

# WORSHIP MODEL OPTIONS

## Blackhawk Presbytery

### *Partnership (A.K.A.: Multi-Point/Yoked)*

**Basic idea:** Two or more churches share a pastor (MWS or CP).

**How it could work:** Two or more churches who can't afford a full-time Pastor share the single Pastor (MWS or CP). The pastor preaches at both churches on a given Sunday. Time between services must allow for travel time. Sacraments are provided by the Pastor. Each congregation has its own building. Technology of each congregation needs to be compatible with the other congregations. Pastoral care is provided by the Pastor and per decision of each congregation's Session. Support staff is as-needed at each church, which could be shared with the other church(s). Churches and Pastors need to be affiliated with the PC(USA) and/or within the Reformed tradition. Each congregation has its own Session. Pastor moderates all Sessions and performs part-time pastoral work at the churches. The sharing of financial implications is negotiated between the congregations.

### *Hub*

**Basic idea:** A Lead Pastor (MWS or CP) serves a specific church and leads a team of Campus Leaders (MWS, CP or Ruling Elder) at each of the churches.

**How it could work:** A lead pastor (MWS or CP) oversees a team of Campus Leaders. These Campus Leaders could be MWS, CP or possibly a Ruling Elder. It is possible for the Campus Leader to be a seminary student. The distribution of the Sacraments is dependent upon the configuration of each congregation. Presbytery approval must be granted. Each congregation has its own building. Technology of each congregation needs to be compatible with the other congregations. Pastoral care is provided by the Campus Leader and per decision of each congregation's Session. Support staff is as-needed at each church, which could be shared with the other church(s). Churches and Pastors need to be affiliated with the PC(USA) and/or within the Reformed tradition. All congregations share an over-arching Session. Lead Pastor moderates the Session. The sharing of financial implications is negotiated between the congregations.

### *Gathering*

**Basic idea:** Geographically-close congregations join together for worship services with one worship leader (MWS or CP) and rotate between the different church buildings throughout the year. Churches keep their buildings and get to worship in them at specific times throughout the year, while gaining the attendance of other congregations. Churches could also partner with these other churches in their mission and ministry. Congregations could be with other PC(USA) churches or with others from the Reformed tradition (or a combination).

**How it could work:** Churches save a lot of money by sharing a pastor. Congregation members would need to be willing to travel. The timeframe for worshipping at each church is to be negotiated among the Sessions. The Pastor oversees the Sacraments. Each congregation has its own building. Technology of each congregation is as-needed. Pastoral care is provided by the Pastor and per decision of each congregation's Session. Support staff is as-needed at each church, which could be shared with the other church(s). Churches and Pastors need to be affiliated with the PC(USA) and/or within the Reformed tradition. Each congregation has its own Session. However, the congregations can choose to have a combined Session, per presbytery approval. The Pastor moderates all Sessions. The sharing of financial implications is negotiated between the congregations.

## *Subscription*

**Basic idea:** Congregations can pay for a subscription of sermons and worship liturgy written by pastors in our Presbytery. Worship is led by Session-appointed Worship Leaders, including someone to deliver the sermons.

**How it could work:** There is no Pastor (MWS or CP) at these congregations. Congregations can pay for a subscription of sermons and worship liturgy written and assembled by pastors in our Presbytery. Worship is led by Session-appointed Worship Leaders, including someone to deliver the sermons. Pastors contracted in the Presbytery would also provide, at least one week in advance, an order of worship which would include a list of suggested hymns. Cost is a subscription fee.

Sacraments are appointed by the Presbytery, per request of the Session. Each congregation has its own building. Technology of each congregation is as-needed. Pastoral care is provided per the Session's decision. Support staff is as-needed at each church, which could be shared with the other church(s). Churches need to be affiliated with the PC(USA). Each congregation has its own Session. The presbytery appoints the Session Moderator. There is a subscription fee for this model.

## *Streaming*

**Basic idea:** Congregations can stream worship services (minimally, sermons) happening at a different church (projected on screen or wall).

**How it could work:** There is no Pastor (MWS or CP) at these streaming congregations. Worship is led at a host church, led by their Pastor, and celebrated at campus locations. A congregation livestreams a worship service from the host church. A campus church's Session can appoint Worship Leaders for their congregation. Each congregation has its own building. It requires a high level of technology for both the host church and the campus churches. Pastoral care is provided per the Session's decision. Support staff is as-needed at each church, which could be shared with the host church and/or other campus churches. Preferred denominational affiliation is PC(USA), but this could be in conjunction with congregations from the Reformed tradition. Each congregation has its own Session. The presbytery appoints the Session Moderator. There is a subscription fee for this service. Also, there is the technology costs incurred to be able to do this. The presbytery and/or synod may be able to help with costs.

## *Rotation*

**Basic idea:** This model is inspired by our own Garden Plain Presbyterian Church. Guest worship leaders from the Reformed tradition rotate over a period of Sundays (depending on how many worship leaders the congregation acquires).

**How it could work:** There is no Pastor (MWS or CP) at these congregations. The schedule is set up per the Session, utilizing worship leaders who rotate weekly over a period of time, depending on how many Worship Leaders are in the lineup. Worship takes place in the congregation's church building. Once per quarter, or time to be determined by the Session, a Presbytery-appointed pastor (MWS or CP, possibly retired) leads worship and presides at Sacraments. Technology is as-needed. Pastoral care is provided per the Session's decision. Support staff is as-needed at each church. Denominational affiliation for the Worship leaders is to be within the PC(USA) or from the Reformed tradition. Each congregation has its own Session. The presbytery appoints the Session Moderator. Worship Leaders are paid a weekly honorarium.

## *Destination*

**Basic idea:** Congregations bring in guest Pastors as Worship Leaders from the PC(USA) or Reformed tradition and provide for them housing and possible other perks during their visit.

**How it could work:** The church Session would provide the free lodging space, and possibly other perks, and set the parameters for its use and who the contact individuals are, along with their contact information. Bulletin information, provided by the visiting pastor in advance, would be sent via email to church secretary or a congregation member designated by the Session who completes the bulletins. Travel expenses to the location, food, and any other vacationing expenses are the responsibility of the visiting Pastor and family.

Worship takes place in the congregation's church building. Sacraments are appointed by the Presbytery, per request of the Session. Each congregation has its own building. Technology of each congregation is as-needed. Pastoral care is provided per the Session's decision. Support staff is as-needed at each church. Visiting Pastor Worship Leaders need to be affiliated with the PC(USA) or from the Reformed tradition. Each congregation has its own Session. The presbytery appoints the Session Moderator. This could also be utilized by a congregation during the time of a Pastor's sabbatical or vacation.

## *Additional Options*

Congregations can take advantage of:

- Sharing office and worship staff with other congregations
- Partner with other churches in their community for occasional services or for other ministries and missions (Sunday School, Youth Group, mission projects, etc)
- Communal Space: congregations can either let go of their buildings and 'nest' in another church, building or home. Or a congregation can allow other congregations to 'nest' in their building, in exchange for rent money and possibly shared staff.