

## HARMONISING WORSHIP: THE ROLE OF CHURCH MUSIC ADMINISTRATION IN PLANNING CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SINGING EVENTS IN LOCAL BAPTIST CHURCHES

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### Abstract

The study examines the role of church music administration in planning and organising congregational hymn-singing events in local Baptist churches, aiming to harmonise worship and foster spiritual growth. This research explores how effective music administration contributes to meaningful and engaging worship experiences. It addresses key research problems, including the challenges of managing hymn-singing events, balancing theological integrity with cultural relevance, and encouraging active participation in congregational worship. The scope of the study focuses on Baptist worship traditions and practices within local church contexts. The research adopts a qualitative methodology, employing primary data collection methods such as bibliographic reviews, oral interviews, and participant observation by the author, a practicing music minister. Secondary sources, including books, journals, and online resources, complement the data. The theoretical frameworks of the study hinged on functionality or role theory and the theory of transformative musicology, which Adedeji advanced. Findings reveal that successful hymn-singing events depend on strategic planning, theological understanding, and the ability to address logistical challenges. Recommendations include enhancing training for church music administrators, fostering collaboration between clergy and music teams, and adopting innovative approaches to enrich congregational hymn singing. The study underscores the interplay between administration, worship culture, and congregational engagement, advocating for robust music administration practices to harmonise worship and elevate the spiritual experiences of congregants.

**Keywords:** Church Music Administration, Congregational Hymn Singing, Local Baptist Churches, Worship Planning, Spiritual Engagement

### Introduction

Hymn singing is a crucial aspect of worship in Baptist churches, and church administration plays a vital role in planning and coordinating these events. Wagner (2018) emphasizes the importance of hymn singing in Baptist churches to express faith and unify congregants in shared beliefs and experiences. By understanding theological foundations, addressing logistical complexities, and fostering congregational engagement, church administrators can create a conducive atmosphere for worship. Training and development are essential for individuals leading this vital aspect of worship, ensuring they are adequately equipped to facilitate meaningful experiences for congregants. Harmonious worship enriches the spiritual journey of individuals and strengthens communal bonds within the church body. As worship practices evolve, adept administration becomes increasingly critical to navigate challenges and cultivate an authentic faith community. This paper examines the role of church administration in congregational hymn singing, highlighting its importance in enhancing worship through musical selection, logistical organisation, and community engagement. It highlights the intricate relationship between church music administration and hymn singing events in local Baptist churches, requiring a deep understanding of theological appropriateness, logistical considerations, congregational engagement, and worship atmosphere.

### Theoretical framework

Adedeji and Ayanyinka (2022:14) noted that functionality or role theory by Adedeji (1999; 2014) proves that music is 100% functional in the church, while Odusanya (2022:104), while quoting Adedeji (2006) also noted that “Transformative musicology is the musicology that is aimed at the transformation of individual and our world at large. It encompasses all music activities that focus on transformative purpose, a product of intercultural musicology” This theoretical framework provides a foundation for exploring the relationship between church administration and congregational hymn singing in local Baptist churches. Role theory is highly relevant to the ‘Harmonising Worship: The Role of Church Music Administration in Planning Congregational Hymn Singing Events in Local Baptist Churches’. The key concepts of this theory are domiciled on the premise of the distinct roles of church music administration, music leaders, and congregational members in planning and executing hymn singing events, the essential functions of effective planning, coordination, communication, and resource management, and the interdependence of these elements in achieving harmonious worship. However, church administrators have mistakenly suffocated church worship through undue regimentation and conflict of interest. As a sequel to this pitfall, the paper came as a rescue motion to avert this scenario using the coordinators in the planning and organising hymn-singing

events, ensuring effective communications between music leaders, congregational members and other stakeholders in the church music ministry to ensure smooth administration. The resource manager oversees logistical and financial aspects, while the spiritual leader provides theological guidance. In music leadership, the music director selects and prepares music, while the worship leader leads congregational singing and worship. Congregational members sing hymns and worship while volunteers assist with event planning and execution. Leaders provide support and guidance within their respective ministries. Functionality (Functionalism) or Role Theory can be applied to analyze these roles and functions.

