

Fall 2023 Worship and Sacraments Exam

Section I: Reformed Liturgical Heritage

Jim and Jamie, members of the congregation you serve as pastor, have just returned from a trip to Europe. During a fellowship meal at church, Jamie recalls their visits to so many beautiful cathedrals:

“Everywhere you look there are little side chapels dedicated to saints. People go in and pray to those saints asking that the saints would pray for them to Jesus. It was very meaningful. I think we should do that here! We should have a time when we pray to saints asking them to pray for us.”

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, **write an essay articulating a Reformed understanding of intercessory prayer.** 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. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Based on your answer in Required Response 1, develop an annotated outline for a one-hour adult class on intercessory prayer. For the purpose of this exam, an annotated outline is one with explanatory notes.

Section II: Constructive Theological Reflection on Worship

You are the pastor of First Union Presbyterian Church, and on Monday morning you receive a text from a member of the congregation who writes:

“Pastor, another great sermon yesterday, but I have a question about the Scriptures we use in worship. I come to church to hear about Jesus. The stories in the Old Testament can be interesting sometimes, but on Sundays can’t we just read from the New Testament?”

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

1. Using the provisions of the Directory for Worship, *write an essay articulating a Reformed understanding of the use of both the Old and New Testaments in worship*. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g. W-0.0000).
2. Based on your answer in Required Response 1, write an article for the congregation’s monthly newsletter about the selection of Scriptures for worship. Do not sign any name to the article.

Section III: Application to Ministry

During the celebration of communion, the Smith family brings forward their baptized five-year-old child to receive the Lord's Supper. At the next session meeting, some elders raise concerns about children and communion. The following conversation ensues:

John: The Smiths' daughter is not confirmed, so it is not appropriate for her to receive the Lord's Supper.

Marcella: I am less concerned with her not being confirmed, but she is too young to understand what the Lord's Supper is all about.

Teresa: It should really be up to the session whether children receive communion.

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

1. Using the provisions of the Directory for Worship, ***write an essay articulating a Reformed understanding of who may receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*** 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 using appropriate pastoral sensitivity, respond directly to John, Marcella, and Teresa.