



Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Center Valley, PA

www.cornerstonepres.org

Church Profile

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Introduction

Cornerstone PCA is searching for a new assistant pastor or director to minister to our congregation, with a particular emphasis on worship. This position will also oversee either youth or welcome and assimilation. We hope that this document gives you more information about our church and this calling. If you would like to pursue this opportunity, please send us a resume and a cover letter that answers the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in this position?
2. How would you summarize your understanding of a gospel-centered approach to life and ministry?
3. What experiences have you had that make you a good candidate for this position?

Please send cover letter, resume, and Ministerial Data Form to the search committee at Cornerstonesearchcommittee@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Church Overview

Vision / Mission / Values

Vision: *We envision Cornerstone Presbyterian Church to be an equipping and worshipping community of believers devoted to moving people towards Christ as we are compelled by grace to proclaim the gospel in word and deed in every aspect of our lives.*

Values: Worship, Grace, Community, and Mission

Devoted to Worship

- Worship is central in the life of the believer and the local church. Worship is not only for Sunday morning, but is integral to the daily life and gathering of the church.
- Biblical worship is theocentric and emphasizes God's character, sovereignty, and redemptive work. The worship service reflects this in its intentional liturgy.
- Cornerstone desires to facilitate authentic corporate and family worship that flows as a response to the grace of God, giving glory, honor and praise to God.

Devoted to Grace

- A true understanding of God’s grace and love compels each Christian to obey Christ in fulfilling the Great Commission and in being a conduit of grace and love to others.
- Responding to grace is not about an external sense of duty, but an overflow of gratitude for God’s mercy to sinners saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- Cornerstone is a place where believers deepen their understanding of their identity in Christ as beloved adopted sons and daughters, and live daily out of that truth.

Devoted to Community

- We believe the Christian life is best lived in community. We are not meant to live in isolation, which is why belonging together and living out the “one anothers” of Scripture is essential to the life of the church.
- At Cornerstone, this means that we desire to see ministry take place through teams, including the session, diaconate, and ministry teams.
- Discipleship in community means that Christians are equipped by the church to do the work of ministry. This means people understand their giftedness and utilize those gifts in the body of Christ.

Devoted to Mission

- Cornerstone seeks to equip each person to understand and share their faith where they live, work, and play.
- Cornerstone desires to impact local communities so they rejoice in our presence because we are active in making the gospel known in the unique contexts God has placed us.
- Cornerstone actively addresses the brokenness of our community and ministers accordingly in Word (what we say) and Deed (what we do).

Church History

Cornerstone began with prayer through the work of the Spirit. In 1998 four couples began praying on a weekly basis to plant a gospel-centered church that brought glory to Jesus and challenged Christians to live out their faith. By the grace of God Cornerstone held its first public worship service in April 2001 led by our first Senior Pastor, John Kinyon. Since then, we have rented space from 3 different religious institutions in the community and have led worship in 6 different locations. Before purchasing our current building in October of 2010, 2 of the 4 original founding members helped plant a sister church in Emmaus, PA. West Valley PCA has been meeting in Emmaus since 2008. We have also assisted in the planting of Bridge Community Church in Easton, PA in 2012.

God's light and grace continues to grow in the Lehigh Valley and we are privileged to be a part of that process. In 2016, our founding pastor left to plant his third church in North Carolina. In August of that year, our new pastor, Doug Tharp, came and began to bring new vision, encouraging us to continue to be a community on mission pointing each other and others toward Christ. Since then, our congregation has grown, averaging about 285 people per week. What is more exciting is that we have seen people profess faith in Christ for the first time and be baptized into the church. We can take no credit for what the Lord is doing in the hearts of people in the valley. "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Eph. 3:20, 21)

Senior Pastor – Doug Tharp

Doug Tharp came to Cornerstone Presbyterian in August 2016. Before that, he lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he met his wife of ten years, Nicole. They have three energetic boys- Simon, 10, Jude, 8, and Archie, 2. Doug attended University of Northern Colorado for his undergrad in secondary education (History), and received his Masters of Divinity from New Geneva Theological Seminary. Prior to Cornerstone, Doug was the Pastor of Young Adult ministry at Village Seven Presbyterian Church for five years, where he oversaw young adult, membership, and adult education ministries.