### **Brief Historical Context of Hymnody in Baptist Worship\*\***

To understand the current role of church administration in hymn singing, it is necessary to contextualize the historical significance of hymnody in Baptist worship. The Baptist tradition strongly emphasizes congregational participation in worship, mainly stemming from the Reformation, which espoused the idea of the priesthood of all believers (Akin, 2019). Hymns have long been a central component of Baptist worship, from Isaac Watts' influence in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which encouraged congregational singing, to the modern integration of contemporary Christian music (Sutton, 2020). The historical trajectory of hymnal selection and musicality within worship reveals an evolving practice influenced by theological, cultural, and social dynamics—each necessitating thoughtful administration in planning hymn-singing events.

### **Hymn Singing and The People Called Baptist**

In the life of a local Baptist church, congregational hymn singing holds a special place, serving as a powerful medium for worship, spiritual reflection, and community bonding. However, the success of these hymn-singing events hinges significantly on the effectiveness of church administration. Hence, Church administration encompasses a church's organizational and managerial functions, including coordinating various activities and events. In the context of hymn singing events, this involves a range of tasks, from selecting appropriate hymns and coordinating with musicians to managing logistics and ensuring the congregation's participation. Effective administration ensures that these events are well-organized, spiritually enriching, and inclusive. Therefore, planning congregational hymn-singing events requires meticulous attention to detail and a deep understanding of the congregation's needs and preferences. Church leaders and administrators must collaborate to create an environment that fosters active participation and enhances the worship experience. This involves careful selection of hymns that resonate with the congregation, organising rehearsals, and ensuring that all logistical aspects are seamlessly managed. However, the place of Church administration in the planning of congregational hymn singing cannot be over-emphasized because of its valuable contributions to worship service. Hymn singing tradition is biblical and inherited; if it is not well planned, it will not achieve its purpose in Christian liturgy.

The Bible records many songs for various purposes; those songs could be accompanied or unaccompanied; the Psalms are used as worship hymnals in Jewish worship (2 Chronicles 29:28-30). Therefore, planning the Hymn singing event, this can be done in several ways. It can be done as a congregational hymn singing service, hymn revival service, community hymn singing, song service, and so on. All these can be grouped to become hymn-singing events. Out of these aforementioned, this paper considers the impact of church administration in planning congregational hymn singing services for practical worship experience among the worshipers in local Baptist churches.

Despite the importance of these events, local Baptist churches often face several challenges in their planning and execution. Limited resources, volunteer management, and diverse congregational needs are just a few hurdles that church administrations must navigate. However, with strategic planning, clear communication, and community involvement, these challenges can be effectively addressed, leading to successful and impactful hymn-singing events.

### **Theological Foundations of Hymn Singing in Baptist Churches**

Hymn singing within Baptist churches is grounded in theological premises that underscore the significance of music in worship. The Baptist tradition maintains that music serves as a vital means of glorifying God and fostering spiritual edification among congregants. According to the Southern Baptist Convention, hymns are integral in expressing theological truths, helping congregants to internalize doctrine (Southern Baptist Convention, 2021, <https://www.sbc.net/resources/hymns>). These hymns range from traditional compositions steeped in Christian history to contemporary music that speaks to modern congregations. The role of church administration in ensuring that the songs selected for congregational singing align with theological tenets cannot be overstated. The administration must collaborate with pastoral leadership to discern which hymns resonate with the church's doctrinal beliefs and address the congregation's spiritual needs. This collaboration is crucial in curating a programme that reflects the church's theological stance and fosters a sense of unity among its members.

### **Logistical Considerations in Planning Hymn Singing Events**

Effective church administration plays a pivotal role in the logistical planning of hymn-singing events. These logistics encompass a range of considerations, including scheduling, orchestration, and resource allocation. The planning begins with identifying an appropriate time for the hymn singing, considering various congregational factors such as attendance patterns and community engagement (Creswell, 2014). In addition to scheduling, the administration must address the practicalities of orchestrating these events. This involves selecting suitable music leaders or choirs with the skill and the ability to engage the congregation. Training sessions may also be necessary to harmonise the music team with the hymns selected and to enhance their ability to lead the congregation effectively. This preparation lays the groundwork for a seamless worship experience whereby congregants feel invited and equipped to participate in singing.

