

Date of service: _____ Person(s) responsible for planning: _____

Preacher(s)/Speaker(s): _____ Primary Theme and/or Preaching Text: _____

Liturgist(s)/Facilitator(s): _____ Musicians: _____ Beamer: _____

Other creative elements (visual art, symbols, video, drama, sound, smell, taste, etc.): _____

Other persons involved in the service: _____

GATHERING:

Purpose: The gathering together of the campus community from our *diverse* contexts to worship God as *ONE* body

Possible Elements: Opening Psalm, Call to Worship, Greeting, Opening song(s) that emphasize gathering together/praise, Passing the Peace, confession, drama, video, elements that emphasize the calling and initiative of God to worship

WORD:

Purpose: To prepare the gathered people to hear what the Spirit wants to say to us through the Scriptures

Possible Elements: Songs, readings, and/or prayers (both individual and corporate) that prepare the community to hear the word of God, Reading and/or presentation of Scripture(s), preaching, drama, video, artistic expressions of the Scriptural story/theme

THANKSGIVING:

Purpose: To give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ and respond to the word of God

Possible Elements: Songs, readings, and/or prayers (both individual and corporate) that express thanks and praise and response to the word, prayers for the church and the world, drama, testimonies, video, Communion, offering, reciting the Creeds of the church, Lord's Prayer, small group discussions/prayers, artistic expression, and other creative responses that help us respond to what the Spirit is calling us to do through the word

SENDING:

Purpose: To send the community out, transformed by our encounter with God, to love and serve

Possible Elements: Closing/sending songs that emphasize the mission of God, drama, testimonies, video, artistic expression, benedictions (both individual and corporate), and other creative responses that emphasize our mission

Notes:

- This is a planning GUIDE, not a rule. However, it is important that you think about how each element flows together and helps the community engage in worship. What does each element say about God? About our faith? About our community? About our mission? Is there a progression to the service or is it disjointed?
- Worship is not a presentation made by a few (worship leaders) for the audience (congregation) to observe. It is participatory event in which worship leaders help the whole congregation engage in worship through word, singing, movement, symbol, gesture, etc. Pay special attention to the ways that the whole community can *participate* in the service.
- Good worship planning includes a balance between common structural elements (similar each service) and variety (different each service). It also balances ancient and contemporary expressions.
- Announcements: This is a highly debated subject. One thing is sure: Announcements in the middle of a service will usually upset the flow and distract attention away from worship. Announcements, if they are necessary, should be made before worship begins or just before the benediction/blessing. They should be brief and to the point. Before including them, ask if they are necessary in this setting or if they can be communicated in other ways.
- Transitions: Think ahead about what needs to be said, if anything, between elements of worship. Any transitions should be said with purpose, not just as “filler.” Sometimes you need to plan NOT to speak! Think about gestures, body language, and the tempo of your words.
- Space: There might be ways that the space can be manipulated to emphasize a certain aspect of the Christian faith within the worship service. Ask yourself what the space, arrangement of chairs (if present), and other visual elements teach about God, our community, and the Gospel.

Some online resources:

<http://www.textweek.com/>

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=nav_loc

<http://www.calvin.edu/worship/resources/>

<http://www.kencollins.com/pray-00.htm>

<http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/worship/resources.htm>

<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/england.htm>

<http://www.transformingworship.org.uk/TransformingWorship/>

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/newpatterns/>

<http://ewl.shorturl.com/>

<http://www.pwarchive.com/>

<http://www.liturgy.co.nz/>

<http://www.liturgies.net/>

<http://www.criovoice.org/worship.html>

<http://www.worshipconnection.cokesbury.com/content.aspx?dyn=441>