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I will be sharing about the presentation at Laurelville to include some Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) in the new hymnal.

As a new Mennonite, I am so grateful to be able to have been at the Laurelville worship leaders' conference.

I was reminded in a big way of what so many cradle Mennonites know, Mennonite heritage includes this amazing gift of music.

In my time here at CMCL, I have been really blessed by the music.

For many years, I attended a church where the music looked very different, CCM was primarily used. In that season for me, there were some gifts in that type of music, I often felt a deep sense of God's grace and belonging through CCM.

As time passed and I felt more able to express my theology and my understanding of what it means to be a Christian. But in my previous church culture, I often received a message that my theology was not orthodox enough, too liberal, and I sometimes got the subtle or not so subtle message that my theology was dangerous. I am healing from those experiences. There came a point where I knew I needed to find a church where there was more theological space and gratefully here I am.

Until the weekend at Laurelville, I thought that CCM was part of what I needed to leave behind, and this conference convinced me that I was wrong. Something in me changed. A door that felt closed became open and CCM became available again. This was really powerful and healing for me. Where there was a closed door, now there was a bridge.

There was a question that was repeated in one form or another throughout the weekend: Who do we want to be singing with? The people leading this conference never directly gave us an answer, but they answered it 100 times in a hundred ways, we want to sing with everyone we can.

They told us that In much of the Christian world, our brothers and sisters, sing with CCM. Most Mennonites whose first language is not English use CCM. So when it makes sense for us, when it fits with our theology and who we are, let's use it, let's build bridges when possible, let's sing with everyone we can.

For a tradition that has this great gift of music, this seems like such an amazing idea: Let's allow our music to create and maintain bridges everywhere we can.