

GENERAL COUNCIL
Barbara McLean, Chair
April 25, 2017

The General Council of the Presbytery makes the following recommendation:

1. THAT the following process for consideration of Constitutional Amendments for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be followed for the discussion and actions for voting on the proposed amendments to the *Directory of Worship*. (General Council Attachment 1-Access to the Lord's Table, General Council Attachment 2- FAQ's about Revised *Directory of Worship* & General Council Attachment 3-Side-by-side comparison of Revisions *Directory of Worship*)

I. 16-G - Access to the Lord's Table - On Amending W-2.4011a. and b.

- A. Cam Murchison introduces the 16-G. Access to the Lord's Table and the proposal on Amending the *Directory for Worship* and moves the recommendation of the General Council.
- B. Open Debate (up to 2 min. per commissioner)
- C. Silent Prayer
- D. Standing Vote, counted by Tellers & announced by Moderator

THAT the General Council recommends to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina that proposed amendment 16-G be approved.

II. 16-H. *Directory for Worship* - On replacing the Current *Directory for Worship*

- A. Cam Murchison introduces the 16-H. *Directory for Worship* and the proposal of Amending the *Directory for Worship* and moves the recommendation of the General Council.
- B. Open Debate (up to 2 min. per commissioner)
- C. Silent Prayer
- D. Standing Vote, counted by Tellers, and announced by Moderator

THAT the General Council recommends to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina that proposed amendment 16-H be approved.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

2. THAT copies of the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), approved by the 222nd General Assembly, can be downloaded from the PCUSA website:

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga222-proposed-amendments-constitution/>

3. THAT the General Council reviewed and approved the following Synod Grant Applications:

New and Small Church Grant Fund

Mills River Presbyterian Church (playground equip) – \$5,000; Awarded \$2,100

Marshall Presbyterian Church (sound system) – \$5,000; Awarded \$2,100
 Oakwood Presbyterian Church (roof repairs) – \$5,000; Awarded \$2,100
 Love’s Chapel Presbyterian Church (termite damage) – \$5,000; Awarded \$2,100
 Newland Presbyterian Church (roof repairs) - \$5,000; Awarded \$2,100

Visionary Grant Application

UKirk at WNC Campus Ministry – \$5,000; Awarded \$1,286

4. **THAT the General Council approved the sale of Mother’s Day Cards, designed by the Presbyterian Women, to be sold at the Presbyterian Women’s Gathering and at the April 25, 2017 Presbytery meeting, with proceeds going to fund the third phase of the Micro Loan Project. (General Council Attachment 3)**

5. **THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**

6. **THAT the following dates have been set for youth events in 2017:**

April 29, 2017	Youth Adventure Day	Camp Grier
July 11-19, 2017	International Mission Trip	Guatemala

7. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2017 and 2018 Presbytery Meetings:**

2017

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 ~ Montreat Conference Center

Saturday, July 29, 2017 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Marion

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 ~First Presbyterian Church, Asheville

2018

Saturday, January 27, 2018 – Lowell Presbyterian Church (Co-Host, Union Presbyterian Church)

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – Montreat Conference Center

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 – Banner Elk Presbyterian Church (Lees-McRae College)

Saturday, October 27, 2018 – First Presbyterian Church, Hickory

8. **THAT the Presbyterian Women will be holding their Fall Gatherings on:**

September 23, 2017 (Western) – Bryson City Presbyterian Church, Bryson City

September 30, 2017 (Eastern) – Green Street Presbyterian Church, Morganton

9. **THAT the Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a Pastor’s Retreat at the William Black Lodge on September 25-27, 2017. The retreat will be facilitated by the Reverend Bill Carter who blends his work as a jazz composer and his calling as a Presbyterian pastor. He preaches sermons each week at the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.**

Rev. Carter is a graduate of Binghamton University and Princeton Theological Seminary, and has taught jazz piano and composition at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania for the past eighteen years. He is a faculty member for the CREDO program of the Board of Pensions, and is the founder of the Presbybop Quartet, a jazz ensemble that presents concerts and jazz worship services around the country.