Doug grew up in an Air Force family and lived all over the world during his childhood before landing in Colorado. Nicole grew up in South Carolina before moving to Colorado after attending school at Covenant College.

Doug enjoys hanging out with friends and neighbors, playing board and card games, and reading. Some of his biggest influences have been Jerry Bridges, Mark Bates (former senior pastor), Jason and Kara Tippetts (church planters), Paul Tripp and Bryan Chapell.

Doug and Nicole are passionate about getting out in their community and living life with the people around them. They understand that people want to be known, and they desire to point them to the One who knows them better than they could ever know themselves. Growing people in their understanding of grace and how it drives them to gospel living is central to the passion Doug and Nicole share for the ministry.

Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths that we see of Cornerstone:

- Desire to grow in knowledge of God, His Word, and unity with His Son.
- Grace within the body.
- Intentional shepherding plan led by the elders utilizing other leaders in the church.
- Development of new leaders, including officer training, ministry team and community group leaders.
- Community outreach, particularly through our Easter Egg hunt, which reaches almost 500 kids a year.
- Balanced approach to being both an organic and structural church, where elders seek to equip the saints to do ministry, leading through ministry teams.
- High percentage of members and regular attenders are part of a small group, men's or women's ministry.
- Warm and welcoming atmosphere where fellowship is a priority.
- Strong preaching and teaching.
- Broad range of demography with lots of young families.
- Gospel-focused worship with intentional liturgy.

Areas we see as weaknesses:

- Underdeveloped outreach and mercy ministry.
- A burgeoning youth ministry that needs greater intentionality and development.
- Lack of training and recruiting for assimilation, as well as a need for a cohesive plan for integrating and equipping church members.
- Need for physical space, including classrooms for children, bathrooms, office space, and parking.

Challenges & Needs

The most pressing challenges and needs we see as facing Cornerstone are:

- Physical facility – limited space especially classroom space.
- Geographically dispersed congregation.
- Volunteers in various ministry areas, especially related to children.

Assistant Pastor or Director of Worship Job Description

Cornerstone's Worship Pastor or Director will be responsible for the healthy growth of worship ministry. He will also either lead youth ministry or hospitality and welcome ministry, depending on gifting. He will serve full-time as a PCA ordained or ordainable minister, or unordained full-time director. The proposed salary package is commensurate with experience.

Position Qualifications:

1. A growing church leader preferably with 2 years ministry experience.
2. Ideally, proven leadership experience in worship services that are musically inspiring, Scripture-filled, gospel-centered, mission-focused, engaging, and joyful.
3. A committed follower of Jesus Christ who demonstrates spiritual maturity and a growing personal relationship.
4. Strong musical, interpersonal, and administrative skills.
5. Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.
6. A self-motivated learner committed to personal and professional development.
7. A desire to be coached and encouraged by leaders and collaborate in ministry.

Key Responsibilities:

(See detailed job description on pages 2-3)

1. Oversee Worship Ministry
 - a. Weekly planning and preparation, which includes song selection, liturgy planning, leading on Sunday morning, and recruiting and equipping other leaders.
 - b. Ministry development, which involves identifying new volunteers and leaders, continuing to develop ministry skills, and providing regular updates on goals to the session.
 - c. Understand Cornerstone's ministry plan, particularly focused on being a church Devoted to Worship. This includes implementing gospel liturgy and Reformed elements in weekly worship and working to see the church grow in worship in every area.

Additionally, based upon gifting and fit, responsibilities will also include one of the following:

2. Youth ministry, which involves recruiting, training and leading a volunteer team to build relationships with and point students to Jesus as they grow in the Word. This will play out in developing a holistic strategy for students including large group, small groups, and events.
3. Hospitality & welcome ministry, overseeing the process of enveloping visitors into the life of the church. This includes leadership of greeters, refreshments, and communion servers, as well as developing a hospitality/welcome team to oversee the entire ministry.

