

GOALS AND SCHEDULE

Goals for the day:

- to deepen appreciation for the breadth of worship experiences nationwide and across Christian traditions,
- to model a process of theological reflection,
- to expose and test attitudes toward recent changes in Christian expression,
- to offer a big (big!) picture of North American Christianity in which each of us can sense our place,
- to point us to new sources of learning and growth.

Morning—Introducing the Topic and Each Other

Brief Presentation: Why assessing change is crucial for contemporary ministry (John Witvliet)

Two attitudes toward change: _____ and _____

To help us steer between _____ and _____.

How has worship changed:

- a) for your congregation and denomination?
- b) for congregations nationally and ecumenically?

How has our North American cultural context provided the habitat for this change?

- How has worship changed to embrace dynamics of culture?
- How has worship changed to resist dynamics of culture?

Afternoon—Theological Insight and the Way Forward

What have we learned about biblical worship that we didn't see as clearly 30 years ago?
What aspects of God's character have been re-emphasized in worship practices?

What aspects of biblical vision for worship have been obscured or grown more opaque? What aspects of God's character have been de-emphasized in worship practices?

As we prepare for the next 30 years:

- What *virtues and attitudes* are especially crucial?
- What *theological convictions* would you stress?
- What *countercultural* or *crosscultural* insight or habit of mind or heart would you stress?
- What *resources* (books, websites) would you recommend?