

Suggestions for Church Service

- 1 Reinstatement of Catechism for youth and give New Testament at completion of Shorter Catechism. (Christian Education)

Response: First, we do not recommend replacing the current curriculum for Sundays and Wednesdays because this curriculum is Bible story current event related. We feel this is more relevant for their study time.

However, we do suggest the DCE send out a letter to parents of third through fifth graders to determine if there is any interest in a study of the Catechism.

Once we have those results, if there is enough interest, we would then need to solicit a volunteer to teach the class during a time outside of Sunday School and Wednesday night activities, to start in the fall of 2018 at a time designated by the teacher and the students interested in taking the class.

- 2 Omit the Passing of the Peace. (Worship and Music)

Response: *According to W-3.0205 from The Book of Order: Confession and Forgiveness*

A call to confession expresses God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace...

It is appropriate that the congregational response to this amazing gift of grace is the sharing of Peace, as a sign of reconciliation in Christ.

- 3 Begin organ music at 10:55 AM to set the tone of reverence for the worship service. (Worship and Music)

Response: Because a large number of our choir members teach Sunday School, it is not possible for these teachers to finish their teaching responsibilities and rehearse for the morning's anthem so that the organist can be in the sanctuary ready to begin the prelude at 10:55.

- 4 Begin service promptly at 11:00 AM. (Worship and Music)

Response: This is the goal each Sunday. Every effort is made to begin at the appropriate hour.

5 End service at 12:00 noon. (Worship and Music)

Response: Our worship service is typically structured to last one hour. However, when we occasionally celebrate Holy Communion, Baptism or Ordination, the service will be longer. Announcements and calls for mission may also extend the service a little sometimes.

6 Sing anthem during the collection of the offering. (Worship and Music)

Response: Because the anthem is a reflection on the scripture reading of the day and is God's word in song, it is most appropriately sung between the two scripture readings. The Minister and Director of Music could be consulted as to the moving of the anthem and the appropriateness of it being sung during the collection of tithes and offerings.

7 Have Acolyte light candles while minister enters the pulpit. (Worship and Music)

Response: When the minister and the acolyte enter the sanctuary, it signifies the beginning of the formal worship service. The entrance of the Light is symbolic of the Light of Christ. The Minister should follow the Light. Also, having a young person charged with the responsibility of lighting the pulpit candles is their first leadership role in the church. Having the minister enter with the acolyte emphasizes the importance of this responsibility.

8 Have minister conduct the entire worship service. (Worship and Music)

Response: According to The Book of Order, W-3.0303 : Scripture : The public reading of Scripture is to be clear, audible, and attentive to the meaning of the text. Reading from the church's Bible conveys a sense of the permanence and weight of the Word of God, and demonstrates the communal nature of the biblical story. Anyone may be invited to read Scripture, including children and youth. Because deacons are charged with the ministry of witness to the gospel and ruling elders are responsible for the proclamation of the Word, it is fitting for a deacon or ruling elder to read Scripture. The session will ensure that all readers are prepared for this important ministry.

The role of the congregation is to listen prayerfully, actively, and

attentively to the Word that is read and proclaimed. Such listening requires expectation, concentration, and imagination. The congregation may participate in the presentation of Scripture through unison, responsive, or antiphonal readings, or by following along with printed or projected materials. Spoken responses may conclude the reading of Scripture. Scripture may also be presented through music.

- 9 Have a professional audit of all church monies. (Stewardship and Finance)
 - a. Per policy which references the Book of Order (G-3.0113): We conduct a full financial review of all financial books and records by a committee of members who are versed in accounting procedures. (Note – the committee members rotate to insure full transparency for review). This is completed by June 30th of each calendar year.
 - b. There is full disclosure of all monies spent as compared to invoices, receipts, or any other documents deemed necessary to fully account for all funds spent.
 - c. For control of offering – this is per the Book of Order (G-3.0205).
 - i. All offering shall be counted by at least two duly appointed persons or by one fidelity bonded person.
 - ii. All records are kept and are open to inspection by authorized church officers.
 - iii. Offering is either under dual control or is placed in the locked bank bag.
 - d. There are 3 approved treasurers plus 5 assistant treasures (total 8), which keep us in compliance with the Book of Order in counting and depositing offering.
 - e. With regards to a professional audit of all church monies, the cost of a detailed audit would likely be in excess of \$5,000 which is not practical, especially with the processes and financial transparency in place.

10 Have families decide where monies given in memory of loved ones are to be used. (Church should have a written policy for this.) (Stewardship and Finance)

Response:

- a. Our financial practice is that when families designate where memorial monies are to be used, the monies are used in accordance with their request, consistent with the Church's programs and priorities.
- b. If there is not specific designation, the money is placed in the general fund.
- c. Our written policy is being updated to reflect this practice.

11 Delete housing allowance for minister and apply that money to the capital dept. (Administration and Personnel)

Response: Every pastoral call in the Presbyterian Church must include either a housing allowance or manse. The housing allowance for our Minister is part of his call to serve this Church, as a term considered for the call of any minister.

12 Have one church service at 11:00 with a contemporary service one Sunday a month. (Worship and Music)

Response: There are lots of ways to worship God, and we hope to expose the congregation to a variety of worship experiences. We do consolidate services during the summer months and during Advent. Considering that having both services accommodates a variety of schedules and worship preferences, we believe that consolidating services at 11:00 year-round would decrease overall attendance.

13 Be more reverent at all church services. (Worship and Music)

Response: When thinking about this suggestion, the definition of reverent must be addressed. *Reverent* is defined as feeling or showing honor or respect. While reverent doesn't equal formality, this suggestion stems from the feeling that movement during service does not show reverence. Passing of the Peace is addressed in number 2. It was also suggested the children (and others) coming in and out during

the service also showed a lack of reverence. This is not something that we can control. We are committed to be a welcoming church even if formality is not maintained.