**2020 Suggested Report**

**Worship Leadership and Church Music**

During the COVID pandemic the worship practices of almost every single church in the Alabama Baptist Convention were turned upside down! Worship leaders had to be innovative and creative in discovering new ways to lead worship and use technology to reach our congregations. Those churches who were already using technology in digital broadcasts were way ahead in being prepared for the situation. Others had to catch up quickly to be fluent in the technological processes.

Hopefully as we begin to regather on site churches have become aware of the ability to reach more people using technology and will continue to use that technology.

Music plays an important role in the healthy church. It is used as a participatory expression for worship, as a tool for evangelism, and as a teaching aid in discipleship. In both Old Testament and New Testament worship, music was vital for the life of God’s people.

Our churches should actively involve everyone in using music to encourage believers and strengthen their faith. Every church needs to be identifying and training the worship leaders of tomorrow. There is a chronic shortage of part-time and bi-vocational worship leaders in our churches. The development of worship leaders in the local church can’t be done by just the local church and it can’t be done overnight. Participation in statewide training events and a music camp mixmusiccamp@shocco.org are ways to begin training for future worship leaders. The camp was cancelled this year due to COVID but plans are already being made for the2021 camp at Shocco. Participants receive about three months of music, discipleship, and worship training in the week of camp.

A complete listing of statewide training, events, conferences, and honor groups for children and youth can be found on the [www.alsbom.org](http://www.alsbom.org) website. The Office of Worship Leadership is able to assist your church in utilizing technology in your worship. All of these ministry events are designed to complement the work of the association and the local church in the area of worship leadership/music ministry.

(Number of churches) and (Number of individuals) were involved in our associational music/worship ministry events this past year. Our events this coming year include (name of event(s)).

Respectfully submitted,

(Name of Associational Music Director)