22-T - W-3.0205

GATHERING

W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (TWE-05 1)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-3.0205 in the Directory for Worship amended as follows? (Added text is in *italics*.)

"W-3.0205 Confession and Forgiveness ...

"... Other actions may follow—a song of praise, such as 'Glory be to the Father' or 'Glory to God'; a summary of the law or call to faithfulness; *the sacrament of baptism;* and the sharing of peace as a sign of reconciliation in Christ."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy). This amendment acknowledges the common practice of celebrating the sacrament of baptism early in the Service for the Lord's Day while retaining the Reformed emphasis on baptism as a response to the Word.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to disapprove Recommendation 1 of Item TWE-05. Recommendation 1 seeks to amend W-3.0205, a section in the Directory for Worship that describes confession and forgiveness as an element of the worship service. The proposed language would articulate the possibility that the sacrament of baptism might be administered following confession and proclamation of forgiveness in the worship service.

Although the language of this recommendation is clear and consistent with its intent, the ACC finds that it is unnecessary. Reformed theology commonly links Word and Sacrament as in W-1.0106, but W-3.0307 already provides for the sacrament of baptism to ordinarily be in response to the Word. It does not require that the sacrament only be administered at that time in the service.

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 1, 30/2. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 1, 395/4.

For the full report on TWE-05, go to https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000081/business.

22-U — W-3.0409

SACRAMENT

W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (TWE-05 2)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-3.0409 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows? (Added text is in *italics*.)

"W-3.0409 Theology of the Lord's Supper ...

"... The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation, when appropriate, to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment provides for gracious hospitality at the Lord's Supper, emphasizes the theological connection between the sacraments, and underscores pastoral discretion in the invitation to baptism.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to disapprove Recommendation 2 of Item TWE-05. This recommendation seeks to amend W-3.0409 to emphasize pastoral discretion regarding an invitation to baptismal preparation when persons who have not previously been baptized participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The ACC finds that the proposed change has the potential to weaken the link between baptism and the Lord's Supper. The use of "should," rather than the mandatory "shall," already provides latitude for pastoral discretion in determining the appropriateness of an invitation to baptismal preparation.

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 2, 30/2. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 2, 395/4.

22-V - W-3.0414

SACRAMENT

W-3.0414 COMMUNION (TWE-05 4)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the second paragraph of W-3.0414 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows?

(Deleted text is in strikethrough; added text is in *italics*.)

"W-3.0414 Communion ...

"... When all have received the bread and cup, the remaining elements are placed on the table. The minister of Word and Sacrament then leads the people in prayer. A prayer follows, thanking God for the gift of the Sacrament and asking for grace to live and serve faithfully until the coming of Christ's realm in fullness."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment provides for more flexibility in the prayer after communion, including the use of a unison congregational prayer.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to approve Recommendation 4 of Item TWE-05. Recommendation 4 in this overture would eliminate the requirement that the prayer after communion be led only by a minister of the Word and Sacrament or ruling elder authorized by the presbytery to administer communion. The ACC finds that the language of W-3.0414 is unnecessarily restrictive and amendment is advisable.

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 4, 31/0. The 225th General Assembly (2022) then approved Item TWE-05 4, 395/4.

22-W - W-4.0403

ORDINATION, INSTALLATION, AND COMMISSIONING

W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP (TWE-06)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-4.0403 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows? (Added text is in *italics*.)

