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Calvin Symposium of Worship, 2017
Session A1 Shaping a Congregation's Worship DNA
Handout

Worship DNA Diagnostics and History:

When you visit a new physician you answer questions about your health history and that of your parents. In the same way this survey is designed to stir some self-reflection about your worship history.

Please fill out as best you can.

Elements:

Does your worship include:

Eucharist? Weekly? Monthly? Quarterly?

An "altar call?" Weekly? Monthly? Quarterly?

An entire psalm? Weekly? Monthly, Quarterly?

A sermon that typically lasts: 10 min. 15-20 minutes. 20-35 minutes. More

Children or youth are regular worship leaders? Y/N

Children or youth are regular participants in the entire service? Y/N

Announcements are included in your worship service? Y/N

How long do they last? _____

How many biblical readings are typically read or said: 1? 2-4? 6-8?

Design:

How many people beside the main preacher typically lead worship?

How many musical instruments are involved on an average week?

How many songs are typically included that were written before 1990?

How many songs are typically included that were written after 1990?

What is the typical attire of worship leaders?

What sort of technology is present in your worship service?

Computer generated images? Y/N

PowerPoint? Y/N

Amplified instruments? Y/N

Microphones for speakers? Y/N

Videos? Y/N

Biblical Priorities and Context:

What part of the Christian tradition do you most identify with?

What do you least identify with?

What biblical texts are your personal favorites?

What are the favorites of your church community?

What are the favorite biblical texts of your congregation's main preacher?

Of the main worship leader?

Of the founding members?

What songs do you sing most in your worship services?

What type of songs do you sing most regularly during worship services?

If you had only one more Sunday worship service:

What text would be the text for the sermon?

What songs would you sing?

What else would happen in the course of the service?

What kind of music does your congregation (or the worship leaders) find emotionally unnerving or repulsive or find themselves most "against?"
(The music need not be heretical just produces an emotional reaction)

What is the biggest neighborhood factor in starting church?

How is your congregation unique in your neighborhood?

What does your congregation bring to the neighborhood that other congregation's do not?

Why must this church be started/continue to exist?

What else would you like to talk about as part of your worship DNA?