celebrate the Living God?
3. What elements of worship detract from or hinder you from encountering, serving and celebrating the Living God?
4. What preferences are important to you for a Sunday morning schedule?

World Café Attendance: n=83 Email/Paper Responses: n=8

Number who attended both nights: 4

# MEMBERS OF THE QUALITATIVE REVIEW TEAM (QRT)

Lynelle Phillips

John Poehlman

Deb Carr

Maggie Mead

Darren Day

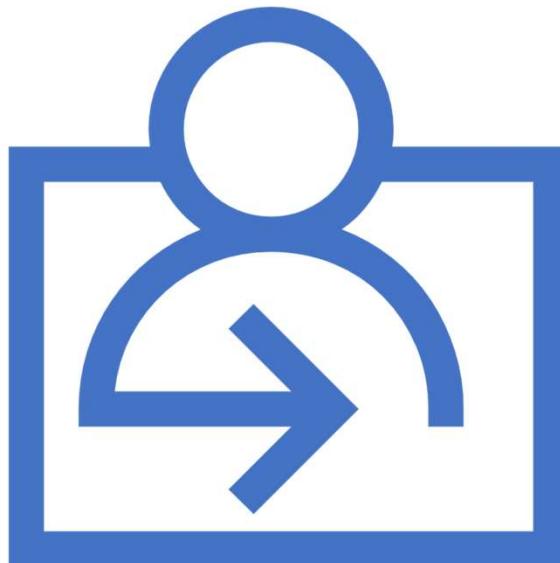
# METHOD



## **Qualitative review (the story behind the data)**

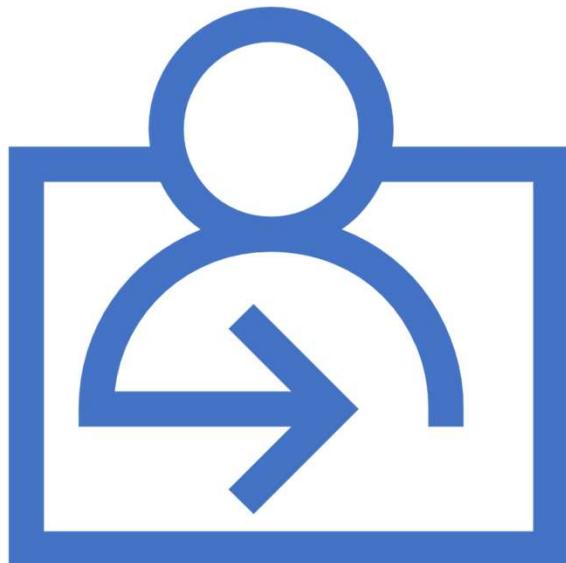
- Analyzed and interpreted meeting notes to discover meaningful patterns and themes.
- Themes were further described by using quotes.
- Did not emphasize “counting” comments as “votes”.
- Emphasized a process where everyone is heard.

## Process



- 2 World Café Meetings held from 6:00 – 7:15 pm on April 9 and April 10, 2024.
- Table hosts were Maggie Mead, Rita Allen, Kristi Larsen, Audra Sergel, Deb Carr, Lynelle Phillips, John DeLaporte, & Sarah Merz
- Table notes were submitted and compiled for each night; common topics were placed together in a spreadsheet.
- Email and paper/pencil submissions were sent to Ingrid, forwarded, and added to the notes

## Process, cont.



- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the QRT was held on May 6, 2024
- Members independently coded narratives and continued to identify and characterize themes and comments.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the QRT was held on May 14, 2024; we discussed findings and reached consensus on themes, interpretations and exemplar quotes.
- An informal meeting with Sarah and Andrew Taylor Peck was held on May 14, 2024 to provide preliminary findings and discussion regarding worship and scheduling.
- Worship Ministry Team reviewed on May 20, 2024.

# METHODS



COMMENTS WERE ARRANGED BY TOPIC FOR TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, INCLUDING EMAIL AND PAPER/PENCIL SUBMISSIONS



CONFIDENTIALITY OF NARRATIVES WAS MAINTAINED; NAMES WERE OMITTED FROM SUBMITTED RESPONSES, NOTES, AND EMAIL.



THESE RESULTS ARE FOR CONSIDERATION AND FUTURE PLANNING.



THE CAFÉ MEETINGS WERE OPEN TO ANYONE EACH EVENING; FOUR INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED BOTH EVENINGS

## RESULTS – THEMES FOR WORSHIP AT BCC

Biblically Based

Energy  
Celebrative  
and Meditative

Worship Style

Cohesiveness  
of Worship

Community  
and Hospitality

Time and  
Schedule

## Biblically Based (John)

Participants desired bible-based teachings and sermon topics that were biblically inspired and engaging. Applying sermons to everyday life was expressed by many.



