

# LEADING FROM A MELODY INSTRUMENT

## PART ONE: LEADING FROM A MELODY INSTRUMENT

Q. What is your background as a melody instrumentalist? What style/s are most natural to you?

Q. How might your musical background affect the way you approach playing in a church ensemble?

## PART TWO: KNOWING YOUR ROLE

Q. Your main role is to facilitate the congregation's singing. In what ways will this influence the way you play in church?

Exercise: take the last song you played in church, and play around with different colours and moods that reflect the content of the different verses.

Q. How can you demonstrate an attitude of service as you play with the rest of the band? What might that look like in rehearsals, for example?

## PART THREE: USING MELODY INSTRUMENTS

Q. What melody instruments do you have at your church? How might you go about incorporating them into your church band rehearsal?

Q. Can you recall times where melody instruments were you used well, or not so well in your church band? Why were they successful or unsuccessful?

## PART FOUR: HOW TO PLAY

Q. How will knowing you are a visual cue for the congregation as well as an auditory cue affect how you play in your church band?

Exercise: look at the lyrics of the last song you played in church. Map out where, what and how you would play to add emotional lift and reflect the lyrical content through your instrument.

## PART FIVE: WHAT TO PLAY

Q. How can you use sustained notes and improvised fills to build layers in a song?

Q. How might you use these techniques to cue the congregation and other members of your band?

## SELF REFLECTION

Q. What playing technique would you most like to work on in your playing? How will you go about doing this?

Q. What do you think are your main strengths and weaknesses as a melody instrumentalist?

Q. What have you learned from this session? How will you implement it in your playing?