Detailed Job Description

Oversee Worship Ministry.

Weekly planning and preparation.

- a. Confirm song selection that blends the theme of the sermon with intentional hymnody (see worship white paper on the Church profile).
- b. Plan service liturgy in conjunction with Pastoral Staff. Implement a strategy for integrating new songs and keeping sets from getting too repetitive.
- c. Utilize Planning Center and ProPresenter or other tools to have liturgy ready to project on Sunday morning.
- d. Lead the congregation in musical worship on Sunday mornings.
- e. Recruit, equip, and lead the worship team in preparation for Sunday worship through rehearsal. Intentionally seek new or unused talent in the congregation or other paid musicians to supplement as needed.
- f. Develop other leaders, like audio/visual, for Sunday morning, approved by the music team and staff report.
- g. Train musicians the form of music lessons for worship team volunteers. Develop and lead trainings for worship volunteers twice a year.
- h. Continue to develop the live-stream ministry; oversee, train, and build teams to run the live-streaming services every Sunday.

Ministry Development

- a. Recruit, train and lead the music team, including regularly scheduled music team meetings (at least quarterly).
- b. Recruit, train and lead musicians, sound, and slides.
- c. Report regularly to the session on goals and ministry.
- d. Oversee updating of technology and items related to worship budget.
- e. Pursue continuing education/mentoring to develop leadership and music skills, approved by the Senior Pastor, for mentorship and discipleship in the areas of church leadership and music ministry directing.
- f. Incorporation of special music at the discretion of the worship director. This may include things like choir, children's choir, and involvement with helping youth group implement worship, working in conjunction with staff/ministry teams.
- g. Continue to develop a culture of excellence in all areas of worship, including musicianship, technology, sound/slides/video, communication and set-up.

Understand Cornerstone's value of being Devoted to Worship.

- a. Understanding of and agreement with Cornerstone's ministry plan.
- b. Implementation of gospel liturgy and Reformed elements in weekly worship.
- c. Participate in all-church events, coordinating music as needed.

Additionally, based upon gifting and fit, responsibilities will also include one of the following:

Youth Ministry:

- a. Recruit, train and disciple youth volunteer leadership. This includes leading through delegation and equipping, utilizing a youth team and regularly involved volunteers who will minister to the students.

- b. Develop an intentional strategy based upon Cornerstone ministry plan to engage with both high school and middle school students, as well as male and female students, being aware of needs for spiritual growth.
- c. Lead a Weekly large group gathering consisting of Bible Study/teaching, worship, discipleship groups, and fun activities.
- d. Coordinate youth small groups, providing shepherding training and support for group leaders. Discipleship of the students in groups led by volunteers is a key goal of this ministry.
- e. Ensure proper planning and execution of youth events (retreats, service, missions, fun events), being present at events, teaching when needed, and meeting regularly with youth leadership.
- f. Provide training and equipping for parents to create a culture of family discipleship.
- g. Work with other ministry leaders on integrating youth into the life of the church.

Or Hospitality and Welcome:

- a. Create a welcome process that covers a holistic approach of enveloping visitors into the life of the church, guiding them into community groups, membership and service in the church.
- b. Develop a welcome/assimilation team approved by the session to help oversee the assimilation process, providing strategic planning, communication, and help recruit volunteers. See Cornerstone ministry plan for more information on ministry teams.
- c. Evaluate and develop a plan for current assimilation processes, including greeters/ushers, refreshments, and communion to provide structure, job descriptions and communication, while continuing to recruit and train volunteers to support the welcome process.
- d. Coordinate with ministry leaders to help integrate uninvolved members and regular attenders into the life of the church by identifying giftings and passions and connecting them to ministry and service opportunities.
- e. Research strategies from resources (books, other churches, etc.) that are doing assimilation well and implement them in a way that suits Cornerstone's ministry context. This includes potential space needed for a welcome area on Sunday mornings.
- f. Oversee communication process with staff for visitors, including bulletin/order of worship, attendance, printed materials, and prayer marker/weekly email.