Furthermore, resource allocation is essential in this planning phase. Churches must consider their financial capabilities when investing in sheet music, sound systems, and other equipment. Additionally, promotional efforts may need to be leveraged to ensure the congregation knows about upcoming events. A well-structured administrative approach allows the church to honour its commitments while being prudent with its finances.

### **Logistical Challenges in Planning Hymn Singing Events\*\***

The logistical role of church administration in planning hymn-singing events encompasses various responsibilities, including scheduling, resource allocation, and technical support. Effective administration requires an understanding of the available resources and the congregation's needs. Scheduling hymn-singing events must consider factors such as the church calendar, local community events, and potential conflicts with other ministries (Booth, 2021). Additionally, church administrators must curate hymn selections that reflect the congregation's theological beliefs while catering to diverse musical preferences. The logistical challenges extend beyond scheduling. Church administrators are responsible for coordinating with musicians, sound technicians, and worship leaders to ensure that all components of the worship service function seamlessly. This involves selecting hymns and arranging rehearsals, ensuring that musicians are adequately prepared and that technical equipment is functioning (Hunt, 2022). The importance of logistical planning cannot be overstated; numerous studies have shown that well-structured church events increase congregational participation and satisfaction (Crawford, 2019).

### **The Role of Technology in Modern Hymn Singing Events\*\***

In the contemporary context, church administration must also contend with the impact of technology on worship practices. The rise of digital resources has transformed the way congregations approach hymn singing events, enabling broader access to a diverse array of musical styles and hymn resources. Administrators are tasked with integrating these technological tools effectively into the worship experience (Edwards, 2020). This includes utilizing projection systems for lyrics, incorporating multimedia presentations, and offering live streaming for virtual attendees. Moreover, the challenges of technology necessitate further administrative oversight. Technical glitches during hymn singing can disrupt the worship experience, leading to frustration among worship leaders and congregants. Therefore, church administrators must provide adequate training and support for volunteers working with worship technology (Booth, 2021). Strategic planning for contingencies, such as equipment failure or unexpected changes in worship format, is key to maintaining the integrity and flow of worship.

### **Engaging the Congregation**

A harmonious worship experience hinges on the engagement of the congregation itself. Church administrators must be attuned to their members' preferences and musical inclinations. Understanding the demographic composition of the congregation can inform the selection of hymns that will resonate broadly. For instance, a church with an older demographic may gravitate towards traditional hymns written by figures such as Isaac Watts or Charles Wesley. At the same time, a younger congregation might respond more enthusiastically to contemporary worship music (Dixon, 2010, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/april/12.33.html>).

To foster this engagement, church administration can implement various strategies to involve congregants in the hymn selection process. Surveys or feedback forms can solicit opinions on preferred hymns, which positions congregants as active participants and allows them to take ownership of the worship experience. When congregants feel connected to the hymns being sung, they are more likely to engage wholeheartedly in worship. Additionally, incorporating testimonies or reflections from congregants about the significance of specific hymns can create an atmosphere of shared experience. This practice strengthens the communal aspect of worship and provides a deeper connection to the lyrics being sung, ultimately enhancing the spiritual impact of the event.

### **Role of Church Music Administration in planning Congregational hymn singing Events**

Church music administration is vital in organising congregational hymn singing events, ensuring worship cohesion, music selections that engage and inspire the congregation, logistical support, community engagement, and resource management. The roles of church administration include providing organizational structure and leadership, selecting hymns that align with theological themes and spiritual needs, coordinating with musicians and choir, and managing logistical planning. The church administration is responsible for coordinating with musicians and choir to ensure rehearsals are scheduled and conducted efficiently, arranging practice sessions, providing necessary resources, and ensuring all participants are well-prepared for the event. Effective logistical planning is crucial for the success of hymn singing events, including arranging the venue, setting up sound systems, organising seating arrangements, and ensuring all technical aspects are in place. Community engagement and participation are also vital roles of church administration. This involves promoting the event through various channels, such as church bulletins, social media, and word of mouth, to create a more inclusive and vibrant worship experience. Church administration also develops worship planning teams, coordinates hymn selection processes, schedules rehearsals and sound checks, manages music budgets and resources, and communicates with musicians, pastors, and congregation.

