

ITEM D.205
FOR INFORMATION

DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP STUDY PROCESS

The Directory for Worship, found in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Order*, is the constitutional document that casts a vision, provides instruction, and establishes standards for the liturgical life of the denomination. As part of a larger plan to revise the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, the 217th General Assembly (2006) directed the Office of Theology and Worship and the Office of the General Assembly to prepare a revision of the Directory for Worship—one that would be “authentically Reformed,” “culturally appropriate,” “more accessible and helpful,” “shorter and better organized.” This action was delayed during consideration of a new Form of Government, but resumed in 2011.

A staff team from the Office of Theology and Worship undertook the first draft of the revision, working with the Office of the General Assembly. In September of 2013, the Office of Theology and Worship organized a consultation with a diverse group of pastors, professors, and mid-council leaders, gathering further ideas and feedback. In February 2014, after another round of revisions, this work was presented to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, which voted to send the proposed revision to the 221st General Assembly (2014) with a recommendation for a year-long period of study and comment. This action was approved by the General Assembly, commencing a season of study from July 1, 2014, to July 1, 2015.

In order to facilitate this process of study, the Office of Theology and Worship has provided a number of resources, including:

- a web page (pcusa.org/dfw) with an electronic version of the text of the proposed revision, along with supplementary resources: an overview of the history of the Directory for Worship in the Presbyterian Church, a description of principles for the revision, and a chart comparing the structures and contents of the current and proposed directories;
- the full text of the draft revision in English, Korean, and Spanish translations, available to download at the web page above.
- an email account (worship@pcusa.org), designated to receive feedback; for full consideration, all comments must be received in writing by email at this address.
- regular blog posts at pcusa.org/blogs/worship, highlighting various features of the revision and inviting discussion.
- staff from the Office of Theology and Worship and participants in the September 2013 consultation are available to discuss the proposed revision at presbytery meetings and other events and conferences.

At the conclusion of this year-long period of study and comment (ending July 1, 2015), the Office of Theology and Worship will compile and review all comments. A second consultation of pastors, professors, and mid-council leaders will discuss these comments and provide guidance for further revision as needed. With the recommendation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, the amended document will be presented to the 222nd General Assembly (2016) for approval to be sent to the presbyteries for inclusion in the *Book of Order*.