

The
Revised
PC(USA)
Directory
for
Worship

Holy God,
as in Jesus Christ
you came to show us the way,
the truth, and the life,
guide our steps
and direct our lives
so that we may worship you
in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

- What is the role of worship at this church?
- What, to you, is the most important part of worship?

What is the Directory for Worship?

- * part of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*
- * describes theology and practice of worship
- * roots in the 1645 Westminster directory
- * new directory written in the 1960s
- * last major revision in 1989, after reunion

Why is this Document Important?

- analogy of a compass: bearings and direction
- point to primary things: glory of God
- navigating relationship between form and freedom
- guidance in the ongoing reform of worship
- variety of styles and cultural expressions

What's Inside:

1. The Theology of Christian Worship
2. Christian Worship in the Reformed Tradition
3. The Service for the Lord's Day
4. Pastoral and Occasional Services
5. Worship and Christian Life
 - a. Worship and Personal Life
 - b. Worship and the Church's Ministry
 - c. Worship and the Church's Mission

Christian Worship in the Reformed Tradition: Leadership

- Appropriate for any member to read scripture, pray, and lead in worship in any way according to their gifts.
- Deacons called to lead the congregation in compassion, witness, and service.
 - No particular responsibility in the ordering of worship but should have regular responsibilities to lead.

Christian Worship in the Reformed Tradition: Leadership

- Ruling elders should cultivate the ability to teach the word when called upon and to provide for the church's worship.
- Teaching Elders called to proclaim the word, preside at sacraments, and equip the people for ministry in the world.

The Service of the Lord's Day

- Gathering
- Word
- Sacrament
- Sending

Worship and Christian Life

- Worship is a continuation of the Church's ministry - flowing into the streets and back into the congregation
- What we hear in worship, we can study and reflect on as we grow in our faith formation.
- Christian Education is rooted in Baptism

Worship and Christian Life

- Worship is the foundation of pastoral care.
- All gatherings of believers provide room to enact practices of worship.
- The Church's mission springs from worship and flows back in as we bring back the joys and sufferings of the world to God.

Revisions to the Directory for Worship

- current directory is twenty-seven years old
- overly long, organization is complicated
- need more flexibility for a changing church
- multicultural congregations, new communities

How was this revised?

- 10 years of consultation with pastors, scholars, and leaders, back and forth with General Assembly, and finally sent to presbyteries and approved in 2017.

What Else is Important to Know?

- The Covenant of Marriage

reflects the action of the 221st GA (2014)

“Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives” (W-4.0601).

- Baptism and the Lord’s Supper

reflects the guidance of the 219th GA (2010)

“All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended” (W-3.0409).

Given what we've talked about, how do you see this being useful in your ministry in the church?

How Might You Use This?

- Holistic understanding of the Church.
- Shape how worship influences mission and ministry and how these influence worship. How can we align these?
- Empower all people in the church to engage with worship.

Amen!

**Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever!**

Amen.

(Rev. 7:12)