# Biblically Based Comments (John)

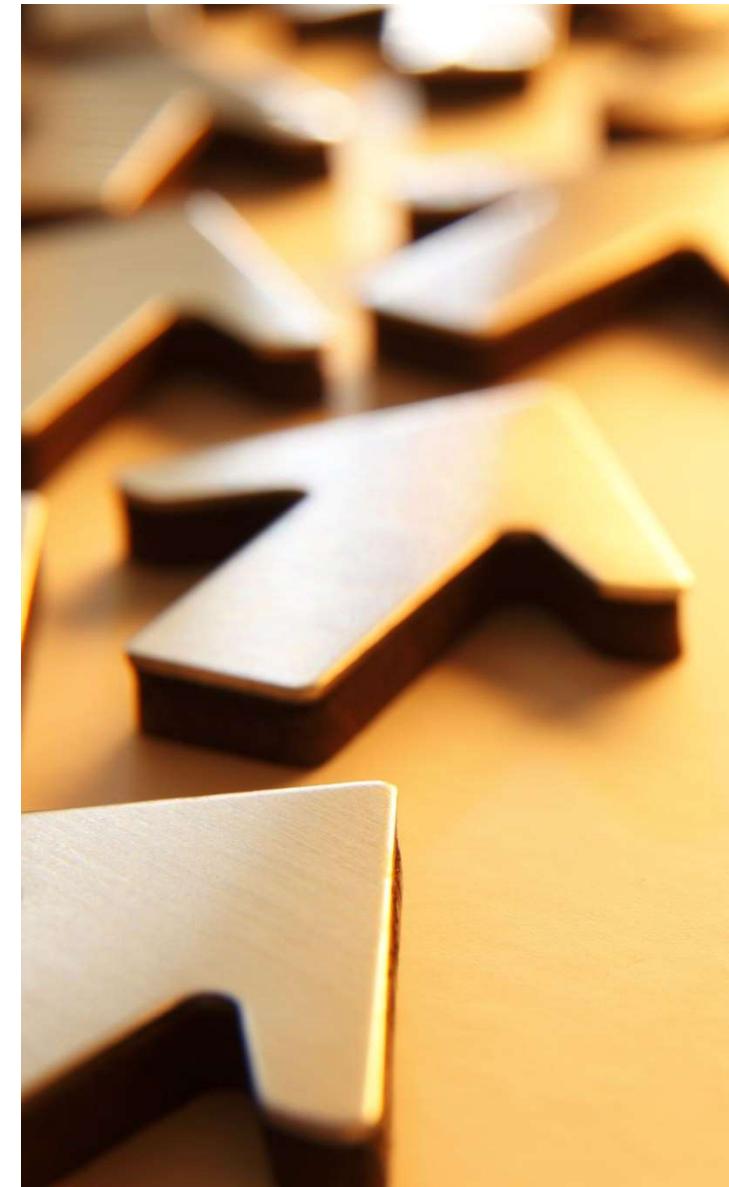
Bible-based teaching.  
We should feel enlightened from the sermon and learn something

[Sermon].....interesting and engaging. Bible-based.

Examples used in the sermon should relate to every day life.

# ENERGY(Deb)

Two prominent sub-themes emerged from the comments:  
CELEBRATORY and MEDITATIVE Energy



## Quotes - Celebrative

- *“Keep the energy level high.”*
- *“Want to keep the sense of excitement in the service.”*
- *“The planning staff is doing a great job...is it even possible to get...more exciting than we already are?”*

## Quotes - Meditative

- “[I desire a] calming, meditative atmosphere that allows you to focus your mind on worship.”
- “More reverence, stillness, and quietness in the service.”
- “We need some silent moments in the service. There is energy in this.”



## Worship Style(John)

Sub-Themes related to worship style were evident. These included:

- Overall “feel” for Worship Services – very formal to relaxed
- Musical Preferences – use of hymnody, use of praise songs
- Instrumentation – Organ and Orchestral Instruments, Instrumental Ensemble with Drums

## WORSHIP STYLE Quotes (John)

Current Unified Service:  
Energetic, more Informal

### PRAISE FOR THE UNIFIED WORSHIP WAS EVIDENT

- “*This table loves the unified service.*”
- “*I appreciate applause...it expresses our joy and appreciation.*”
- “*Would like to keep the unified service.*”