"W-4.0403 Order of Worship

"A service of ordination, installation, or commissioning focuses on Christ and the joy and responsibility of serving him through the mission and ministry of the church. Following the sermon, the moderator (or designee) of the appropriate council briefly states the nature of the ministry to which persons are being ordained, installed, or commissioned. Those who are being ordained, installed, or commissioned gather at the baptismal font. The moderator (or designee) of asks them the constitutional questions (see W-4.0404). A ruling elder asks the corresponding questions of the congregation. When all questions have been answered in the affirmative, those to be ordained will kneel, if able, for the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination. (The presbytery commission lays on hands at the ordination of minister of the Word and Sacrament; its moderator may invite other ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders to participate. Members of the session lay on hands at the ordination of ruling elders and deacons; the session may invite other ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament to participate. Because ordination only takes place once for each office, the laying on of hands is not repeated.) Those previously ordained will stand, if able, along with the congregation, for the prayer of installation. Signs and symbols of blessing may be conferred on the newly installed or commissioned person. After this, the moderator makes the declaration of ordination, installation, or commissioning. Members of the session or presbytery welcome the newly ordained, installed, or commissioned person(s). In the case of the installation of a minister of the Word and Sacrament, persons may be invited to charge the minister of the Word and Sacrament and congregation to faithfulness in ministry and mutuality in relationship. When a minister of the Word and Sacrament is ordained or installed, it is appropriate for that person to preside at the Lord's Supper in the same service; she or he may also give the blessing at the conclusion of the service. When ruling elders or deacons are ordained or installed, it is appropriate for one or more of them to give the charge to the congregation at the conclusion of the service."

Background and Rationale

[Editor's note: The TWE Committee amended the overture following the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This edited background and rationale is for the original overture's proposed amendment. For the full rationale and original overture, see the PC-Biz link below.]

The laying on of hands is not a sacrament but an act of diverse meanings as witnessed in scripture and the Reformed tradition. It is affirmed by the *Book of Order* and Directory for Worship as an act that is appropriate to various situations in the worship of life of Presbyterians, an act that conveys the "gracious action of God and communicate[s] our grateful response" (W-1.0303, see also W-2.0202, W-3.0407, W-4.0401–.0403, W-5.0204).

The Confession of 1967 includes these words in 9.39–9.40: "... In recognition of special gifts of the Spirit and for the ordering of its life as a community, the church calls, trains, and authorizes certain members for leadership and oversight. The persons qualified for these duties in accordance with the polity of the church are set apart by ordination or other appropriate act and thus made responsible for their special ministries. The church thus orders its life as an institution with a constitution, government, officers, finances, and administrative rules. These are instruments of mission, not ends in themselves. ..."

Ordination is an act of the institution, one of the ways we order our life for mission. Candidates are ordained to a particular service, a call, emphasizing the pragmatic, functional nature of ordained ministry. As the *Book of Order* says, "In baptism, each Christian is called to ministry in Christ's name. God calls some persons from the midst of congregations to *fulfill particular functions*, so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. ..." (W-4.0401, emphasis added). And, "... The gifts of the Spirit are for building up the Church. Every action in worship is to glorify God and contribute to the good of the people. Worshipers and worship leaders must avoid actions that only call attention to themselves and fail to serve the needs of the whole congregation. ..." (W-2.0202)

The proposed change to the Directory of Worship is from restrictive language to permissive language: the laying on of hands would not be required at installations as there may be occasions when, because of ecumenical considerations or a candidate's preferences regarding physical contact, it would not be appropriate or edifying. In such a change we reaffirm Calvin's own guide for worship practices: "But love will best judge what may hurt or edify; and if we let love be our guide, all will be safe" (*Institutes*, IV.x.30).

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

This advice applies to the original overture.

Should the 225th General Assembly (2022) desire to authorize some act of the congregation to signify its blessing upon the newly installed or commissioned person, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that W-4.0403 be amended as follows (suggestions appear in strikethrough and *italics*): "... [Because ordination only takes place once for each office, the laying on of hands is not repeated.] The moderator may invite the commission and all members of the congregation to participate in the laying on of hands for commissioning and blessing the newly installed minister of Word and Sacrament, ruling elders, or deacons. Those previously ordained will stand, if able, along with the congregation, for the prayer of installation. [Signs and symbols of blessing may be conferred on the newly installed or commissioned person.] After this, the moderator makes the declaration of ordination, installation, or commissioning. Members of the session or presbytery welcome the newly ordained, installed, or commissioned person(s)." (The remainder of the paragraph remains unchanged.)

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education amended and approved Item TWE-06, 27/3. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-06, 371/23.

