

# STUDENT WORSHIP TEAM COHORTS

## The Student Worship Project

an initiative from Samford University's Center for Worship and the Arts  
made possible by grant funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc.





# OVERVIEW

Over the course of a year, the Center for Worship and the Arts at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, will engage student worship teams for mutual learning, sharing, and growth. These teams will work with the Center to test best practices for deepening intergenerational worship practices in their congregations or schools, while adding depth and breadth to the worship lives of teenage worshipers and worship leaders.

Teenagers will be key players in each cohort as initiators and creators of these worship practices. With coaching, resources, and support from the Center for Worship and the Arts, adult mentors on each team will provide training and opportunities for teenagers to fully engage the broad scope of worship in the church and worship in all of life.

**1 year**

**PROCESS**

**\$4,000**

**SCHOLARSHIP**

**4-12**

**PEOPLE**

# COMMITMENTS

To accept the invitation, team leaders must acknowledge approval from their sponsoring congregation's key leadership including the Senior Pastor, Worship Pastor, and/or Youth Pastor. [Ideally, the leader will be one of these three individuals] or school's administration. Each leader will assemble an intergenerational team of 4-12 individuals, approximately 70% of which must be teenagers with experience, interest, gifts, and capacity for worship in its myriad forms.

The full team must attend Animate 2020 at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. After Animate, adult leaders will participate in two coaching calls in the Fall of 2020 and two in the Spring of 2021 as they carry out a year-long project of their choosing and primarily led by their students. The team will return to Animate 2021 to talk about their project and reflect together on their work over the year.

[Cohort numbers will be determined in consultation with the Center for Worship and the Arts based on congregational size and demographics. They must be assembled no later than March 1, 2020 for Animate 2020 registration.]



**70% teenagers      30% adults**

**“** Churches of every shape, size, and denomination must do a better job of helping teens connect in worship, or they risk becoming just another part of the world’s noise. Teens connecting well to worship means better connecting to God; to the children, adults, and elders in their church; and to their own too-often divided selves.

**Dr. Eric Mathis and Dr. Chuck Stokes**  
**Samford University | Center for Worship and the Arts**

# WHAT WILL STUDENT WORSHIP TEAMS DO?

## 1. Come to Birmingham, Alabama.

We will introduce the Student Worship Project to adult leaders during an innovative, hands-on workshop in the midst of Animate 2020.

## 2. Participate in Animate 2020.

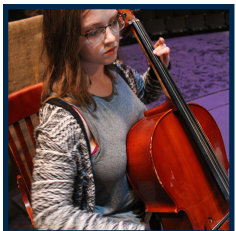
Animate 2020 is June 22-26 on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Each team will participate in Animate with other attendees as well as a fun, interactive meal time with key leadership from the Center for Worship and the Arts.

## 3. Learn with us from home.

We want to learn with you as you strengthen intergenerational worship practices, and deepen and broaden the worship life of your teenagers. We'll do that through coaching calls, group reports, and experimentation in the setting of a year-long worship project, primarily developed and led by your student team.

## 4. Return to Animate 2021.

Animate 2021 is June 21-25 on the campus of Samford University. Each team will wrap up their experience in a meaningful way by reflecting together on the year.



# PURPOSE

## Bridging the Ministry Gap

The backdrop of the Student Worship Project is bridging the gap between youth ministry and worship ministry by illustrating the importance of public and private worship in the lives of teenagers and providing congregations, leaders, and parents with practical tools for helping teenagers enter worship in church, at school, and at home.

## Engaging Deep Expressions of Worship

To bridge the gap, the Student Worship Project will pilot teaching and training materials developed by the Center for Worship and the Arts to encourage congregations to engage deeper expressions of worship within an intergenerational setting. This will include incorporating portable practices for teenagers' personal worship and increasing opportunities for teenagers to worship in diverse contexts.

## Training Student Worship Teams

For those teenagers who have exhibited gifts in worship planning and worship leadership, the Student Worship Project will provide resources that will amplify the role of student worshipers and worship leaders by helping them adopt transferrable leadership models through multiple attempts to lead worship in risk-safe environments.

