

## Spring 2023 Worship and Sacraments Exam

### Section I: Reformed Liturgical Heritage

The Nicene Creed begins:

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen. (1.1)

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:** (*Total responses in 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 God the Creator as reflected in worship.** Cite by number (e.g., 0.000) at least one (1) passage from at least three (3) different documents of *The Book of Confessions* to support your discussion. If the Nicene Creed is used, it will not count as one of the three (3) necessary documents. 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, create an annotated order of worship celebrating God's work in creation. The order of worship must include original texts for the call to worship, prayer of confession, pastoral prayer, and charge to the congregation as well as selected scripture readings and hymns. The order of worship may include other liturgical elements. For the purposes of this exam, an annotated order of worship is one with explanatory notes.

## Section II: Constructive Theological Reflection on Worship

David and Sara, members of the congregation you serve as pastor, recently had twins. During coffee hour after worship, David's parents pulled you aside. His mother said, "Last Monday, our son's best friend, who was ordained on the Internet, baptized the twins at his house. There wasn't anyone else there and we don't know what was said. I remember your saying one time that Presbyterians recognize all baptisms. Is it really a baptism if there is not a congregation?"

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

1. Using the provisions of the Directory for Worship, **articulate a Reformed understanding of the role of the congregation in the sacrament of baptism.** 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, write an annotated outline for a one-hour adult class on the role of the congregation in baptism. For the purposes of this exam, an annotated outline is one with explanatory notes.
3. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1 and using appropriate pastoral sensitivity, respond to David's parents.

### Section III: Application to Ministry

As pastor of Sprightly Presbyterian Church, you make an intentional effort to involve interested youth from your congregation in worship leadership on Sundays. You may ask a teenager to lead the Call to Worship, read a Scripture passage, or to offer a prayer during the service. One Monday morning, you receive a call from one of your members named Richard. He says,

I am tired of having inexperienced young people leading elements of Sunday's worship service. That's why we hired you, Pastor, to lead worship in a professional manner. It's okay to have experienced adults helping you occasionally with worship leadership, but too many of these kids stumble on their words, they don't project well, and they're obviously nervous. They just don't know how to be public speakers and they shouldn't be leading us in worship.

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

1. Guided by the provisions of the Directory for Worship, articulate an understanding of Reformed worship as a gathering of "a royal priesthood" and how this informs decisions about worship leadership. 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 and demonstrating appropriate pastoral sensitivity, respond directly to Richard regarding his concern about those invited to assist in worship leadership.