

Come to the Table

Reflections by organizer Michael Barrera of Georgetown CRC in Ontario

My best times of worship happen when I am driving. God likes to give me ideas during that time. While I was listening to the Wow Worship 2018 CD, track 15 came on. I thought to myself, "That is a great song, let me hear it again and again and again."

This was during the time that the church was going through the process of inviting the children to the table. Personally, (I can't state that enough) I felt that there were mixed views about it. While I was listening to the song, I was thinking how impactful this song could be to our congregation. But the song on its own wouldn't be enough. When you sing a new song in church, it often doesn't stick in people's heads and likely would not have the impact on the congregation that it did on me.

By this time I was in tears listening to the song for about the tenth time. And the vision of what could be done to make an impact started to form.

Back when I was younger, the youth at the church I attended sometimes created what they called "human videos"--physical actions accompanied by music in the worship service.

The lyrics of "Come to the Table" described that everyone was invited to the table, not a certain type of person. That is why in our "video" I felt we should show that everyone, no matter their age, wherever in their faith they are or the struggles they are facing—they are all invited.

Once I got over my fears and doubts and let God take over, I presented this idea to others in our congregation. Every person I spoke with was on board.

During the performance, members of the congregation that were not part of the production came forward spontaneously in response. The result was a moving, participatory, intergenerational expression of faith.

