

# WELCOMING WORSHIP

## *A Seminar on Worship and Outreach*

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### **The Service Folder**

How does an organization's printed material affect its ability to communicate? What does your service folder say to the first time visitor?

#### **Form**

- Clean copies; crisp lines
- This will require a good digital imager; get one that collates and saddle staples.
- Consider the additional cost of installing a printer board in your imager to get higher quality output.
- Saddle staple every time there is more than one page.

#### **Format: Print out your entire service every week.**

Yes, this is a lot of work. Yes, it costs more money. Yes, it involves stapling. And yes...it is worth it. Why?

- Going from page 17 in the front of the hymnal to Psalm 85 on page 97, to hymn 370 in the no page number section of the hymnal, back to page 19 for the Creed, is nearly impossible for a first time visitor without pedantic instructions at every step of the service.
- Address that problem by printing the entire liturgy in the service folder every Sunday: all the words, all the responses, all the canticles appear in full. With this format, no one has a problem following the service. No one is lost.
- Put a hymnal in the hand of every worshipper for two reasons: because it shows we are part of a body larger than our congregation, and because the hymnal has great benefit as the prayer book of the people. So the order of service is in the service folder in its entirety, but the hymns are sung from the hymnal.
- Printing the entire service every week allows for great variety in an accessible format. A gathering rite for Advent can be seamlessly brought into the service. Adornments of the liturgy that incorporate congregational sung responses are handled in their place in the service without any page flipping.
- This format provides the opportunity to explain the words, the actions, and the symbolism of liturgical worship to worshippers new to the faith and old. Footnote and explain the history and the content of the *Te Deum*. Footnote and explain the seasons and festivals of the Church Year. Teach some and remind some of the meaning of *Maundy*, and *paschal* and *Agnus Dei*. Explain the advent wreath, the farewell to Alleluia, the reasons we do what we do.
- Printing a full service, multipage service folder costs an extra \$10 a week for a congregation that makes 175 bulletins. Can you get a better bang for your outreach buck?