

## A Guide to Worshipful Work—Keeping our Business *God's* Business

### BEGINNING—Centering

- *Light Candle.* The candle reminds us that we do our work with Christ present and in the light of Christ's wisdom.
- *Silence.* (About two minutes) In the silence, take time to give your attention to God, each other, and the work at hand. The silence reminds us that our chief task is listening to God for God's direction as we pursue the mission of the church.
- *Scripture.* A Psalm of praise or a story from a Gospel can help us to remember that we are about God's work and Christ's Kingdom. A reading from one of the previous Sunday's scripture lessons is also useful, because it invites us to consider our business work in light of our worship.
- *Sharing.* After a moment of silence some brief discussion may follow, beginning with a question like, "Was there a word or phrase or image from this passage that spoke to you or stuck out to you?" or "Did you hear anything in this passage that seems relevant to our work in this meeting?"
- *Opening Prayer.* Any person can say the opening prayer. The opening prayer should invite God to guide us and Christ's Spirit to be present. It should ask God to help us to be open and attentive to each other and to God's Spirit working in our midst.

### MIDDLE—Re-centering

- *Silence.* About half way through the meeting, or if the meeting is feeling "stuck," the chair—or any other person—can suggest that we take a couple minutes of silence to re-center. This silence allows us to remember why we are here, and re-commit ourselves to listening to God and one another. This will seem awkward at first, but soon people will find themselves looking forward to a time to refocus on God.

### ENDING—Wrapping Up and Sending Forth

- *Three Questions.* Any one—or more than one—of the following questions can be used at the end of the meeting to help us see where God has led us during our time together:
  1. *Where have we sensed God's Spirit leading us in this meeting?*
  2. *For what do we have to give thanks out of our time together?*
  3. *What do we need God's help with moving forward?*
  4. *Where do we need God to continue to give us clarity?*
- *Prayer.* Someone prays a prayer of thanksgiving for the meeting and blessing as we leave.
- *Closing Words.* The chair says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all," and all respond, "**Amen.**"