

## Recommendations and Guidelines for Presbytery Worship

### *Theological Foundations*

As Presbyterians, we believe that “the life of the Church is one, and that its worship, witness, and service are inseparable” (preface, the *Directory for Worship*). The theology reflected in presbytery worship should thus reflect and be guided by the theology of the Reformed tradition and the Presbyterian Church (USA) as expressed in the Directory for Worship.

### *Leadership Dynamics*

Intentional inclusiveness should be demonstrated in those invited to lead worship. This includes male and female; young and old; pastors, elders, deacons, and laypersons; and racial/ethnic representation where possible (G-4.0403; G-9.0104; W-1.4003).

### *The Elements of Worship*

While the church remembers our liberty in Christ to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in worship, we also “remember the biblical command to do all things in an orderly way” (W-1.4001). The following recommendations and guidelines on various elements of worship are based upon the experience of years of shared worship in the Presbytery of Redstone:

- Copyright and licensing data for music **must** be given.
- The host church should be consulted first for the availability of church organist/pianist/musicians.
- In consideration of those who are visually impaired, printed material should use a 14-point font, as in typical “large print” material.
- The paper and print should have good contrast for ease in viewing.

- The material should be in good order and proofed for errors and omissions.
- If using projection and screen, the above apply as well. (See the guidelines adopted by Presbytery Council for projection.)
- For technical support and spatial arrangement, adequate sound and lighting should be the responsibility of the host church, shared as necessary for special arrangements and equipment.
- To facilitate greater participation in congregational singing, both music and words shall be provided whenever available.
- Inclusive language which reflects the fullness of our biblical and Reformed heritage should be used when naming and describing God, as well as when naming and describing God's people. (W-1.2002; W-1.2003; W-1.2004a; W-1.2005; W-1.2006a) When referring to people, commonly used inclusive phrases (e.g., "humanity", "all", "brothers and sisters in Christ", "people of God") should be used rather than exclusive terms (e.g., "men" or "man") as cited in W-1.2006b.
- For the celebration of the Lord's Supper:
  - The host church should supply the chalice, flagon, cups, trays, and other material unless otherwise arranged. The host church should supply the bread and fruit of the vine for the Lord's Supper unless otherwise arranged.
  - The manner of distribution shall appropriately be determined by those charged with planning worship, and should carefully reflect the theme and mood of the worship service. The space available should also be considered when planning the manner of distribution so that accessibility and ease of gathering are facilitated (W-1.3024).
- Annually in November, the Presbytery Council should propose that Presbytery approve the authorization of the celebration of the Lord's Supper at its stated and District meetings for the next calendar year as the Council deems fit.

***Special Services of Worship and Recognition  
For Our Shared Life in Christ***

In recognition that the “nature and focus of worship will vary with the type of gathering; its purpose... and the rhythm and order of the life” of governing bodies (W-3.6202), the following schedule is suggested for the orderly life and worship at meetings of the Presbytery of Redstone:

- Election and installation of the Moderator and other officers at the November meeting.
- Investiture of new pastors and commissioning of GA, Synod, Youth, and Mission representatives in May.
- The Moderator’s sermon, the Remembrance of Departed Saints, and the Lord’s Supper at the November meeting.

The Committee also recommends that the report on inclusive language from the Advisory Council on Discipleship and Worship and the Council on Theology and Culture, identified as 32.005-32.015, adopted by the 197<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, be made available as a reference tool by those planning worship in the Presbytery of Redstone.