



*Creative Church Handbook:
Releasing the Power of the Arts
in Your Congregation*

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A Path Toward God's Incredible Creativity

What led you to write *Creative Church Handbook*?

J. Scott McElroy: My first book, *Finding Divine Inspiration*, invited artists to collaborate with God in their creativity. After its release, I felt compelled by God to explore the next step, which was to invite the church to embrace the arts and creativity. Writing this book was an arduous process and a personal challenge, in part because of the scope of the content. But God would not let me put it aside, and gave many confirmations to continue through the difficulties.

I wrote this book because for centuries much of the church has pushed aside one of God's main attributes: his incredible creativity. Now a worldwide movement to embrace creativity and the arts in local churches is growing. It's clear that God is calling his church and his people to step into our legacy as children of the ultimate Creator and collaborate with him to creatively share the truth of his kingdom. I wrote this book to offer a pathway forward.

What sets this book apart from other church resources?

Scott: *Creative Church Handbook* addresses the growing worldwide movement to embrace creativity, the arts and artists in churches. The first chapters explore why these powerful things belong in the local church, and their exciting benefits. The following chapters detail how to integrate the arts into local churches, with dozens of practical examples, inspirational ideas and sage advice.

Many church leaders, artists and lay people are interested in adding more creativity and art into their churches but don't know how to do it. *Creative Church Handbook* offers a clear pathway forward.

What do you hope *Creative Church Handbook* readers will take away?

Scott:

- The need for the gifts of creativity to flourish in the body of Christ, so that we might reach maturity.
- The need for the creative personality of God to be reflected in his churches.
- The need for people in this visual and sensory culture to know and experience God through the arts and creativity.
- The need for artists to step into their calling of collaborating with God to bring his kingdom to the world.
- The need for the average person's inherent creativity to be awakened so that they can know the joy of collaborating with God in their lives.

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