Proposed Worship Format

Worship invokes the presence of the Holy Spirit through an appeal to all five senses.

**REMEMBER:** We worship in praise of our God (Father, Son, and Spirit). We are never alone in our worship. Instead, we join all of those throughout the cosmos in worship of God. We join the heavenly-cosmic chorus to praise the God of all there is and ever can be. Worship is integral to our need for spiritual nourishment. It is, in fact, more important than preaching.

The sermon event is often interpreted as separate from worship, where worship becomes the “warm up” to the sermon. Preaching is but one part of worship. ALL worship must engage the five human senses: SIGHT, SOUND, SMELL, HEARING, and TASTING. We must go beyond creating an *atmosphere* of worship and create a *culture* of worship.

The outline below is a proposal (and by no means a prescription) for what we must follow in terms of worship. I have noted the areas of engagement for the human senses.

1. **Gathering (SIGHT, SOUND, SMELL, HEARING, TASTING)**
   1. Informal greetings, conversation (SIGHT, HEARING—helps renew community)
   2. Fellowship—coffee bar, light snack (TASTE, SMELL—cookies, etc. Helps create a sense of home, i.e., atmosphere. Nothing like the smell of fresh brewed coffee or the smell of sweets).
      1. Announcements (SIGHT - direct people to the newsletter, or overhead display)
      2. NOTE: I don’t recommend verbal announcements. Repetition of information is redundant and takes away from worship time.
   3. Have music playing in the background (contemporary) while people are gathering (SOUND—helps create atmosphere and a sense of comfort).
   4. Already have candles used in the service lit (SIGHT, SMELL—recommend fragrant candles . . . appeals to the sense of smell and creates atmosphere).
   5. Use the call to worship to invite people to express prayer requests or share blessings (SIGHT, SOUND—seeing fellow participants express prayers and blessings encourages the rest of the congregation to engage). A lay person can lead this.
2. **Greeting & Hymn (SIGHT, SOUND)**
   1. Pastor greets those present in the Lord’s name. Liturgy and response (SIGHT, SOUND—pastor can wear liturgical dress to enhance the visual components of worship—i.e., robe and stole, collar with stole, business dress with stole, etc.).
   2. Hymn (an affirmation or canticle). Use UMH (SOUND, TOUCH—for those who have an attached sense of tradition for Methodist hymnody, holding, feeling, and touching the hymnal adds meaning)
3. **Opening Prayer (SOUND)** 
   1. Several different optional prayers from the UMBOW
      1. Prayer for illumination
      2. Prayer for forgiveness, confession, pardon, and peace etc.
4. **Hymn** 
   1. (SIGHT, SOUND – Using a contemporary song or modernized hymn with displayed lyrics.)
5. **Scripture Reading—Proclamation (SIGHT, SOUND)**
   1. Recommend that we have a “reader” for the scripture readings.
   2. Two possible readings may vary based on seasonal needs or requirements of the sermon.
   3. Readings should match the biblical translation that the pastor preaches from (ESV)
   4. Congregation stands for reading of God’s word (encourages engagement and reverence for the spoken word).
   5. Respond to the word . . . canticle or spoken response (from UMH or overhead display).
6. **Sermon (SOUND)**
   1. Bro. Dan usually preaches around 15 to 20 minutes. Sometimes this may vary.
7. **Close (SOUND)**
   1. Hymn or Contemporary song.
   2. Lots of different ways to close. The objective is to give participants space for reflection and response if led.
      1. Music plays in the background.
      2. After reflection, when prompted, the congregation may be asked to join in a hymn, or contemporary music can be used.

**NOTE:** Communion once per month by Intinction (full liturgy prescribed by the UMBOW)