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### Ecclesiology for Ministry

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Music, Vision, Action

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*Calvin Theological Seminary*

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#### Recommended Citation

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Music, Vision, Action and Kelderman, Duane, "Ecclesiology for Ministry" (2023). *Symposium on Worship Archive*. 54.

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Session B 15—Symposium 2010  
Ecclesiology for Ministry  
Presenter: Duane Kelderman

The big idea: To be the church is to participate in the divine life of the triune God through the community God is gathering to himself.

	<b>The church is . . .</b>	<b>The seduction is . . .</b>
Who	a divine community	to <i>functionally</i> exclude God from church
What	a living organism	to view the church as a machine
When	ancient and new--spanning all time	to lose our memory
Where	local	to fail to be “in the world but not of it”
Why	pluriform in purpose to bear witness to the kingdom, to seek justice, to go and make disciples, maturity in Christ, reconciliation, to glorify God	to choose only one of these
How	Christ among us	to reduce ministry to a program

Some questions (and Bible passages) to help you apply this workshop's message to your church's ministry

1. (Who) Is it obvious to a casual visitor to our church that God is here, that our church lives and moves and has its being in God?

Isaiah 6:1-8

2. (What) How does the reality that the church is a living organism--a vine connected to Christ the branch—specifically make a difference in how we understand and do our ministry?

John 15:1-17

3. (When) How do we draw upon the riches of the historic church to strengthen and guide our church's ministry?

Hebrews 11

4. (Where) Does our church run a greater danger of not being “in the world” or of being too much “of the world?”

John 17:6-26

5. (Why) Is our church balanced in its ministry focus? Is it seamlessly inward and outward in focus? Seamlessly committed to glorifying God, edifying believers, finding the lost, and serving the world?

Ephesians 1-4

6. (How) Does our church's vitality spring from Christ's transforming work in our lives and community? Are our programs catching the wind of the Spirit, or do they simply exist because . . . ?

John 13 (the footwashing of Jesus), Luke 5:36-38 (wineskins)