22-X - W-5.0104

WORSHIP AND PERSONAL LIFE

W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (TWE-05 5)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-5.0104 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows? (Added text is in *italics*.)

"W-5.0104 Household Worship

"We respond to God's grace in the context of personal relationships, particularly when Christians who live together worship together. Household worship is a central and important practice within the Reformed tradition, an important means of faith formation. Opportunities for household or family worship include: sabbath-keeping and rhythms of daily prayer; Bible reading, study, or memorization; prayers before meals; singing hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs; and expressions of giving, sharing, and service to others. Congregations are encouraged to nurture and equip households and families for these practices."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment asserts the importance of household worship in faith formation.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) that this item does not present issues of polity. Recommendation 5 of Item TWE-05 would add a sentence emphasizing the role of household worship. If the 225th General Assembly (2022) believes that the intent of Item TWE-05 Recommendation 5 is appropriate, the ACC advises that the proposed language is clear and consistent with that intent.

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 5, 31/0. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 5, 395/4.

22-Y - W-5.0104

WORSHIP AND PERSONAL LIFE

W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (TWE-05 6)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-5.0104 in the Directory of Worship be amended to add a third paragraph as follows? (Added text is in *italics*.)

"W-5.0104 Household Worship ...

"... Prayers of thanks and blessing, and lament at the household table draw upon ancient Jewish practice and the examples of Jesus, his disciples, and the early Christian community. Mealtime prayers provide opportunities to give thanks to God's works of creation and redemption by which we are sustained for Christ's service. We respond with heartfelt thanks and praise in the sharing of our daily bread."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment stresses the significance of mealtime prayers in household worship.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) that this item does not present issues of polity. Recommendation 6 in TWE-05 would add a paragraph emphasizing the role of mealtime prayers to the section on household worship. If the 225th General Assembly (2022) finds Recommendation 6 is appropriate, the ACC advises that the proposed language is clear and consistent with that intent.

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 6, 30/1. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 6, 395/4.

22-Z — W-5.0201

WORSHIP AND THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

W-5.0201 THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH (TWE-05 9, 1 & 2)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

1. Shall W-5.0201 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows? (Added text is in *italics*.)

"W-5.0201 The Church's Ministry within the Community of Faith

"God calls the Church in the name of Jesus Christ to mutual love, discipleship, and service. Jesus' ministry and the church's worship are deeply connected; indeed, worship is ministry. The church's ministry springs from its worship, where God builds up the body of Christ through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The church's ministry flows back into worship as we bring to God the celebrations and concerns of the community of faith.

"Within the church, we seek to love and serve one another through the rhythm of daily prayer, the ministries of Christian education and pastoral care, the activities of councils of the church, and other gatherings of believers. The church's ministries are shaped and nourished by the Word and Sacraments, and are to be carried out in the spirit of *faithful discipleship and* constant prayer (F-1.0301; F-1.0302a; F-1.0303; F-1.0403)."

2. Shall W-5.0301 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows? (Added text is in *italics*.)

"W-5.0301 The Church's Mission in the World

"God sends the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit to join the mission of Jesus Christ in service to the world. Jesus' mission and the church's worship are deeply connected; indeed, worship is mission. The church's mission springs from its worship, where we glimpse the reality and the promise of God's eternal realm. The church's mission flows back into worship as we bring to God the joy and suffering of the world.

"Through its mission in the world, the church seeks to bear witness to God's reign through the proclamation of the gospel, acts of compassion, work for justice and peace, and the care of creation. The church's mission is shaped and nourished by the Word and Sacraments, and represents the living out of our prayer for the world (F-1.01; F-1.0303; F-1.0304)."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment contributes an emphasis on communal discipleship within the church's practice of ministry and mission.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to approve the amendment to W-5.0201 and disapprove the [original] amendment to W-5.0301. Recommendation 9 in this item would introduce the concept of discipleship in various places in paragraphs describing a) the church's ministry within the community of faith (W-5.0201) and b) the church's mission in the world (W-5.0301). The ACC finds that sections W-5.0201 and W-5.0301 should be seen as complementary, not contradictory or mutually exclusive. It is unnecessary to amend W-5.0301 to incorporate discipleship as this is sufficiently addressed by the proposed amendment to W-5.0201.