## WORSHIP STYLE Quotes (John)

Reimagined Service:  
formal, meditative,  
sense of reverence

### Contemplative

- *“I need a quiet, contemplative worship service.”*

### Use of Robes

- *“I am distracted by the clothing worn by worship leadership; we need [to] robe, it’s too casual.”*

### Applause in Worship

- *“I wonder about applause...I remember being told that this is an offering to God; it is not a performance; applause is not appropriate.”*

## WORSHIP STYLE Musical Preferences (Deb)

Current Unified  
Service:  
Energetic, more  
informal

- “Preserve music as it is now, as much as possible.”
- *[Songs written] “After 2010, praise songs, hands clapping.”*
- “I enjoy the boisterous spirit and creative, all-musical-expression-welcome tone of the Unified Service...”

## WORSHIP STYLE Music Preferences (Deb)

Reimagined Service:  
formal, meditative,  
sense of reverence

- *“Prefer hymns coming from the Chalice Hymnal, with music as well as words.”*
- *“Hymnal: lyrics have a depth/metaphor that we appreciate.”*
- *“More hymns. We rarely sing lots of the beloved ones.”*

## WORSHIP STYLE Instrumentation (John)

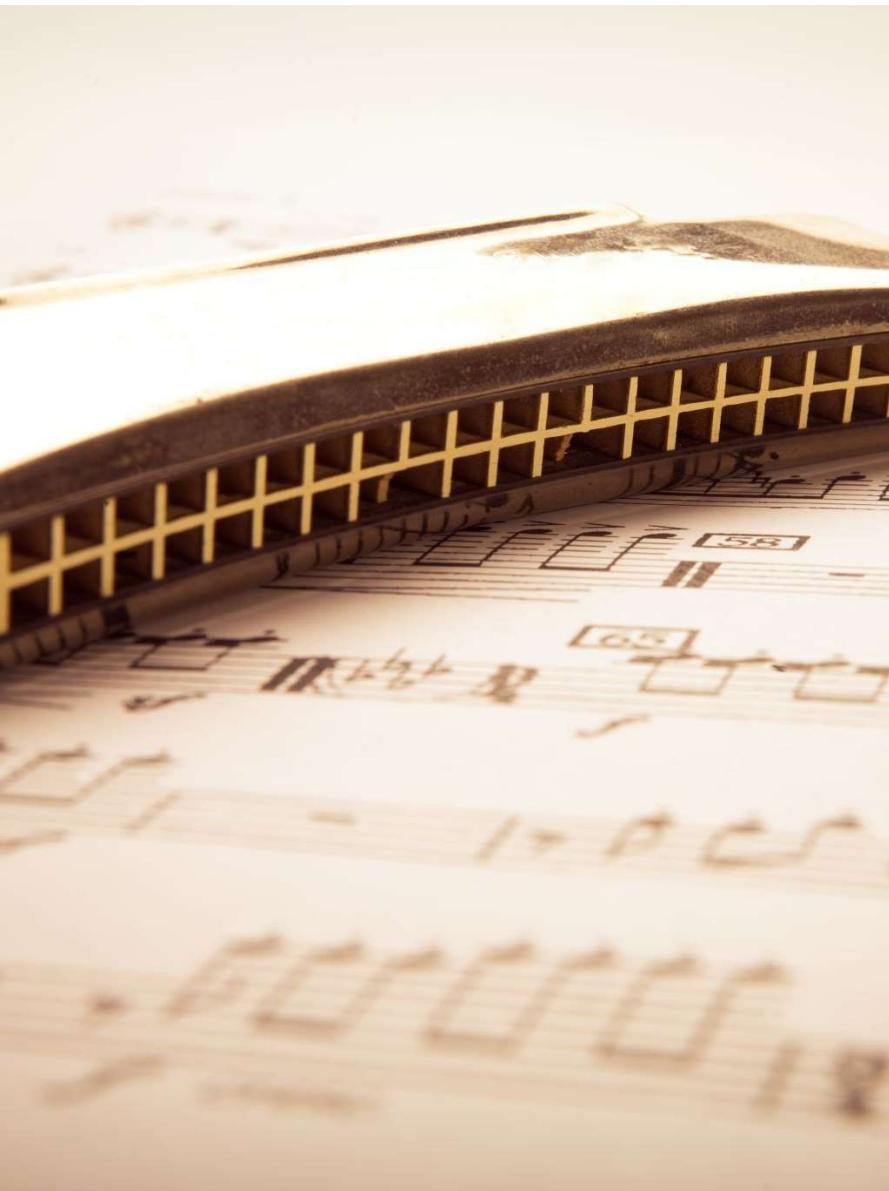
Current Unified  
Service:  
Energetic, more  
informal

- “*Like the variety of music styles; like the music energy and style.*”
- “***Organ is too somber and formal – do not like the tone it sets for the service.***”

## WORSHIP STYLE Instrumentation (John)

Reimagined Service:  
formal, meditative,  
sense of reverence

- ***“Organ should be used more and to its full potential.”***
- ***“Missing the majesty of organ music in worship.”***



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## COHESIVENESS OF WORSHIP (Deb)

Most respondents were clear in their desire to have all components of worship “fit” together.

