

We are listening deeply...

to hundreds of teenagers and emerging adults at six summer worship programs based in six different regions

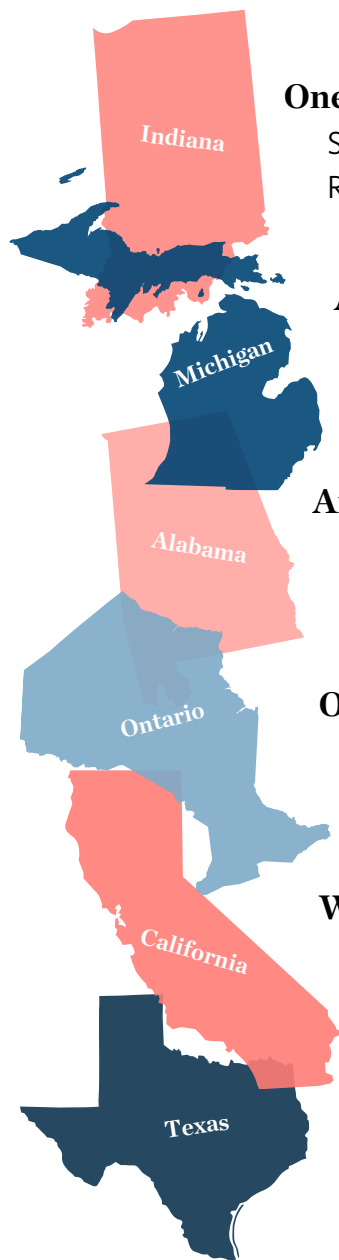


20 focus groups with **187** teenagers.

69 individual interviews with emerging adult leaders.

155 short survey responses.

38 participant observations of worship services.



One Bread, One Cup

St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology
Roman Catholic

Awakening

Hope College
Reformed

Animate

Samford University
Evangelical - Baptist Tradition

Ontario Mennonite Music Camp

Conrad Grebel University College
Mennonite

Worship Arts Lab

Azusa Pacific University
Evangelical - Wesleyan Holiness Tradition

Worship Lab

Baylor University
Baptist



“We’re deeply grateful to the multitude of participants who were not only willing but enthusiastic to collaborate with us. From university program directors, to ministry leaders, to lay mentors, to the young people themselves—so many offered their time, energy, and vulnerability to make this project possible.”

Rev. Emily Snider Andrews, PhD,
Co-Principal Investigator, Samford University
Center for Worship and the Arts

We believe young people are the church right now, not only the church of the future. They have valuable experiences and insights that can enrich how all participants understand and practice Christian worship.

Sample Research Questions

- What is most important about worship for you?
- Tell me about a time when you visited a worship service at a different church.
- What kinds of things do you think about, feel, or do during a worship service at your church?
- In your wildest dreams, what would the best worship service ever be like?
- What do you wish that other people knew about how younger people experience Christian worship?

“Worship matters to young people, and if we want to understand the ‘how’ and ‘why’ factors behind that statement, we need to consult young people themselves. Our research project is responding to that need, and I look forward to continuing to learn through it.”

Mykayla Turner

Doctoral Student Researcher,
Saint Paul University

“Imagine how the church might flourish when we listen deeply to young people and help them live into the unique callings that God has placed upon their lives.”

Rev. Nelson Cowan, PhD

Co-Principal Investigator,
Samford University
Center for Worship and the Arts



Researcher Insights

“This study aims to shape better conversations about younger people and Christian worship by valuing the experiences and insights of teenagers and emerging adults who are already actively involved in Christian communities, instead of lamenting the absence of younger worshipers, or trying to counter demographic change.”

Rev. Sarah Kathleen Johnson, PhD

Co-Principal Investigator,
Saint Paul University

“I am immensely grateful for this opportunity to learn from youth and young people. What I learned from these young people will help me to be a better minister to the communities that I serve.”

Erik Sorsensen

Doctoral Student Researcher
Saint Paul University



Young People and Christian Worship: Experiences, Stories, and Values (YPCW) is a collaborative research project jointly sponsored by Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, and Samford University’s Center for Worship and the Arts, Birmingham, AL. Primary investigators include Emily Snider Andrews, PhD, Nelson Cowan, PhD, and Sarah Kathleen Johnson, PhD. The YPCW study is made possible thanks to generous funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Calvin Institute of Christian, and Baylor University’s Future Church Grant program.