### Commit

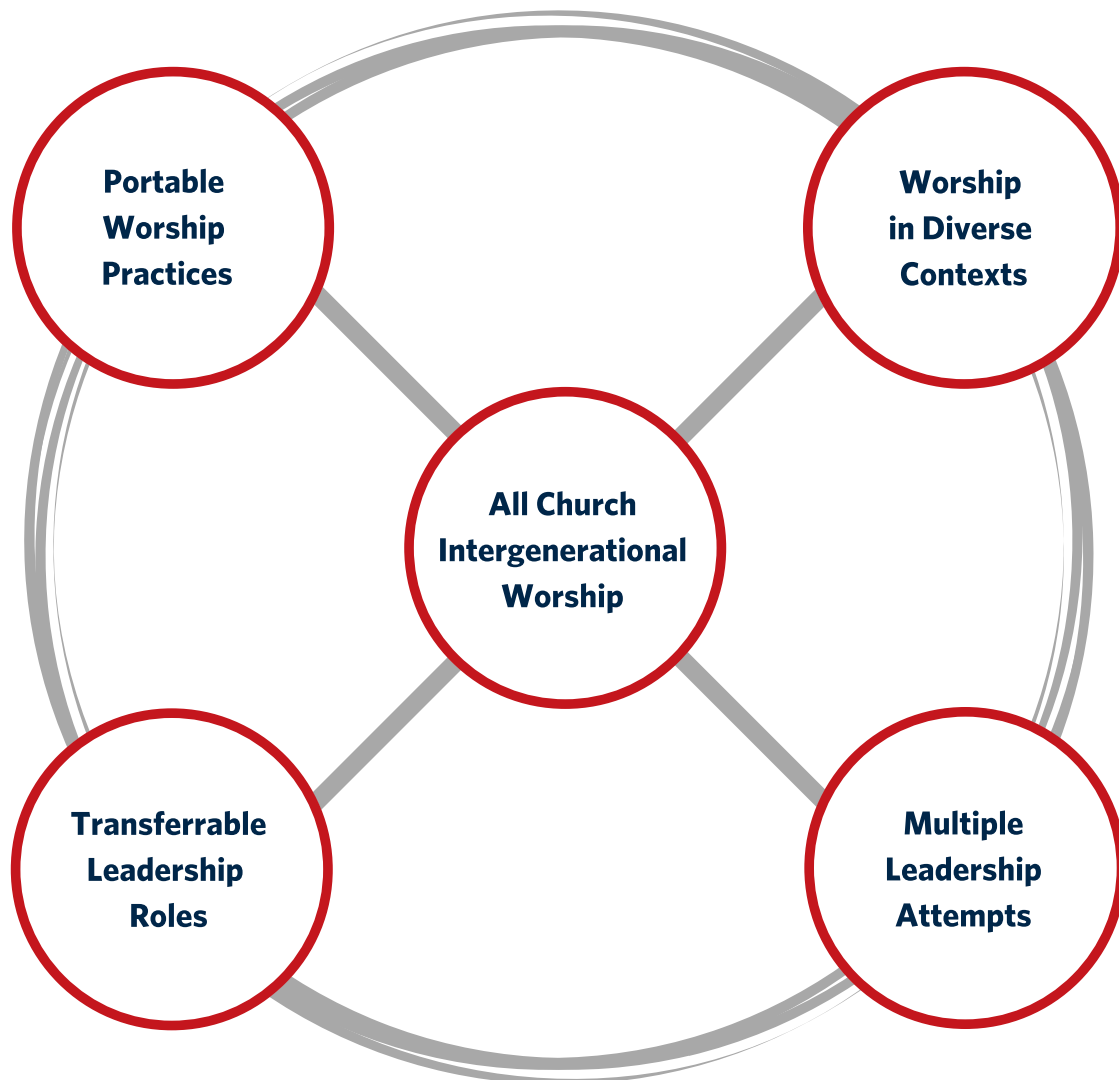
- Receive approval from your Senior Pastor, Youth Pastor, or Worship Pastor (or executive administrators if at a school) to participate in the Student Worship Project as a Student Worship Team.
- Assemble a student worship team that is intergenerational and consists of teenage worship leaders and adult mentors.
- Attend Animate 2020 on-site with other student worship teams.

### Receive

- \$2,000 stipend each year (\$4,000 total) for your team to travel to Animate and/or cover registration costs.
- Access to student worship resources that will help your congregation become an incubator for engaging teenagers in deeper expressions of worship and worship leadership.
- Coaching, framing, and teaching from the CWA staff on building student worship practices.

- Participate in webinars, coaching calls, and team conversations as guided by the Center for Worship and the Arts in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.
- Attend Animate 2021 on-site with other student worship teams and reflect with us on your experience.
- Webinars, coaching calls, and other connection points with the CWA staff throughout the year.
- A learning community comprised of other student pastors, worship pastors, and student worship leaders from across the United States.

## OUR METHOD



# What is Animate?

Animate is a five-day summer program in worship leadership for teenagers and their adult mentors. It is sponsored by the Center for Worship and the Arts on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Using biblical, Christ-centered principles, students hone worship leadership skills, adults sharpen their mentoring tools, and everybody works together to reflect on the intersection between worship, theology, and the arts.

# What is the Center for Worship and the Arts?

The mission of the Center for Worship and the Arts at Samford University is to equip congregations to engage intergenerational and artistic worship practices that glorify God, honor Christ, and join the transformative work of the Spirit in the world. The Center is working to secure a prominent role in the conversation of worship and the arts locally, regionally, and nationally. While the Center for Worship and the Arts shares common goals with centers and institutes on campus, in the region, and around the United States, our work with congregations to bridge the gap between youth ministry and worship ministry is unique. Through programs, research, and scholarship, we are creating a national platform for conversations about the relationship between youth ministry and worship ministry.

# Our Mission

Equipping congregations to engage intergenerational and artistic worship practices that glorify God, honor Christ, and join the transformative work of the Spirit in the world.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH  
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**





# OUR PROCESS

2020-2021

## Inspiring your team

Animate 2020

The Center for Worship and the Arts follows up with a listening resource in August 2020.

## Listening to others

Leaders participate in a coaching call in September or October

The Center for Worship and the Arts provides a design resource in the Fall.

## Designing your resource:

Leaders participate in a coaching call in November or December

The Center for Worship and the Arts provides an implementation resource in November.

## Acting on your project

Leaders participate in at least one or more coaching calls in February or March as the project takes shape between November and May

The Center for Worship and the Arts will provide additional resources in January.

## Reflecting on your work

Leaders participate in a coaching call in May.

The Center for Worship and the Arts will provide details about Animate 2021.

## Inspiring other teams

Animate 2021

The Center for Worship and the Arts hosts a venue at Animate for you to talk about your project to a new cohort.



**Samford University**  
Center for Worship and the Arts