

Spring 2022 Worship and Sacraments Exam

Section I: Reformed Liturgical Heritage

Following a session meeting at the church you serve as pastor, you and a group of elders walk through the sanctuary of the church. Much to your surprise, beside the communion table is an American flag that was not there the Sunday before. The following conversation ensues:

Henry: I put it there. I just thought we needed to have the American flag. I remember seeing one in my church when I was a boy.

Kaylie: I love seeing the flag in church. It makes me feel proud to be an American. Having the flag next to the communion table will help me focus on God and country the next time we have communion.

Finnegan: Does a national flag have a place in worship?

Sarah: Are we here to worship God or the flag?

REQUIRED RESPONSES: (*Total responses for this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.*)

1. Using *The Book of Confessions* and guided by the provisions of the Directory for Worship, articulate a **Reformed understanding of the appropriate use of national symbols and images in worship**. Cite by number (e.g., 0-000) at least three (3) different documents from *The Book of Confessions* to support your discussion. At least one (1) citation must be from a confession written in the 20th century. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1, prepare for the next session meeting an annotated teaching outline for a discussion of the appropriate use of national symbols and images in worship. For the purposes of this exam an annotated outline is an outline with explanatory notes.

Section II: Constructive Theological Reflection on Worship

The session of Placid Presbyterian Church where you serve as pastor has decided to explore a second worship service focused on contemplative prayer. When the proposal is presented to the Worship Committee, the committee members offer their perspectives:

Althea:	I think it would be lovely to have such a quiet way to begin the week and focus myself spiritually.
Ésteban:	I don't understand why we would spend the time to do this. People can be silent at home alone. Why do it together in church?
Juniper:	Worship is mostly about teaching the Bible. How will we be taught the Scriptures in this kind of service?
Kim:	What concerns me is that this is all very self-centered. Isn't worship supposed to be about coming together to worship God? Where does it say Presbyterians should go it alone like this?

REQUIRED RESPONSES: *(Total responses for this section not to exceed 1,200 words.)*

1. Using the provisions of the Directory for Worship, articulate a **Reformed understanding of the relationship between prayer and the Christian life as expressed in worship**. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1, describe how you would respond to the concerns of the Worship Committee in the scenario.
3. Informed by your answers in Required Response 1 and Required Response 2, write a newsletter article that could be used to introduce a new worship service focused on contemplative prayer. Do not sign any name to the article.

Section III: Application to Ministry

Gary and Kaylie are members of the congregation you serve as pastor. Their four-year-old daughter, Tanya, has not yet been baptized. Tanya gets very anxious in crowds and has had trouble acclimating to Sunday worship. The parents express their desire to have Tanya baptized, but are concerned that the large crowd usually present in worship might be too stressful for her. They ask whether a special baptismal service could be held at a time other than regular Sunday worship.

REQUIRED RESPONSES: (*Total responses for this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.*)

1. Guided by the provisions of the Directory for Worship, articulate a Reformed understanding of baptism in the context of a service for the Lord's Day. All references to the Directory for Worship should cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1 and using appropriate pastoral sensitivity, respond to the parents' request regarding Tanya's baptism.