



VIBRANT TOGETHER MINISTRY PLAN DISCUSSIONS

VITAL WORSHIP

What make your congregation's worship relevant?

- Responsive Readings, Prayers, Sermon.
- Bringing General Assembly info back to congregations.
- Training for worship leaders.
- All parts of worship can be relevant.
- Worship service integrated into neighborhood activities/service projects.
- Give something that people leave with to take into their week; getting spiritual fed and have tools to deal with life's issues.
- We are in the world!
- Worship is not entertainment, but an audience of one.
- There is diversity, there is fellowship – "koinonia."
- The worship service should change you – how will you respond?
- Relevance comes through the sermon, prayers, and testimonies.
- Kids should be learning and inviting friends to church.
- Having concern for one another.
- Members taking an active role.
- Four legs of a chair.
- African America music used.
- All parts are relevant.
- Training for relevance.
- Sermon has relevance.
- Atmosphere authenticity.
- Utilizing esthetics.

How is your congregation's worship steeped in the reformed tradition?

- Gathering, Being, Sending in the Word.
- Confession, Assurance of Pardon, Sacraments, Tuesday Together.

How participatory is your worship?

- Different people as liturgists, Ushers, Singing, Minute for Mission.
- Acknowledge and Honor different cultural songs/other forms of expression.



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RECONCILIATION

What do you think of what you heard Valeri Izumi say?

- Not all black people feel discriminated against. Not all Hispanic people feel discriminated against.
- Reparations allows those wronged to feel like victims.
- What would reparations look like? Many Americans of any race do not have roots in slavery. Be part of a discussion, acknowledge past wrongs, celebrate progress made.
- We should be looking at our Book of Confessions and our history as a Church. The church has dealt with these issues in the past.
- Diversity of opinions that we need to tread carefully as to who we are asking an apology from.
- Human nature - don't like being told what to do.
- Recommended book, "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult
- Awareness of racism problem
- More discussions expose realities
- Discerning between political agenda
- How do you start with reparations
- Looking out the rearview mirror
- Conversation, but not punitive
- Personal not cooperate
- Not everyone feels victimized
- We are all children of God
- Value in apologizing in past and present
- Want to and need to do better
- Systemic tendencies are being taught – how to address this?
- Listen because the contexts are vast
- Philemon Letter – slavery dismantled

Have you been part of conversations about racism and/or white supremacy culture? Why or why not?

- Have discussion, not penalty. Awareness, Appreciation and Respect, Apologize for past wrongs individually, not as a group.
- Conversations about racism are emotional and difficult, but they are crucial.
- We need to be brave and we need to speak truth.
- Not so much a racism issue, but a supremacy issue



How does the gospel call us to dismantle racism?

- The Gospel directs us to love thy neighbor as thyself.
- Encourage multi-ethnic/racial worship services.
- We need to confess our sins in all kinds of racism.
- We have come a long way, but we have to work on understanding people...who they are and who we are.
- We have to admit that we have sinned. Thankfully there is forgiveness.
- Racism is a worldwide problem, it affects everyone. It is up to us to change.
- Sins of the fathers – no answers, but there is forgiveness
- Love one another
- Perfect love takes out the trash
- It's healthy to take ownership | no repentance

OTHER COMMENTS:

- I would commend the deep work that the racial justice committee did at General Assembly this year. Their work is available at this link. These are profoundly meaningful discussions and decisions that help the pcusa move more deeply into understanding, repairing, and accepting responsibility....These conversations could be meaningful to play in our congregations followed by conversation and work to more deeply understand and what steps to do toward repair and restoration. <https://ga-pcusa.org/video/committee-collection/#rgj>