If ordained or ordainable, the job may also include the following:

- a. Preach, assist in worship leading, and with weekly communion as needed.
- b. Work with the senior pastor to identify future leaders and oversee their spiritual growth.
- c. Help with pre-marital counseling and other counseling or shepherding issues as needed.
- d. Attend session and presbytery meetings.

Position reports to the Senior Pastor under the oversight of Cornerstone's Session. Worship side also takes guidance from worship whitepaper in the Cornerstone ministry plan.

Ministries

Community Groups

Community groups are the main vehicle for shepherding and discipleship outside of Sunday morning. Through community groups, people have an opportunity to get to know each other, study God's Word, share vulnerably, pray together, and grow in their walk with the Lord. Community groups should be a place where people are encouraged to grow in their understanding of worship, grace, community and mission.

Community groups are geographically spread out to allow for people to develop relationships with those who may live nearby. Each group is led by community group leaders, who not only coordinate curriculum and often host, but pray for and shepherd the group under the oversight of an elder and deacon. We currently have 9 community groups and desire to continue to see them multiply.

Women's Ministry

Our Women's Ministry at Cornerstone is committed to helping women lead gospel centered lives, by equipping and encouraging our community to think and live biblically.

The Word of God is at the core of everything we do. Bible study, mentoring, prayer, fellowship events and our annual retreat are all opportunities to grow in our relationship with God and in our relationships with one another by building community through authentic relationships, as we seek to understand our stories in the light of Scripture and keep one another fixed on the cross and God's redemptive work in our lives to His glory.

Men's Ministry

Our men's ministry is called "DTY," standing for "Die To Yourself." As we die to ourselves, we do this together. It pushes us out into each other's lives as well as serving and supporting our church and community. Our mission and vision are the same; remembering that "no man walks alone" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10), we desire that all men at Cornerstone would be closely connected and intentionally walking with someone as we follow Christ together. In DTY, we hope to see this discipling leading to more disciplers who then go and disciple others.

Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry has been a work in progress. Led by a part-time youth leader and a team of adult volunteers, our youth group currently meets on Sunday nights. Through games, fun, food, fellowship, teaching and small group discussion, they seek to point our students to Jesus and grow them in their faith.

Guiding philosophies for the youth strategy, developed by careful research and collaboration with youth leaders:

1. Gospel-based discipleship as opposed to performance-based Christianity.
2. Vibrant faith of the parents, both as they are involved in Cornerstone as well as through training by the youth leadership.
3. Healthy relationships with adults who have a vibrant faith (in addition to parents).
4. Equipped with a biblical worldview.

Children's Ministry

The Lord has blessed Cornerstone with a large number of families with young children, and we are thankful for the wonderful opportunity to touch these children's lives with the gospel. We offer Sunday school classes for children age 30 months through grade 5. A nursery is also provided for our littlest ones. We strive to provide a loving, nurturing atmosphere for our children to be introduced to the truths of scripture. We pray this will lay a foundation that will, by God's grace, form them into worshippers of God, followers of Jesus and participants in His Kingdom work. In recent years the children's ministry team has also hosted special events such as Christmas and valentines parties, summer activities, etc.

Will and Jacey Hoffert are our Children's Ministry Directors who oversees a team of four volunteer classroom coordinators. We use the *Gospel Project Curriculum*.

