

Lesson Plan  
Directory for Worship Presentation  
Fairfield Presbyterian Church  
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### **Introduction**

- Ask people to share their name, role in the church, their role in worship, and what's most exciting or interesting to you about worship
- Provide overview of what this workshop will cover: information about the purpose and contents of the PCUSA Directory for Worship, why it's important, how they might use it
- Discussion
  - What is the role of worship at this church?
  - What, to you, is the most important part of worship?

### **Purpose of the Directory for Worship**

- What is the Directory for Worship? Review how to find it, its origins, and its purpose: the Directory for Worship pushes us "from the sanctuary to the street," expanding our understanding of the worship and service of God.

### **Why the Directory for Worship is Important**

- The Directory for Worship helps us navigate the relationship between the freedom and form in worship, guides us in the ongoing reform of worship according to God's Word and Spirit, and provides for a variety of worship styles and encourage diverse cultural expressions.

### **Contents of the Directory for Worship**

- General themes: describes the theology underlying our worship; establishes standards and norms for worship; outlines appropriate forms for worship; negotiates the relationship between freedom and form; suggests possibilities and invites development; and encourages the continuing reform of worship.
- Chapter 1: The Theology of Christian Worship: centers around what we can affirm about Christian worship in a broad, ecumenical sense; includes insight on the "when, where, and what" of how we worship God; contains a section on Language, Symbols, and Culture, which describes how we experience Jesus Christ
- Chapter 2: Christian Worship in the Reformed Tradition: explains the sources from which we derive our theology and practice of worship; the gifts of form and freedom that we value in our tradition; the communal nature of the worshiping assembly, in which all are called to participate; and the varieties of ways in which we share in acts of prayer and praise.

- Includes specific information about the roles of deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders in planning and leading worship, and emphasizes the value of consultation and collaboration.
- Chapter 3: Service of the Lord's Day: organized around a simple, four-fold order of worship—Gathering, Word, Sacrament, and Sending—consistent with Reformed theology and ecumenical tradition.
  - Explore suggested order of worship guided by handout.
  - Activity: How does the outline for worship in this chapter compare with a typical order of worship in your congregation? What is the same or similar? What is different? Markup bulletins in 2 small groups (1 contemporary, 1 traditional); bring back what struck you the most to the large group.
    - Based on what we've talked about so far, what does it mean to proclaim the Word of God in worship?
- Chapter 4: Pastoral and Occasional Services: attends to special events and pastoral occasions in the lives of individual believers and in the community of faith.
- Chapter 5: Worship and Christian Life: relates the way in which our worship and service of God moves from the sanctuary to the streets—how we glorify God in daily life, congregational ministry, and mission to the world.
  - The church's ministry springs from its worship, where God builds up the body of Christ through the gifts of the Holy Spirit; church's ministry flows back into worship as we bring to God the celebrations and concerns of the community of faith. Includes Christian education, pastoral care, and the church's mission in the world.
  - Discussion: how do you see this church's mission springing from worship? Flowing back into worship?
- Explore the revision process.

### **How you might use it**

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