

**FRIEND, FOE, or FIASCO****by Bruce G. Epperly and Daryl Hollinger**

Face-to-face relationships characterize life in a small congregation, where truly "there is no place to run and no place to hide" for pastors, church musicians, or congregants. Over the years, we have observed the lively and creative synergy that occurs when pastors and church musicians work together in light of a common vision. Sadly, we have also observed the negative impact of poor communication and the lack of a common vision among church musicians and pastors. Alienation between a pastor and church musician can lead to disharmony and polarization in the life of a small congregation.

The relationship between pastor and church musician can take on many forms. Perhaps you have also experienced fiasco moments--those moments that distract you and your congregation from participating in vital and life-transforming worship. We have found that when people experience too many of these fiasco moments, their relationship with their counterparts in worship leadership may turn sour, and before they know it, they may have moved from *friend* to *foe*.

**Continue Reading ["Friend, Foe, or Fiasco"](#)****NEW BOOK!**

**[From a Mustard Seed:  
Enlivening Worship and Music in the Small Church](#)**  
by Bruce G. Epperly and Daryl Hollinger

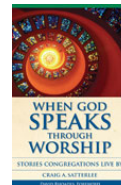
Small congregations can have beautiful worship! In *From a Mustard Seed*, an experienced pastor-professor and an experienced church musician provide a model for faithful and excellent worship in congregations that average 75 or fewer people in weekly worship. While the limitations of small congregations are obvious to their members and leaders, the possibilities for creative music and worship are often greater than we can imagine. Epperly and Hollinger integrate theology, spiritual formation, and practical guidance for nurturing diverse, inspirational, and transforming worship in small congregations. Grounded in a solid theology of worship, they provide tried-and-true approaches to congregational music and singing, worship planning, liturgies that transform, and healthy partnerships between pastors and church musicians.

**This week only - Save 30% on *From a Mustard Seed*  
Member discounts do not apply | Valid through August 1, 2010  
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## FEATURED RESOURCES



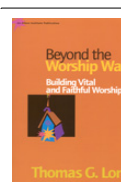
[Tending to the Holy: The Practice of the Presence of God in Ministry](#)



[When God Speaks through Worship: Stories Congregations Live By](#)



[Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church](#)



[Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship](#)

### THE PRACTICE OF PROCLAMATION

Seminar with Lillian Daniel and Craig van Gelder

**August 20-22, 2010 Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, Iowa**

Like prayer, the Bible has lost its central place in the life of many of our congregations; in large part it has simply become a repository of narratives, poetry, or teachings, or it has become a tool that we use to make our point. This session will help participants unleash Scripture's power to renew and revitalize the community in faith and mission. This involves both active listening (to Scripture and sermons) and interactive storytelling (our own stories and God's stories intersect).

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