ACCESS TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Scripture is clear that Baptism is the means by which those professing belief in the Lord Jesus become members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

In the early Church, for fear of state persecution, those who were learning about the Faith (called catechumens) were dismissed from the secret services of worship before the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated. Only after they had been thoroughly instructed and baptized and the community could be reasonably sure of their commitment to the Faith were they admitted to the full service of Word and Sacrament. And so Baptism became a normal prerequisite for participation in the Eucharist, long after there was no need of secrecy.

But there were deeper reasons than that. It was judged right that only those already in the Body of Christ should receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation of the Lord. Some felt that the Body and Blood of Christ would be profaned if received by any outside the Church who had not been instructed in the meaning of this mystery, remembering the Apostle Paul's warning about receiving Communion "in an unworthy manner."

In later centuries and up to modern times, this requirement of Baptism before Communion was really not a problem in Europe or its colonies (such as North America), since virtually all Christians had been baptized as children. Even the Protestant Reformation did not substantially change this practice. When I was young, the tradition was still: Baptism as an infant and "confirmation" in early teen years before admission to first Communion.

However, for several years our denomination has left it to parents (or guardians) to determine when their children should be baptized. Thus, in these days when the Lord's Supper is being celebrated, many congregations are faced with the fact that some of the parish's children can receive the Communion elements – but some cannot – which is not a desirable pastoral situation. And it must be remembered that in today's world, many of the unbaptized in our services are adults, who would probably expect to be invited to the Lord's table along with others in the congregation.

Also for many years there has been a well-grounded teaching that participation in the Lord's Supper not only strengthens the faith of Christians, but it also engenders that faith in others. It is felt that the Holy Spirit can use such participation by the non-baptized to awaken in them a love of the Saviour and a desire to know him more fully in both Sacraments.

Nevertheless, as our presbyteries vote on this proposed amendment, all should be aware that this would be a departure from 2,000 years of near unanimous ecumenical agreement. However, we would not be the only ones these days who would be realizing that new worship practices may now be called for. The Methodists have published that they "*have no tradition of refusing any who present themselves desiring to receive*" the Communion elements. The Lutherans have adopted this principle: "*When an unbaptized person comes to the table seeking Christ's presence and is inadvertently communed, neither that person nor the ministers of Communion need be ashamed. Rather, Christ's gift of love and mercy to all is praised.*" After all, in practice, when there is a large attendance with many visitors, a pastor has no way of knowing who is baptized and who not.

It is important to note that all (including this amendment) agree that every unbaptized person participating in a Eucharist be graciously invited and strongly urged to enjoy preparation for a later joyous Baptism and frequent faithful Communion thereafter.

All church members, and particularly those authorized to vote in presbytery meetings, should carefully and prayerfully consider how this proposed change would affect the people's devotional understanding of and faithful participation in celebrations of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

James Aydelotte
March 2017

GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 2

Frequently Asked Questions about the Revised Directory for Worship

From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Theology and Worship, July 2016

What is the Directory for Worship?

The Directory for Worship is part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Order*. It is the constitutional document that describes our theology and practice of worship. Our Directory for Worship has its roots in the 1645 Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God. Presbyterians in the United States used variations on that document for 170 years, until the 1960s, when the UPCUSA and PCUS wrote new Directories for Worship. In 1989, after the reunion that formed the PC(USA), those two Directories were combined and revised to form our current Directory for Worship.

Why is the Directory for Worship important?

We use the Directory for Worship like a compass—giving us our bearings, orienting us toward primary things in worship, and always pointing to the glory of God. Our *Book of Common Worship* is something like a map—showing us the liturgical landscape and providing reliable, faithful paths for the journey. The Directory for Worship helps us navigate the relationship between the freedom and form in worship. It guides us in the ongoing reform of worship according to God’s Word and Spirit. A Directory for Worship can also provide for a variety of worship styles and encourage diverse cultural expressions.

Why are we revising the Directory for Worship?

Our current Directory for Worship has served the church well for twenty-seven years. But over the years, some concerns have emerged. Some find the current Directory to be overly long and complicated in its organization. For example, the theology and practice of Sunday worship is divided between two chapters. The church is changing; we need a Directory for Worship that is more flexible and responsive to the needs of new worshiping communities and multicultural congregations. The past few decades have also brought a remarkable season of sacramental renewal and ecumenical convergence in worship. All of these factors have influenced the proposed revision.