### **Engaging Congregation through Hymn Selection\*\***

The selection of hymns is crucial in engaging the congregation during worship events. When curating hymn lists, church administrators must be finely attuned to their congregants' spiritual needs and cultural contexts (Wagner, 2018). This involves considering the theological themes in the hymns, the music's emotional and spiritual resonance, and the church community's cultural diversity. There has been a shift towards incorporating new and contemporary hymns alongside traditional favourites in recent years. This diversification of hymnody caters to a broader audience and fosters an inclusive worship atmosphere. However, church administrators must ensure that such selections align with the denominational beliefs and values of the congregation, thereby fostering a shared sense of identity and purpose (Akin, 2019). Effective hymn selection engages the congregation, deepens spiritual reflection, and contributes to shaping the community's collective faith narrative.

### **The Atmosphere of Worship**

The atmosphere of worship is another crucial element that church administration must cultivate. The emotional and spiritual environment established during hymn singing can significantly influence congregational engagement. Administrative leaders must create a space that encourages reverence and reflection while being receptive to the joy of worshipping together. Utilizing the physical space of the church effectively is vital in achieving this atmosphere. Elements such as lighting, seating arrangements, and decorations can all contribute to a worshipful environment conducive to hymn singing. Studies indicate that the physical space can affect individuals' spiritual experiences, suggesting that thoughtful planning can enhance the emotional resonance of the worship experience (Francis & Kaldor, 2002). Moreover, the timing and integration of hymn singing within the worship service must be considered. Church administration should ensure that hymn singing is not an isolated act but part of a broader narrative of worship that includes prayer, scripture readings, and message delivery. This cohesive flow enables congregants to engage more deeply with the spiritual themes, creating a holistic worship experience that resonates on multiple levels.

### **Congregational Hymn Singing**

Congregational singing refers to the collective singing of hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs by a gathered community of worshipers, typically in a church or other sacred space (Witvliet, 2003). It is vital to Christian worship, fostering unity, spiritual growth, and communal expression. Hymn singing can be a great event with memorable anthems joining or merging choristers with the congregation and extra instrumentalists to plan for and rehearse by adding scripture readings to coordinate with the hymns' themes. Sydnor (1982:12), in his remark, states that it is the opinion that great congregational singing is achieved when the congregation sings a sizable number of good hymns with spiritual perception and musical artistry. Miller (1993:51) also highlights the importance of congregational hymn singing in harmonising worship, fostering community and belonging, and providing an outlet for collective praise and thanksgiving. It also serves as a teaching doctrine, evoking emotions and deepening spiritual experience. Additionally, hymn singing unites voices in prayerful songs, transcending age, cultural, and socio-economic divides and bridging generations.

### **Types of Congregational Singing**

Effective planning in congregational hymn singing offers numerous benefits, including enhanced worship experience, a united community, theological clarity, improved participation, smoother service flow, reduced distractions, and efficient resource use. Administrative benefits include efficient resource use, effective communication, and increased

engagement. Congregational hymn singing is vital to Christian worship, fostering unity, spiritual growth, and communal expression. Various styles have emerged, reflecting cultural, historical, and theological contexts. These include traditional hymns, contemporary worship songs, psalms and chants, gospel music, and global and multicultural songs. Traditional hymn singing is inclusive, intergenerational, theological, emotional, and spiritual, encouraging participation from all ages and backgrounds. Examples include hymns, psalms, cantatas, chants, Gregorian chant, classical gospel, contemporary worship, praise and worship, gospel music, rock-influenced, urban, and indigenous worship songs.