Sub-themes:

- consistency and training for elders, deacons, and ushers;
- an overall desire for congregational singing;
- consistency in wording;
- an emphasis on unified times of prayer, rituals and communion – (**unified taking of the cup**).

## Cohesiveness of Worship – Quotes (Deb)

- *“Everything in the service should flow and be cohesive.”*
- *“We’d like it [communion] to be truly special – wait to take it all together and take time for the ritual.”*
- *Continuity of a theme is important within the prayer/message/scripture/music. The whole worship experience should be grounding.”*



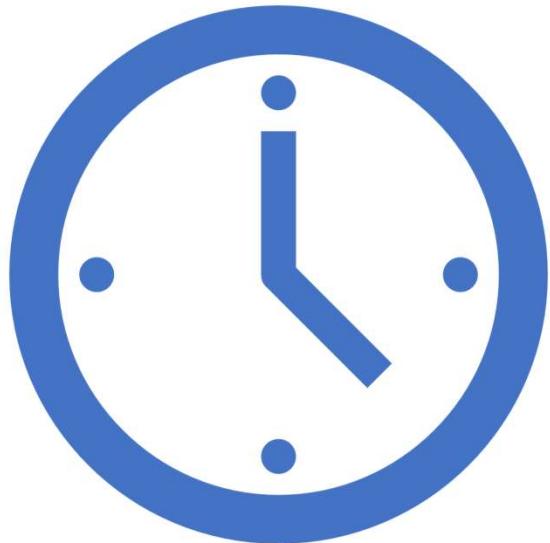
## COMMUNITY & HOSPITALITY (John)

- There was an emphasis on **welcoming all with intentionality**: members, visitors and guests.
- A strong desire for participation in worship for our **youth and children**.
- The **openness of the communion table**.
- **Intentional awareness** of those with special needs combined with **intentional means of accommodation**.
- Time for **fellowship**, time for **Sunday School**.

## COMMUNITY & HOSPITALITY QUOTES

- *“We should always think about each service as being someone’s first, think carefully about using acronyms.”*
- *“There should be more involvement of the youth; Would like to find a way to have children involved in both services.”*
- *“People who can’t stand cannot see the slides. We have to do something about the hearing devices.”*

## TIME and SCHEDULE (John D.)



- *Daybreak preferred 8am. Traditional preferred earlier. Contemporary was flexible, but desired to be done around noon.*
- *Separate Sunday School time for all ages*
- *Periodic fellowship, but not necessarily a “holy 30” block as now.*
- *Periodic “unified” services*
- *A strong desire to schedule with an eye toward families.*

## TIME and SCHEDULE -

- 8:00 – *Daybreak*
- 9:00 – “*Traditional*”
- 10:00 – 11:00 – *Discipleship Hour*
- 11:15-12:15 – “*Contemporary*”

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### *Possible “Unified” Schedule*

- 9:00-10:00 – *Optional Sunday School Time*
- 10:00 – 11:00 – *Unified Worship*
- 11:00-12:00 – *Fellowship luncheon with upcoming engagement opportunities*



# CONCLUSION (Deb)

## **Six primary themes were present in the responses**

- Most respondents were in agreement that worship needs to be biblically based, have an "energy" that moves the heart, soul, and mind, and that worship, regardless of style, should be cohesive throughout.
- Community and hospitality were vitally important as was a schedule that offered options for all members, all families, to the greatest extent possible.
- Worship style, in terms of celebratory and meditative preferences, formality and informality in worship and distinct preferences on music and instrumentation were clear in the longings of our membership.

**These findings should provide an excellent path to shaping two worship services**

**PSALM 46:10**

“Be still, and know that I am God;”

**PSALM 47:1**

“Clap your hands, all you nations, shout to God with cries of joy.”

**From the Broadway Christian Church Cafes**

“[They] all acknowledged that being “broad” means offering worship options.”

FINAL QUOTES

# Attachments

- World Café Table Notes for Wednesday and Thursday, April 9 & 10, 2024
- World Café Notes Organized by Topic
- Prominent Themes
- Informal Agenda