How was this revision done?

In 2006, the General Assembly called for a draft revision of the Directory for Worship that would be “authentically Reformed,” “culturally appropriate,” “more accessible and helpful,” and “shorter and better organized.” The action was delayed during the work to revise our Form of Government. After *that* revision was approved, the Office of Theology and Worship prepared a first draft.

In 2013, a diverse consultation of pastors, professors, and mid-council leaders reviewed the draft and suggested further changes. A new version was sent to the General Assembly in 2014 with the recommendation of a year-long period of study and comment. The church responded with enthusiastic affirmation of the revision, but also helpful ideas for improving it. A second consultation made further revisions, and a new draft was prepared for consideration by the 222nd General Assembly (2016). After minor revisions, that draft was approved with overwhelming support. The proposed revision is now under consideration by presbyteries for inclusion in the *Book of Order*.

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GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 2

What's new in this revision?

This is a revision, not a completely *new* Directory for Worship. It seeks to uphold and preserve the spirit and strength of our current Directory: giving glory to God; focusing on Jesus Christ, crucified and risen; insisting on the centrality of Scripture and the unity of Word and Sacrament.

Yet this *is* a significant and thorough revision, seeking to speak faithfully to the church in this time and place. It highlights the classic Reformed theme of grace and gratitude. It introduces new sections on worship and culture and the work of the Holy Spirit. It is rewritten with a variety of worshiping communities and cultural contexts in mind. The language is more accessible and the organization is more intuitive and user-friendly. The structure is simplified and streamlined, with five chapters instead of seven. Redundancies are eliminated. Last, but not least, the proposed revision is roughly 9,000 words shorter, two-thirds the length of the current Directory for Worship.

What else is important to know?

The work on the proposed revision didn't address marriage, since changes to that section were already being considered by a different committee at the 2014 General Assembly. The latest draft of the revision now reflects the changes on marriage approved at that Assembly. On the question of whether persons who are not yet baptized should be admitted to the Lord's Supper, the revision reflects pastoral guidance offered by the 2010 General Assembly: "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 of the proposed revision).

What's next?

As noted above, the proposed revision has now been approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016). If a majority of presbyteries also approve, the revision will become a part of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*. At that time the Office of Theology and Worship will update the online edition to include links to biblical and confessional sources, related documents and instructional videos, and other educational materials on worship in the Reformed tradition.

A Prayer for This Process

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.

Current PC(USA) Directory for Worship

approximately 27,000 words

(parenthetical references in italics = location in revision)

Preface

1. The Dynamics of Christian Worship

- 1.1000 Christian Worship: An Introduction (1.01)
- 1.2000 The Language of Worship (1.03)
- 1.3000 Time, Space, and Matter (1.02)
- 1.4000 Responsibility and Accountability for Worship (2.03)

2. The Elements of Christian Worship

- 2.1000 Prayer (2.02)
- 2.2000 Scripture Read and Proclaimed (3.03)
- 2.3000 Baptism (3.04)
- 2.4000 The Lord's Supper (3.04)
- 2.5000 Self-Offering (3.04)
- 2.6000 Relating to Each Other and the World (3.02, 3.03, 3.05)

3. The Ordering of Christian Worship

- 3.1000 Principles and Sources of Ordering (2.01)
- 3.2000 Days and Seasons (1.02)
- 3.3000 Service for the Lord's Day (*chapter 3*)
 - 3.3100 Appropriate Actions (3.01)
 - 3.3200 Ordering the Actions (3.01)
 - 3.3300 Gathering Around the Word (3.02)
 - 3.3400 Proclaiming the Word (3.03)
 - 3.3500 Responding to the Word (3.03, 3.04)
 - 3.3600 The Sealing of the Word: Sacraments (3.04)
 - 3.3700 Bearing and Following the Word into the World (3.05)
- 3.4000 Service of Daily Prayer (5.0102)
- 3.5000 Other Regularly Scheduled Services of Worship (5.02, 5.03)
- 3.6000 Special Gatherings (5.0204, 5.0205)

Proposed Revision to the PC(USA) Directory for Worship

approximately 17,000 words

Preface

1. The Theology of Christian Worship

- 1.01 Christian Worship: An Introduction
- 1.02 Time, Space, and Matter
- 1.03 Language, Symbols, and Culture

