

Mary and Bob often find themselves sharing common ground when it comes to philosophy and ministry. When approaching ministerial concerns from different angles, *He said - She said* is a venue to share differing perspectives. *WE said* reflects some mutual food for thought.

Remaining Gainfully Employed as a Music Minister

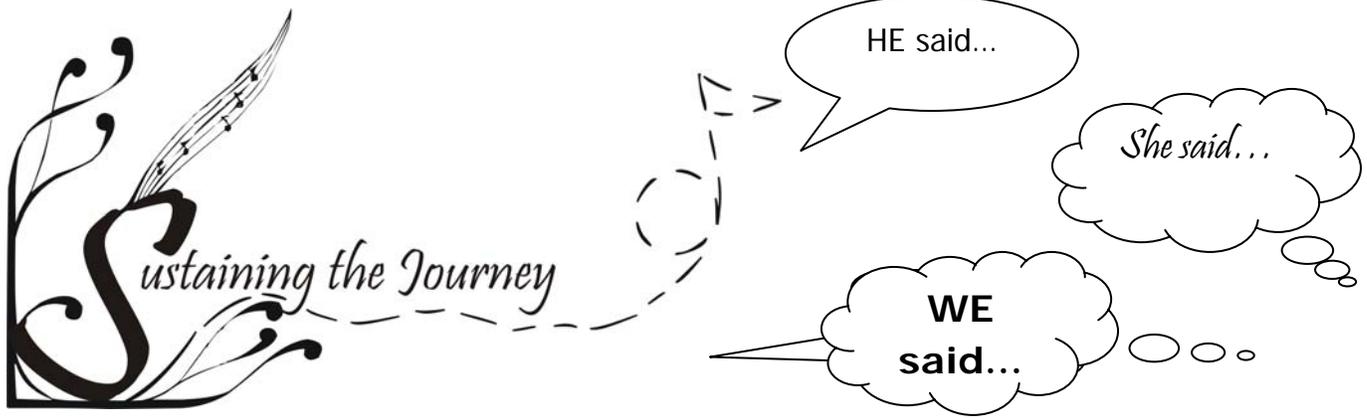
Full time music jobs can seem in danger of extinction. As attendance - and corresponding financial support - drops, many churches have had to make difficult staffing cuts. The survivors have been asked to wear multiple hats. The best way to stay gainfully employed as a musician? Think outside of the box - reinvent yourself!

We love music, and it is a blessing to be paid to do what we love. Even the term "Playing music" evokes images of frivolity and fun. So, all the more, we want to support the structure that provides our livelihood. What are some ways we can build the church in which we work? Consider your other skills...

Do you have an artistic knack, or graphic design skills? Help with the weekly bulletin or newsletter or bulletin boards. Have you had some accounting background? Every church needs a business manager. We know music expresses that which words cannot. Are you a good communicator in other ways? Promulgate the message. (Think: website, email, social media.) Love helping others? Consider teaching. Have compassion and a solid faith foundation? Bereavement ministers are one of the most valued treasures of our church, and often open the doors for those who have been away from the church to become reacquainted. Do you enjoy working with people? Human resources are the life blood of any church, and effective ministry requires organized coordination of volunteers.

Mary was once offered a job-share opportunity: Two churches, part of a suburban cluster, were both financially struggling and were asked to find ways to share resources. One needed a Director of Music and Liturgy, but couldn't afford to pay a full-time minister. The other church needed a bookkeeper. With accounting background and years of experience in liturgical ministry, this was an intriguing opportunity.

Bob is living proof that necessity is the mother of invention - even when it comes to reinventing oneself! We live in an electronic age, yet most churches cannot afford a full-time IT person or Marketing Director. With some research and hands-on trial and error, Bob has learned enough about technology and web design to become his church's Webmaster, in addition to his duties in Liturgy and Music.



The concepts of branding and effective communication are most evident in vibrant, growing churches. Beyond the weekly bulletin, churches communicate the message through newsletters, bulletin boards, social media, websites, and even their own volunteers (think about the church festival where all members of the core committee wear the neon green shirt with the festival and church logo imprinted). Where do your skills fit in these needs?

Serving as the Director of Music - or the Choir Director, or the Organist - may not be a full-time opportunity, but a little creative thinking and job-sharing can provide the chance to play for a living!