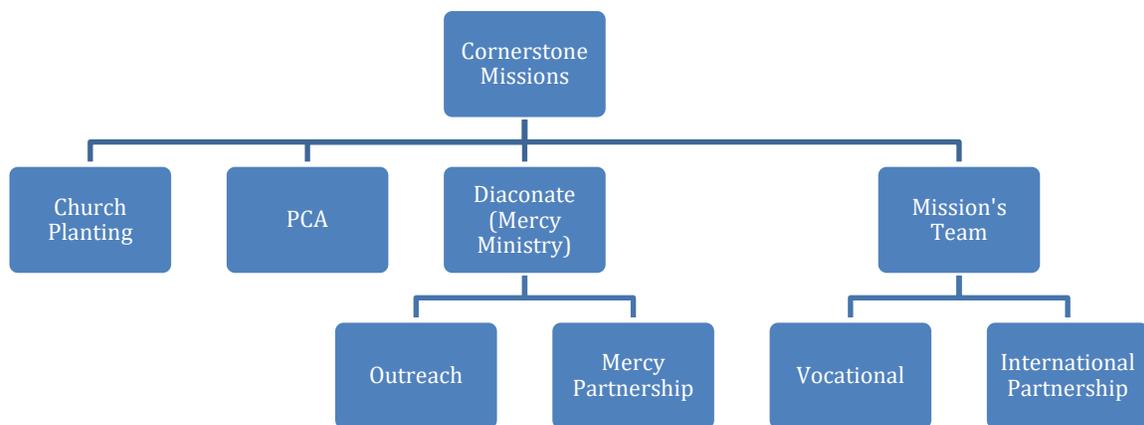
Worship Arts

Cornerstone is blessed with several gifted and talented musicians and is a thriving ministry at Cornerstone. A number of volunteers serve on the worship team, leading music, audio/video and livestream. The worship team strives to work cohesively and practice diligently, in not just their presentation but also their musicianship, that they might serve the body of Cornerstone in humility and truth. See the attached Worship white paper in the appendix for more.

Missions

Mission Emphases

To directly engage missions, Cornerstone targets three areas of focus (mercy partnerships, vocational ministry, international partnership), allowing us to create a clear target for our resources including time, talent, finances and communication. These areas of direct engagement and the way they tie into the mission's strategy are explained below. In addition to these emphases, Cornerstone is also involved with church planting and denominational involvement through the PCA.



Mercy Partnerships | **Diaconate**

Mercy partnerships include strategic ministry partnerships and service opportunities within the regional scope of Cornerstone. This can include ministries within and outside of Cornerstone. These ministry opportunities are under the authority of the Diaconate, who would oversee a mercy ministry/and or outreach team. The deacon's fund will continue to support mercy ministry independently, whereas money for mercy partnerships will come from the mission's budget.

Mercy partnerships account for approximately 25% of the mission's emphases.

Vocational Ministry | **Missions Team**

Vocational ministry includes region specific ministries that are led by members of Cornerstone, who typically raise their support and work full-time for the ministry. This would include collegiate ministries, like Reformed University Fellowship or Disciple Makers. It can also include other vocational ministries apart from the collegiate ministries. Vocational ministry is funded from the mission budget and is overseen by the mission team, under the oversight of the session.

Vocational ministry accounts for approximately 45% of the mission's emphases.

International Partnership | **Missions Team**

At present, the Missions Team supports educational ministries to support Christian pastors in mostly Muslim areas as well as in China. We are working toward international partnerships.

An international partnership is an intentional, two way relationship to be established with another church outside of the United States. This partnership would allow for mission trip opportunities, training, financial support, and mutual edification. This partnership would help Cornerstone keep her eyes beyond Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth. It would be developed by the mission team in conjunction with the session. It would be funded from the mission budget and overseen by the mission team, under the oversight of the session.

This mission emphasis would also include support of missionaries and mission trips sent from Cornerstone, both on long term and short term trips.

International partnership accounts for approximately 30% of the mission's emphases.

Mission Team Structure

The mission team will, like other ministry teams, be approved by the session and follow both ministry team guidelines and adhere to the Mission's Team job description.

Church Planting will be addressed as a key, ongoing aspect of Cornerstone through a separate, church planting strategy.

Denominational Support will be designated by the Cornerstone session through strategic partnerships within the denomination and through the local presbytery.