Contemporary worship songs are modern, upbeat, and energetic, while praise and worship are energetic and expressive. Gospel music often has choir, and Christian Rock is rock-influenced worship music. Urban gospel music has urban hip-hop influences.

Global and multicultural styles include African American spirituals, Latin American Coritos, Asian hymns, African gospel, and Indigenous worship songs. Each style has its unique characteristics and significance, making it essential for congregational hymn singing to be well-planned and executed effectively.

### **Benefits of Effective Planning**

Effective planning in congregational hymn singing enhances the worship experience, fosters unity, ensures theological clarity and improves participation. It also streamlines service flow, reduces distractions, and optimises budget, personnel, and facilities. Administrative benefits include efficient resource use, effective communication, and increased engagement. Gangel (200), identified four administrative functions for effective planning in congregational hymn singing: planning, organising, leading, and controlling. These functions help optimise budget, personnel, and facilities, enhance collaboration between music teams, pastors, and staff, and boost congregation involvement and commitment.

**Planning:** The singing of a hymn by the congregation is a straightforward process requiring the hymns to be familiar and that the choir must have worked on the tune and key to be used during the rehearsal period before the congregational performance. The basic steps to hymn singing are:

- Information: In planning congregational hymn singing, information should or must be given to the members from the church pastor ahead of time, even if it is fixed to the church calendar of activities. Also, the choristers must be aware and prepared for thorough rehearsal in preparation for the hymn singing.
- General Theme to be used: In planning congregational hymn singing, there is a need for a theme to follow in selecting hymns. Bereza (2014:75), ‘observes that if your congregation follows a liturgical calendar, your theme could relate to the season’. Therefore, the theme should be the first criterion in planning congregational hymn singing.
- Pick out hymns: After receiving hymns from worshipers (congregations), the next thing the minister of music needs to do is to page through the hymnals to check for the hymns on the theme to see if they correspond with the one congregations selected or not. At times, the hymns may not be in one Baptist hymnal; it may be in the 1956 edition, 1975 edition, 1991 edition, 1998 edition, it may even be from Broadman hymnal or any other Baptist hymnals, but the best thing for the minister of music is to search and look for the scored hymn and make photocopies for the choristers to learn. Thereafter, narrow down the list to a number that fits the planned amount of time if all the stanzas will be sung within the given time frame.
- The next thing is to Order hymns in groups: Congregational hymn singing can be grouped into two or three parts depending on what the minister of music plans. The most challenging part can be given to the choristers to sing in order to teach the congregation while the Music Minister or music Director leads them. Thereafter, the congregations will join them to sing. The standard/frequent hymns can be given to the congregation so they can sing without the choir joining them. This is for the music minister to watch and listen to them to correct where necessary; after that, the whole congregation will sing it repeatedly after corrections have been made.

**Controlling:** According to Shalley (1995:240), in music ministry, the music minister or leader has to keep many things in the air simultaneously. His spiritual sensitivity, personal preparation, attention to group dynamics, thoughtful song selection, and full-bodied accompaniment are some of the ingredients contributing to powerful congregational singing. Therefore, in controlling the preparation schedules, a rehearsal plan should be implemented with the choristers on whether to add to their rehearsal time if they are meeting twice a week before; because of the event coming, additional rehearsal should be added. In preparation for hymn singing, after the hymns have been selected for the service, the minister of music examines the tune and texts of the hymns to be sure of any difficulty and studies it before teaching the choir. Singing amen at the end of each hymn may not be needed. Reynolds (1975:59) submits that if a final “amen” is used on a hymn, that fact should be noted and communicated to the accompanists, and the choir

should know how it is being done. For the hymns we sing today in our contemporary time, not all hymns we sing need to end with amen. This is what the Music Minister or Director needs to add to his teaching of hymns in congregational singing in our local church that men can only say when singing hymns of Prayer and Dedication, Consecration hymns, Hymns of the Resurrection, Aspiration and Assurance and so on if ends with prayer or request.

