

Presbytery of New Hope Guidelines for Presbytery Worship

Introduction

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are re-equipped for God's service in the world (B.O. W-1.1001).

The Presbytery of New Hope gathers three times a year for stated meetings. In addition, there may be from time to time called meetings for a specific purpose. Worship is at the heart of our presbytery meetings. Each gathering begins with worship and everything that follows, our relational activity and our business, is carried forth in the spirit of the One to whom we ascribe all praise and honor.

The host church is asked to consider inviting neighboring Presbyterian churches to co-host the gathering. This would include planning for the gathering, having volunteers available on the morning of the gathering, and representatives from the churches participating in worship.

Worship

Worship is a Presbytery function. It has been the tradition for the host church to assume responsibility for planning and leading the service of worship. Please be mindful of the following as you plan the worship service:

- Be sensitive to and seek to include the diversity of our community within the presbytery. This includes our African American, Hispanic, and Korean churches.
- The host pastor (or pastor of one of the co-hosting churches) is asked to assume responsibility for preaching the word. Exceptions to this will be when there is a special event or a speaker who is visiting with our presbytery (i.e. our G.A. moderator or stated clerk). On the occasion of the exception, the Coordinating Body will assume responsibility for the guest preacher.
- Seek to have an ecumenical/interfaith representative from your community to bring greetings from that community to the presbytery.
- Be sensitive to the time. Typically, a worship service will be 45 minutes. There will be special occasions, such as the installation of the presbytery moderator, the commissioning of G.A. commissioners, Youth Council, or other groups, as well as communion that will need to be factored into that timeframe.
- Host churches will be asked to take responsibility for orienting worship leaders.
- Assume responsibility for printing and duplicating the worship bulletin. **Please provide a few large-print bulletins.**
- Please include the presbytery mission statement on the bulletin (see backside of this paper).

Music

The host church is to assume responsibility for planning the music for worship. This could include the choir, a soloist, or other special music that is in keeping with reformed worship.

Communion

The presbytery manual requires that Communion shall be celebrated at the February meeting. Churches are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament of Our Lord's Supper during the other two meetings of the year.

IMPORTANT: A gluten-free station is to be made available at every communion service. Please be sure that gluten-free bread, as well as the juice, are kept on a separate plate, away from the other communion bread and juice.

Necrology

The necrology is observed at every October presbytery meeting. The presbytery office will supply the names of those who have entered the church triumphant in the past year.

Accessibility

Enabling accessibility to the chancel may be difficult for some churches because of architectural design. Please be sensitive to easy accessibility as allowed by your particular church.

The Presbytery of New Hope is grateful for your willingness to host its gathering.

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to God's call in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the mission of the Presbytery of New Hope is to enable local congregations, and the presbytery as a whole, to function effectively as the Body of Christ by actively exploring, facilitating, equipping, and establishing appropriate ministries with the covenant community and beyond.