2. The Ordering of Reformed Worship

- 2.01 Sources and Principles
- 2.02 The Worshiping Assembly
- 2.03 Ordered Ministries and Leadership in Worship
 - 2.0301 Gifts for Service
 - 2.0302 Deacons
 - 2.0303 Ruling Elders
 - 2.0304 Teaching Elders
 - 2.0305 Shared Responsibility and Accountability

3. The Service for the Lord's Day

- 3.01 Worship on the Lord's Day
- 3.02 Gathering
- 3.03 Word
 - 3.0301 Theology of Proclamation
 - 3.0302 – 3.0308 Practice of Proclamation
- 3.04 Sacrament
 - 3.0401 Theology of the Sacraments
 - 3.0402 Theology of Baptism
 - 3.0403 – 3.0408 Practice of Baptism
 - 3.0409 Theology of the Lord's Supper
 - 3.0410 – 3.0415 Practice of the Lord's Supper
- 3.05 Sending

GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 3

Current PC(USA) Directory for Worship (cont.)

4. Ordering Worship for Special Purposes

- 4.1000 Special Occasions and Recognitions (4.01)
- 4.2000 Services of Welcome and Reception (4.02)
- 4.3000 Commissioning for Specific Acts of Discipleship (4.03)
- 4.4000 Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning (4.04)
- 4.5000 Transitions in Ministry (4.05)
- 4.6000 Censure and Restoration (4.05)
- 4.7000 Recognition of Service to the Community (4.05)
- 4.8000 Services of Acceptance and Reconciliation (5.0203)
- 4.9000 Marriage (4.06*)
- 4.1000 Services on the Occasion of Death (4.07)

5. Worship and Personal Discipleship

- 5.1000 Personal Worship, Discipleship, and the Community of Faith (5.0101)
- 5.2000 The Discipline of Daily Personal Worship (5.0102, 5.0103)
- 5.3000 Scripture in Personal Worship (5.0102, 5.0103)
- 5.4000 Prayer in Personal Worship (5.0102)
- 5.5000 Other Disciplines in Personal Worship and Discipleship (5.0103)
- 5.6000 Christian Vocation (5.0105)
- 5.7000 Worship in Families and Households (5.0104)

6. Worship and Ministry within the Community of Faith

- 6.1000 Mutual Ministries in the Church (5.0201)
- 6.2000 Christian Nurture (5.0202)
- 6.3000 Pastoral Care (5.0203)
- 6.4000 Worship and Ministry (5.0201)

7. Worship and the Ministry of the Church in the World

- 7.1000 Worship and Mission (5.0301)
- 7.2000 Proclamation and Evangelism (5.0302)
- 7.3000 Compassion (5.0303)
- 7.4000 Reconciliation: Justice and Peace (5.0304)
- 7.5000 Caring for Creation and Life (5.0305)
- 7.6000 Worship and the Reign of God (5.04)
- 7.7000 Worship as Praise (5.04)

Proposed Revision to the PC(USA) Directory for Worship (cont.)

4. Pastoral and Occasional Services

- 4.01 Pastoral and Occasional Services
- 4.02 Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant
- 4.03 Commissioning for Service
- 4.04 Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning
- 4.05 Marking Transitions
- 4.06 The Covenant of Marriage

* the proposed revision does not change the section on marriage; this issue will receive separate consideration by the General Assembly

- 4.07 Death and Resurrection

5. Worship and Christian Life

- 5.01 Worship and Personal Life
 - 5.0101 Personal Life
 - 5.0102 Daily Prayer
 - 5.0103 Other Practices of Discipleship
 - 5.0104 Household Worship
 - 5.0105 Christian Vocation

5.02 Worship and the Church's Ministry within the Community of Faith

- 5.0201 The Church's Ministry within the Community of Faith
- 5.0202 Christian Education
- 5.0203 Pastoral Care
- 5.0204 Other Gatherings
- 5.0205 Councils of the Church

5.03 Worship and the Church's Mission in the World

- 5.0301 The Church's Mission in the World
- 5.0302 Evangelism
- 5.0303 Compassion
- 5.0304 Justice and Peace
- 5.0305 Care of Creation

5.04 Worship and the Reign of God