**Leading:** The next step is to lead the congregation in singing. If the hymns are complex, the song leader/music minister would inform them to listen to him/her while singing the first stanza so the congregation can listen and learn; thereafter, the congregation will respond. In congregational singing, there is a need to observe music Glossary or musical terms; for instance, Leonard (1993:90) explained that *fermata* (fehr-MAH-ah) which means a hold or pulse, Crescendo (kreh-SHEN-doh), meaning gradually growing louder, Decrescendo (deh-kreh-SHEN-doh), which also means gradually growing softer and so on should be taught by the music Minister or Song Director to the whole congregation by informing them to take a look at the musical terms and tell them what they stand for before leading them to sing. Therefore, the music minister or song leader must tell the congregation what it means and where to observe those signs in congregational hymn singing.

**Organising:** According to Auda (2010:6), good congregational hymn singing should be Spirit-filled and full of understanding. The singing of hymns can be exciting and have good feelings, with the contributions of acoustic music and the support of sound instruments. Rice & Lovelace (1976:71-88) submit that the primary congregational responsibility is hymn singing. Therefore, hymn singing is a unique event focusing on the selected hymns. These hymns might include old favourite and newly composed hymns, as stated by Ashley Danyew (2020). This is where the central activity is singing in the worship service. A hymn singing can proclaim God's word through the voices of faith.

### **Benefits of Congregational Hymn Singing**

The importance of hymn singing in worship is that it provides a natural way for the primary activities of worship in the environment. Choral Hub (2019:176) explains that hymn singing helps to develop the spirit of unity and solidarity in the singing community. The benefit of singing is that it helps the singers to comprehend the text of the message in the song and put it into practice, and it equally helps the singers to be healthy and strong physically, spiritually, and emotionally. The therapeutic effects of hymn singing are capable of producing the above-mentioned benefits. Therefore, congregational hymns foster togetherness. It is pertinent to note that the administrative work of the music ministry cannot be overemphasized. In planning congregational hymn singing, the music minister should do it the way it should be done in line with what he or she has been trained for in the right way and at the right time. The church pastor must know what plan the minister of music has for the church before carrying the assignment out, and the church under the shepherd must also inform the minister of music of all the church activities so as for the church's goal to be achieved with a better understanding of preparation for all the events. Doing things right plays a significant part in making worship more effective in a local Baptist Church. Therefore, relationships and mutual understanding cannot be neglected (Ishola & Oparinde, 2017, pp. 264-265).

### **Impact of Church Administration on Singing Congregational Hymn**

In many churches today, congregational hymn singing is falling gradually; in some churches, it seems to have disappeared. Rainer (2016:10) gave six reasons congregational singing is waning: First, some church members do not prepare themselves for worship. Second, members do not know the songs. Third, the songs are not sung in a range where we can participate. Fourth, the lighting communicates performance rather than participation. Fifth, the music is too loud to hear others in the congregation. Sixth, the worship leaders are not listening to the congregation. The trained musicians, who also happen to be the worship leaders, have a broader range to sing without any difficulty; as part of their impact to help the church achieve its goal, they have to make decisions by teaching and leading the congregation to sing in a range that is beyond their ability. By doing this regularly, the song will be freely produced and help the congregation flow with enjoyable singing. Music can be performed equally when people see each other and hear from one another. Therefore, worship by singing should include both the worship leaders and the entire congregation.

### **Community Engagement and the Importance of Congregational Participation**

Church administration is pivotal in creating an environment encouraging active congregational participation in hymn singing. Promoting a culture of inclusivity is essential, where all members feel invited to engage meaningfully with worship (Sutton, 2020). This can be achieved by inviting congregational input in hymnal selections, training members as hymn leaders, and facilitating workshops that develop congregational skills in singing and music appreciation.

Furthermore, church administrators may organise supplementary events that enhance communal participation, such as hymn sings, workshops, or musical evenings (Hunt, 2022). Such events can help foster a sense of belonging and community among congregants while encouraging a fuller expression of worship. The administrative process of promoting these events and engaging with attendees is fundamental in creating a vibrant worship life within the church.