Church Particulars

Finances

Budget 2017-2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2022
Internal Ministry	46,250	47,100	51,600	24,400	24,400	23,500
External Ministry	43,500	56,600	60,600	59,600	60,600	67,728
Staff and Staff Expenses	234,500	256,500	285,500	292,988	306,054	341,612
Building	69,000	69,000	71,190	89,000	71,000	71,640
Office and Admin	15,650	17,110	21,110	14,500	14,500	15,520
MNA Loan repayment	17,100	3,400	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	426,000	449,710	490,000	480,488	477,554	520,000
Actual Expenditure	407,328	429,370	383,710	410,323	374,943	
ACTUAL INCOME	483,958	536,498	544,141	496,293	488,323	
Surplus to Actual	76,630	107,181	160,431	85,970		
Surplus to Budget	57,958	86,829	54,141	15,805		
Average Attendance	**	267	279	279	296	

* Figures through November 30th

**pre-2018 we used a different database

- Last year we paid off our mortgage. We continue to pay that \$2,700 per month into a capital reserve fund for future use. Fund is currently at \$74,300.
- 2021 expenses are under budget and giving is over budget. Praise God for His provision.
- We increased our missions fund to >10%.
- The main increase to the 2022 budget is related to a full-time worship and assimilation hire, including salary/benefits and ministry expenses.

Membership/Demographics/Attendance

Cornerstone currently has 205 members and 72 non-communicant members. While we have people in every age group, we have a large number of young families. Our overall attendance has grown over the past five years and we have moved from one to two worship services on Sunday morning as a result. While we still take attendance on Sunday morning for shepherding, our actual attendance is hard to track with a number of online participants.

Overview of Lehigh Valley

The Lehigh Valley, also known as the Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton area is made up primarily of 2 counties, Lehigh and Northampton. Cornerstone is located in Lehigh County just south of Bethlehem. The Lehigh County was recently reported as one of the fastest growing counties in PA according to the U.S. Census bureau (see links 1 and 2 below). According to an article published in The Morning Call there has been a decline in organized religion across the Lehigh Valley in the past decade (see link 3 for more on this article). The Lehigh Valley was also rated one of the top 8 best places to live in Pennsylvania when affordability, safety, fun and school districts are considered (onlyinyourstate.com). Known for its festivals, parks, and arts (see links 4 and 5), the Lehigh Valley provides plenty of recreational activities for residents and visitors.

1. http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/breaking-news/index.ssf/2015/04/lehigh_county_one_of_pennsylva.html
2. <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST040214/42077>
3. <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-pa-religion-census-charts-tables-htmlstory.html>
4. <http://www.lehighvalleystyle.com/>
5. <http://www.movoto.com/blog/opinions/moving-to-lehigh-valley/>

Officers and Staff

Elders

Doug Tharp*, Moderator
Dave Borghesani
Matt Bostrom
Kevin Chamberlin
Eric Johnson
Matt Prine
Ron Ridenour (Clerk)
Tom Szarawarski
Andrew Ward (sabbatical)
Dave Almack
Tom McMahan



Deacons

Mike Brunner (Chair)
Scott Cline
Barry Hoffman
Martin McDermott

Staff

Doug Tharp, Senior Pastor
Matt Bostrom, Assistant Pastor
Edward Choo, Worship (interim)
Will & Jacey Hoffert, Children's Ministry (interim)
Justin Searle, Youth Ministry
Dell Bobier, Administrator
Rebecca Szarawarski, Administrator

Appendices

Worship Style

Worship, Music and the Arts White Paper

Devoted to Worship

- Worship is central in the life of the believer and the local church. Worship is not only for Sunday morning, but is integral to the daily life and gathering of the church.
- Biblical worship is theocentric and emphasizes God's character, sovereignty, and redemptive work. The worship service reflects this in its intentional liturgy.
- Cornerstone desires to facilitate authentic corporate and family worship that flows as a response to the grace of God, giving glory, honor and praise to God.

The goal in this paper is not to provide a comprehensive treatment of worship, nor is it to settle all the questions that might arise even among Reformed Christians when the subject is discussed. Rather, it is to re-state several of the points which guide our worship life at Cornerstone. As we will see, there are three primary thoughts which shape how we worship God together.