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education amended and approved Item TWE-05 9 1 & 2, 32/0. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 9 1 & 2, 395/4.

For the full report on TWE-05, go to https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000081/business.

22-AA — W-5.0204

WORSHIP AND THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE (TWE-05 7)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the third paragraph of W-5.0204 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows? (Deleted text is in strikethrough; added text is in italies.)

"W-5.0204 Pastoral Care ...

"... All members are called to take part in the ministry of pastoral care, visiting the sick, supporting the weak, and comforting those who mourn. Ruling elders, deacons, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament have particular responsibility for the exercise of pastoral care within the community of faith. Those with special gifts and appropriate training may be called to the particular specialized pastoral care ministries of pastoral counseling, or chaplainey. In certain circumstances, persons may need to be referred to other qualified and credentialed professionals to receive appropriate counseling and care."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment includes spiritual direction among the examples of specialized ministries of pastoral care while seeking to avoid the appearance of an exhaustive list.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) that Recommendation 7 of Item TWE-05 presents issues that the assembly should consider. This recommendation would add "spiritual direction" to the already named ministries of pastoral care. It has added "particular specialized" and "such as" so that the list created by the addition of "spiritual direction" would not be presumed to be exhaustive. However, the addition of more language is counter to recent constitutional changes that give various councils parameters and responsibility to define their own practices. Decisions about appropriate validated ministries are properly left to the individual presbyteries. In addition, the creation of a list invites more items to be added to it.

The ACC finds that if the assembly believes it is appropriate to expand the understanding of pastoral care ministries, it can be better accomplished, while addressing the issues presented above, by striking "the ministries of pastoral counseling or chaplaincy" in W-5.0204 and inserting "particular specialized pastoral care ministries" so that it would read "Those with special gifts and appropriate

training may be called to the m	inistries of pastora l	counseling or	chaplaincy	[particular	specialized
pastoral care ministries]."					

The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education amended and approved Item TWE-05 7, 32/0. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 7, 395/4.

22-BB - W-5.0204

WORSHIP AND THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE (<u>TWE-05</u> 8)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the fourth paragraph of W-5.0204 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows? (Deleted text is in strikethrough; added text is in *italics*.)

"W-5.0204 Pastoral Care...

"Services of wholeness and healing are one way of enacting the church's ministry of pastoral care. The central element in these services is prayer, calling upon God's saving grace or giving thanks for healing received, in life and in death, in body, mind, or spirit. A service of wholeness includes the proclamation of the Word, focusing on the promise of peace and abundant life in Christ. Prayer may be enacted through the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, provided that these actions are carefully introduced and interpreted: healing always in its many forms comes as a gift from God, not as a-product an accomplishment of human prayer. The Lord's Supper is a fitting way to seal the promise of wholeness proclaimed in the Word. Services of wholeness are to be authorized by the session and are under the direction of the minister of Word and Sacrament, but may involve leadership from ruling elders, deacons, and others with gifts for prayer. They may take place on a regular basis, as an occasional event, or as a part of the Service for the Lord's Day."

Background and Rationale

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment offers theological and pastoral perspective on the nature of healing and wholeness: that healing happens in a variety of ways and wholeness is not necessarily synonymous with physical recovery.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to approve Recommendation 8 of Item TWE-05. This recommendation would amend the paragraph describing services of wholeness and healing. The ACC finds that the first proposed amendment, the insertion of the words "in life and in death, in body, mind, or spirit;" the deletion of "abundant" and insertion of "ultimate well-being through" are unnecessary stylistic changes that do not present issues of polity. The ACC finds that a) deletion of the word "always" and insertion of "in its many forms" and b)

deletion of "a product" and insertion of "not an accomplishment of human prayer" are helpful clarifications.
The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 8, 31/0. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 8, 395/4.
For the full report on TWE-05, go to https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000081/business .