

## Diocese of Kansas: LMA Survey RESULTS

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Compiled by David Littrell, St. Paul's, Manhattan

There are 44 parishes in the Diocese of Kansas. 40 parishes replied to this survey for a 90% return rate, which is excellent.

1. Instrument(s) used during the services:

- a. Organ only: 13
- b. Piano only: 4
- c. Combination of Organ and Piano: 11
- d. Other, such as guitar, flute, etc. List: 16

2. Do you sing "alternative" (non-1982 hymnal) hymns/songs during any services? Yes 22 No 14

If so, how often per month? 1: 5 2: 2 3: 4 4: 4 5: 4 n/a

If so, what song books do you use that are not the 1982 Hymnal?

Lift Every Voice and Sing 13

Wonder, Love, and Praise 6

New Green Book 1

1940 Hymnal 1

Gather (Lutheran) 2

Celebrate! 1

The Faith We Sing (Methodist) 1

Journey Songs 1

My Heart Sings Out 1

Flor y Canto 1

3. Who leads your music?

No one 8 An organist 14 A choir director 13 Other 6

4. Especially for smaller parishes, do you need helpful music resources, esp. if no organist?

Yes 14 No 14 n/a 7

5. Does your parish have a choir in non-pandemic times? Yes 16 No 21

Do you use worship-type (praise band) teams? Yes 1 (small group for traditional music) No 35

6. Will your choir (or misc. small vocal groups) become active again in the fall? Yes 12 No 9

If not, will you resume Choir when the pandemic lessens? Yes 8 No 8

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7. What, if any, licensing services does your church use?

One License 14

CCLI 11

Worship Cast 1

Anthem Subscription 1

Lift Every Voice and Sing (?) 1

riteseries.org 1

Are those licenses for print only (12), or do they include streaming/podcasts (15)?

8. Are you broadcasting services via Facebook, etc.? Yes 29 No 10

If so, do you plan to continue post-pandemic? Yes 28 No 6

How do broadcast/record your services?

Facebook 21

Zoom 7

Other 8

Any questions about copyright licenses?

Yes 10

No 19

9. Do you incorporate special music events to enhance various liturgical seasons? Yes 20 No 11

Please list examples of special music you have used for the following:

a. Advent: Lessons and Carols 19

b. Lent: 6 Tenebrae; Great Litany; Occasional Evensongs; All Saints Requiem

c. Holy Week and Easter: Choir anthems 6

Jazz Sunday 1

10. Please include any comments you wish to make. Responses below have been slightly edited to preserve anonymity.

- Clergy and parish are kind and supportive.
- Evensong, Holden Evening Prayer, Taizé
- CCLI vs. One License-----Which is better?
- Small congregation made even smaller by pandemic restrictions and current political climate. Just trying to keep the door open.
- New organist, so hoping to get things going again.
- Looking to buy a CD to play during worship, such as "No Organist, No Problem."
- Small congregation, relied for many years on a Synthia (electronic player piano), which was a quite rare synthesizer because of its cost in the early 1980s.

# **Diocese of Kansas: Liturgy, Music, and the Arts Task Force: Music Sub-Group Music Survey Results**

**Compiled by David Littrell, St. Paul's, Manhattan**

Mother Mary Schrom Breese, Rector at Epiphany in Sedan and Co-Convener of the LMA Task Force, asked me to conduct a survey of the music programs in the forty-four parishes in the Diocese of Kansas. The survey was distributed by the members of the Music Sub-Group in late August. David Littrell appealed twice more in September until forty parishes responded, which was a 90% return rate, an extremely high percentage for any survey.

Attached is a list of the questions with the numbers of responses, usually Yes or No, within the questions. A few further comments, slightly edited to preserve anonymity, can be found in Question 10. These survey results and this summary will be shared with the Diocesan office and each parish. The survey wanted to discern the health of the music programs in the parishes.

Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect was how the pandemic and unfortunate politicization surrounding it was detrimental to both music programs and attendance. So far we are basing many of our assumptions on anecdotal evidence. It is a consensus that the pandemic sped up the process of the church losing members in most or all denominations, a process that has been happening for several decades.

## **Summary**

- The organ is still very much in use in Episcopal worship services, but the piano is now often used, something that wouldn't have happened several decades ago. Many other instruments are used intermittently along with the organ or piano.
- Alternative hymns or music are used in half the parishes. A list of alternative hymn or praise books is included in the survey.
- Parishes are split 50/50 using a choir director or an organist to lead the music. This is not surprising and has a long tradition.
- The Music Sub-Group needs to develop a list of helpful music resources for smaller parishes.
- Only 16 of 40 respondents stated that they have a choir in non-pandemic times. No—21, which is not surprising because you need a membership of a certain size to field a choir, which means that smaller parishes rely on congregational singing.
- Praise/Worship Bands are omnipresent in many other denominations, and at least four congregations in the Lawrence/Kansas City area have praise bands for certain services.
- Parishes that have had a choir in the past are split evenly about whether a choir will make a comeback in a parish.
- One License and CCLI are the most popular licensing services.
- Facebook has been popular and helpful for streaming services online during the pandemic, and many churches will continue this service for its members.
- Half the parishes incorporate special music services for various seasons of the Church Year. "Lessons and Carols" during Advent is used by 19 parishes.

—David Littrell October 4, 2021