

Lines of Authority/Roles of Clergy and Music Staff Certification Requirement III.1 Background summary below prepared by John Sall

The relationship of roles for clergy and music staff is a nuanced but historically rooted role with significant authority for final decisions regarding the order of worship resting with clergy (minister of the Word and Sacrament). This understanding of worship as it relates to the voice and role of the congregation when they gather includes the congregation's hymns in worship in keeping with our Reformed heritage (at various points only including Psalter settings). This language as noted in the directory for worship W-2.0305 shared below highlights these different roles as summarized here:

- Order of worship (including scripture, hymns, liturgy) is the **responsibility of the minister** with concurrence of the session.
- Materials, furnishings, resources, (and times) for worship are the responsibility of the session with concurrence of the minister.
- Anthems and other musical offerings (prelude/postlude/choral introits/voluntaries/communion reflections/etc./etc.) are planned and prepared as a responsibility of music staff (where/when they are a part of the congregation's staff and leadership structure) by conferring with the minister regarding worship, these conferences taking place on a regular basis.

In practice, congregations which have professional (part or full time) music staff with experience and training including PAM certification as well as musical and worship or theological study, entrust greater degrees of this planning process to music staff owing to their ability as well as the required planning and preparation time to incorporate such plans with volunteer ensembles and hired guests. It would still be reasonably expected that regular planning conferences serve as an opportunity for these proposed plans for musical offerings and the coordination of suggested hymns by the musician can be coordinated with and (tacitly or expressly) approved by the minister regarding the overall order of worship.

W-2.0305 : Shared Responsibility and Accountability

In a particular congregation, the order of worship is the responsibility of the minister of the Word and Sacrament[†] with the concurrence of the session. The selection of hymnals, service books, Bibles, and other more permanent worship re-sources is the responsibility of the session with the concurrence of the minister of the Word and Sacrament[†], and in consultation with church musicians and educators. Where there is a music leader or choir director, the minister of the Word and Sacrament[†] will confer with that person on anthems and other musical offerings; the session will see that these conferences take place appropriately and on a regular basis. The minister of the Word and Sacrament[†] may confer with a committee in planning particular services of worship.

The session is responsible for educating the congregation about the church's worship, in order to facilitate their full and active participation. It is appropriate that the session provide for the regular study of this Directory for Worship, particularly in the training of ruling elders and deacons.

In fulfilling their responsibilities for worship, sessions are accountable to presbytery. It is appropriate that the presbyteries discuss with sessions the character of their congregation's worship, the standards governing it, and the fruit that it bears in the mission and ministry of the church. It is appropriate that the presbyteries provide instruction in worship, making use of this Directory for Worship in the preparation of candidates for ordination, and in the ongoing nurture of ministers of the Word and Sacrament[†].