



## Worship Committee -- Orientation of New Worship Leaders (WL)

Proposed process:

- Observation period in which future WL watches services with objective of noticing what others do to facilitate a service, and begin thinking about how they would structure a service in their own unique style. We suggest they make notes on their orders of service. Probably observe at least 4 services... or as many as it takes to begin to “see” and understand what’s involved and to be confident in their own ability to handle all the elements.
- After the observation period, if we have multiple people considering becoming worship leaders, gather them together to share their observations. Intention would be to hear what others “see” and broaden their own understanding of how much we each have our own personal preferences/perspectives. Initial introduction to WL workbook would occur now.
- Offer 3 experienced WLs as mentors; new WL selects one with whom s/he would most like to work. Mentor would help future WL observe more and judge less. S/he would also reference workbook to help new WL begin to assimilate all the details we monitor
- Work with mentor on at least 2 services before tackling one alone
- Suggest a full dress rehearsal in the pulpit, with a sound tech, before doing first service on his/her own

Here are some questions to help the observation process. It is not intended you “answer” every question. Rather this list is intended to represent the range of considerations we all contemplate as we are designing a service.

- What makes a service “work” for you?
- How do the parts fit together to support the theme?
- How are transitions between elements handled? What happened when you experienced a transition as “smooth”? When did one seem awkward? What could be done to improve the flow so we aren’t merely “checking the boxes”?
- When do you notice that hymns/music support the theme? How “singable” are the hymns? Would you have requested a song leader?
- What was the link between the time for all ages and the sermon?
- What do you experience emotionally as the service flows from element to element?
- We have immense diversity of expectations from our congregants so we attempt to provide a little something for everyone. Some want their hearts fed, others their head. Some want an uplifting, stimulating, challenging service -- others want a quiet, comforting service. How were those different needs met (or not) in this service?
- How “present” was the worship leader? Did you feel “spoken to” or “read to”?
- How was technology used and how did it help or interfere with the message? Was microphone use effective and unobtrusive?
- Rev. Ketcham said every service needs some “UU protein”. Was this present, and if, so, how?