First, we practice the “regulative principle of worship” in our planning and offering of worship to God. This principle simply states that worship that is pleasing to God must be conformed to the “regulations” for worship laid down by God Himself in Scripture. Only the elements of worship which Scripture establishes (and which are summarized so clearly for us in the “Directory of Worship” section of the Book of Church Order) find place in our services on the Lord's Day. While the discussion will continue as to the proper and best ways to speak and sing in the cultural “language of the people,” the elements themselves will remain the same: reading and preaching the Word, singing the praises of God, offering our prayers and intercessions to the Lord, bringing our gifts to Him to further the Kingdom and help the poor, and receiving the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that theatre and dance have their place in the life of the church, but not as elements of worship as outlined in the New Testament.

- Reading of Scripture (1 Tim 4.13)
- Singing of psalms and hymns (Col 3.16)
- Offering of prayer (1 Tim 2.1ff)
- Preaching of the Word (1 Tim 4.13)
- Presentation of offerings (1 Cor 16.1)
- Confessing the Faith (e.g., 1 Tim 3.15-16)
- Observing the sacraments (Acts 20.7; 1 Cor 11.20, 23-33)
- On special occasions: taking of oaths (e.g., membership, ordination) See 1 Tim 4.14

Second, we practice a gospel pattern or liturgy. Every church is telling a story through the patterns they utilize in worship, whether intentional or not. From beginning to end, every worship service should tell the gospel story. Each service should bring us in and

lead us through a pattern that becomes so familiar in some ways we almost don't notice it, we are in harmony. And yet, in other ways, as we step back we can see the intentionality, we can give attention to each thread of the pattern and see God's glory and faithfulness unfold before our eyes.

Through three simplified sections of the service people are led toward Praise, Renewal, and Commitment. These three areas lead the congregation to the story of who God is, who we are as we are confronted by him, how he has shown us grace in spite of this, and how we are to respond (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation). This liturgy includes:

ADORATION: We open with adoration. Praising the God of the universe. He is God and we are not. He is worthy of all honor and praise.

CONFESSION: The story naturally leads from Adoration to Confession. We confronted with a holy, just, perfect, awesome God of the universe, recognize our inadequacy, our sins, or failing, our fears. This rightly brings us to confession.

ASSURANCE: But we never stay in confession. Because we have a God who is gracious and merciful, we are led into assurance.

THANKSGIVING should flow as a result of God's amazing grace. And so we sing in response to our assurance. We continue to praise God from whom all blessings flow.

In **PETITION**, like the church in Acts 2, we pray. We pray throughout the service, and also intentionally pray for our church family every service.

INSTRUCTION is the preaching of God's Word. The Word of God is central to our service, and reminds us of His character, sovereignty, and redeeming work. It shows us our need to repent, to trust him more, and to grow in grace. Even our sermons tell the gospel in miniature.

The **CHARGE** and **BENEDICTION** close out our service as we are called to go into the world and make disciples of all nations, Ambassadors for Christ. In our benediction, we receive God's word, the blessing of his promises.

Third, we utilize a "trunk and branch" approach to blending our worship. The "trunk" of our worship is rooted in traditional Presbyterian liturgy and theologically rich hymnody. Presbyterian liturgy historically has been marked by simplicity, reverence, and a progression through the elements of worship which emphasize the dialog between God and His people in the service in which He speaks to us through His Word and we respond in praise and prayer, giving and going forth in obedience to what He has shown us during our time with Him. To this "trunk" any number of musical branches may be added, from classical to contemporary, as long as they are consistent with our theological and musical values as a congregation. This mixture of styles has given us great freedom in our worship, while our roots in our theological and liturgical tradition have provided great stability for our growth as worshipers together.

At Cornerstone this blending of worship takes shape through a blending of contemporary worship with intentional hymnody. The baseline for music at Cornerstone is a theological rich hymnody that can include old hymns with old tunes, old hymns with new tunes, and new hymns. In addition to this, contemporary songs that synergize with our values and philosophy of worship deepen our worship. All of our music should be in the language and cultural forms of the worshippers.

For recent bulletins, please visit our website at <http://www.cornerstonepres.org>