### **The Need for Training and Development**

Planning congregational hymn-singing events is complicated; therefore, volunteers and church staff must be trained and supported thoroughly. This covers the worship leaders, ushers, sound technicians, and other personnel. These people receive instruction that gives them the abilities and information needed to improve worship. Workshops and training sessions can focus on various aspects, such as effective music leadership, sound system operation, and congregational engagement strategies. Moreover, fostering a culture of continuous learning allows church administrators and volunteers to adapt to changing congregational needs. The ongoing professional development of church staff leads to more competent leaders, ultimately enriching the congregation's worship experience (Wong, 2020, <https://www.churchleaders.com/leadership/406950-the-importance-of-training-in-the-church.html>).

### **Discussion of Findings**

To create a sense of direction for the paper, the writer raise three questions to be responded to by stakeholders in the music ministry, Church leaders and music directors to corroborate the scholastic positions on the focus of the study. 1, how do church administrators plan and coordinate congregational hymn singing events? 2. What factors influence effective congregational hymn singing in Baptist churches? 3. How does church administration impact spiritual growth and community building through hymn singing? The writer observed and realised that congregational hymn singing promotes unity, participation, and spiritual growth. The church administration is critical in planning worship services, selecting hymns, and coordinating music. On this note, effective planning ensures theological integrity, musical excellence, and cultural relevance. However, various styles of congregational singing (Traditional, contemporary, global, and blended) enrich worship experiences. Hence, church administrators must balance tradition and innovation, engaging diverse ages and backgrounds. Odusanya (2024), while presenting his view on how church music administrators plan and coordinate congregational hymn singing events, observes that:

The coordinator role in hymn singing events involves planning and organising the event and facilitating communication between music leaders, congregational members, and other stakeholders. The role of a music director in music leadership involves selecting and preparing music for hymn-singing events. In contrast, the role of a worship leader in music leadership involves leading congregational singing and worship. The principles of Functionality include social order, social integration, and social change. The role theory applications include clear expectations for roles, effective performance, and potential conflicts between roles, requiring negotiation and resolution. (Odusanya, 2024, Oral Interview)

Odusanya's view on the role of a music coordinator in music leadership involves assisting with planning and logistics. The roles of participants in hymn singing and worship are outlined, with volunteers helping with event planning and execution.

Ogunleye (2024), while presenting her view on how church administration impacts spiritual growth and community building through hymn singing, also observes that:

Harmonial worship is not just a product of musical success but an outcome of diligent planning, thoughtful leadership, and a commitment to nurturing a worshipping community. Church administrators play a multifaceted role in providing logistical support, embracing technology, curating meaningful hymn selections, and fostering congregational engagement. As worship practices evolve, adept administration becomes increasingly critical in navigating challenges and cultivating an authentic faith community. (Ayankemi, 2024, Oral Interview)

Leaders provide support and guidance within their respective ministries. Functionality (Functionalism) or Role Theory can be applied to analyse the interactions between different roles and functions in hymn singing events.

### **Conclusion**

The role of church administration in planning congregational hymn singing events in local Baptist churches is crucial. It involves acknowledging the theological foundations of hymn singing, addressing logistical complexities, fostering congregational engagement, archiving meaningful hymn selections, and fostering congregational participation. As

worship practices evolve, adept administration becomes increasingly critical in navigating challenges and cultivating an authentic faith community.

Investing in training and development ensures that individuals leading this vital aspect of worship are adequately equipped to facilitate meaningful experiences for congregants. Harmonious worship is not merely a product of musical success but an outcome of diligent planning, thoughtful leadership, and a commitment to nurturing a worshipping community. Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made thus: Establish a worship planning team to coordinate hymn selection and service order, provide training for music leaders and worship teams, encourage congregational participation through inclusive language and accessible melodies, incorporate diverse musical styles and instruments and periodical evaluation of worship services regularly to ensure effectiveness.

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#### List of Interviewees

- Adeyinka, V. A (Volunteer Music Minister, Antioch Baptist Church, Ogbomosho. August 12, 2024)
- Odusanya, O. S. (Music Minister, Unity Baptist Church, Ibadan, Ogbomosho, August 23, 2024.
- Ogunleye, A. (Music Minister, Surulere Baptist Church, Lagos), August 06, 2024.