

Spring 2024 Worship and Sacraments Exam

Section I: Reformed Liturgical Heritage

You are the pastor of Toggenburg Presbyterian Church. While you are teaching a class on Ephesians 2, a church member shares their thoughts on Ephesians 2:8-9: “These are my favorite verses in the Bible:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”

The member continues, “I can choose to do good works if I want to—and I do, of course—but that’s just sort of a bonus. My love of Jesus and faith in God are full and complete without works.”

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 good works as a response to one’s Baptism**. 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. At least one document cited must have been written after 1900. 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 order of worship for Baptism of the Lord Sunday including:
 - an original call to worship
 - an original prayer of confession
 - sermon title [with selection of Scripture(s)]
 - at least two hymns
 - an original commissioning of the congregation’s disaster assistance team
 - an original charge and benediction for the congregation.

For the purposes of this question, an original element is one written for this exam and not previously published or used in any form; limited use of the Scriptures may be included.

Section II: Constructive Theological Reflection on Worship

The session of the church you serve as pastor has established a planning team for the creation of a new worship service that is different in style and tone from the congregation's current service. During a meeting with the planning team, at which you have provided them resources for worship planning, two members of the team tell you they do not want to include a time for confession of sin in this new service because "it's a drag on the service."

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

1. Using provisions from the Directory for Worship, write an essay articulating a **Reformed understanding of the role of the confession of sin in a service of 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, write an annotated outline for a discussion you will lead with the planning team to envision creative ways that the practice of the confession of sin could be incorporated into the new worship service. For the purposes of this exam, an annotated outline is an outline with explanatory notes.

Section III: Application to Ministry

George, a long-time member of your church, has died and you are meeting with the family to plan the funeral to be held at the church. The family has these requests:

- Marina (George's wife): Pastor, George wrote a letter to be read at his service. To keep things from going too long, you can read that instead of scripture and a sermon.
- Ben (George's son): And Dad loved State University. He and I didn't miss a football game! We need to sing the fight song one more time for Dad. The choir could lead that!
- Esperanza (George's daughter): And, as you know, Dad was active in the Masons so we'd like a Masonic ritual as part of the church service.

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 appropriate elements in a service of Witness to the Resurrection.** 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 Marina, Ben, and Esperanza.