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Baptism and the Lord's Supper Renewal Stories

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**Workshop A12 Baptism and the Lord's Supper Renewal Stories:
Symposium January, 2013
Betty Grit, Worship Renewal Grants Program**

Worship Renewal Grant Recipients from diverse congregations will describe what they are learning about sacramental practices that nurture and strengthen faith in people of various ages and cultures.

Blessed is the church that faithfully obeys Jesus' commands "to make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded (Matt. 28:20) and to "eat and drink in remembrance of me," (Luke 22.19-20) receiving these signs as occasions in which God works to nourish and sustain, comfort and challenge, teach and transform us.

Blessed is the congregation that proclaims how the waters of baptism are a sign and seal of God's promises to wash us clean, to adopt us into the body of Christ, to send the Holy Spirit to renew, empower, and resurrect us a to new life in Christ.

Blessed is the church that regularly celebrates the Lord's Supper as a feast of thanksgiving, communion, and hope.

Blessed is the congregation that not only gratefully remembers God's creating and redeeming work in Jesus Christ, knowing his presence in the breaking of the bread, but also gratefully receives the gift of union with Jesus Christ and Christ's body, and looks forward to the feast of the coming kingdom.

Blessed is the congregation that shares this meal by "discerning the body of Christ" in its manifold oneness, by expressing hospitality for one another with grace and truth (1 Cor 11.29-33), and by reflecting God's hospitality for us in ministries of hospitality in the world.
<http://www.calvin.edu/cicw/resources/pdf/Worshiping%20the%20Triune%20God.pdf>

Allan Bynoe, East Point Church, East Point, GA
Nina Lau-Branson First Presbyterian Church, Altadena, CA
Rebecca Warren, Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Edmonton, AB
Duane Kelderman, Grants Advisory Board

What new sacramental practices might we use at home?

How might we invite worshipers to learn more about the significance of baptism and the Lord's Supper?

What is Worship Renewal?

Worship renewal cannot be reduced to a formula or generated by a set of techniques. As you begin your planning, we invite you to prayerfully consider these dynamics and characteristics of worship renewal, which we continue to learn about from the work of congregations.

- Worship renewal cannot be produced or engineered by human ingenuity, but is a gift of God's Spirit. Renewal is a gift for which we pray, rather than an accomplishment we achieve.
- Worship renewal mines the riches of scripture and leads worshipers to deeper encounters with Christ and the gospel message.
- Worship renewal arises from, and leads to, the full, conscious, and active participation of all worshipers— young and old, the powerless and powerful, newcomers and lifelong worshipers.
- Worship renewal leads a congregation beyond itself to give itself away to minister to the needs of the local community and the world.
- Worship renewal happens best in healthy congregations, which are marked by honesty, integrity, unity, and pastoral concern for each worshiper.

Ten Core Convictions About Christian Worship

1. A vivid awareness of the beauty, majesty, mystery and holiness of the triune God.
2. The full, conscious, active participation of all worshipers, in the context of a fully intergenerational community.
3. Deep engagement with Scripture
4. Joyful and solemn celebrations of baptism and the Lord's Supper, which focus squarely on the redemptive work of Jesus Christ in all of creation, and are deeply aware of how God's spirit works to nurture and strengthen faith through these celebrations.
5. Balanced approach to culture
6. Disciplined creativity in the arts
7. Collaboration with congregational ministries
8. Warm, Christ-centered hospitality for all people
9. Intentional integration between worship and all of life
10. Collaborative planning and evaluation

<http://worship.calvin.edu/>

Questions? Contact Betty Grit at
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