



## FUSION — Worship – Learning – Service

July 24, 2011

There continue to be some questions and concerns about the Fusion services that we will be starting in September.

### Additional Questions about FUSION

#### Why are we changing or abandoning the things that matter to us?

This is one of the more serious concerns that we have heard about. Even though the **FUSION** experiences are just in the planning stage, some people have already concluded that we are getting rid of the things that are important to them, such as changing or eliminating our observance of the sacrament of communion. We are frankly somewhat surprised about these assertions and fears since they have no basis in what we are actually doing.

***FUSION Differences:*** Here are the primary differences between **FUSION** experiences and our current church school/worship experiences:

- A single integrated two-hour learning and worship experience rather than two one-hour separate learning and worship experiences
- Planning teams rather than individual planners/presiders—the presider becomes a team leader and more people are actively engaged in the planning and conduct of the services.
- Intergenerational sharing and inclusion of children and youth in more meaningful ways
- More participatory worship and learning
- More multimedia and multi-sensory experiences—employing all of our senses in worshipping and learning
- Some new forms of worship and learning—respecting the ways we already know while blending with them new ways to share together.
- Intentional connection to our day-to-day discipleship

#### ***Deepening Our Worship, Learning, and Service:***

**FUSION** is not about abandoning the ways we have done things. We will still sing familiar hymns, hear sermons, share prayers and testimonies, administer to the sick, and share in the Lord's Supper and other sacraments. We will still honor our history and heritage. We will still use all of our scriptures and hymnbooks. We will still have our own experienced congregational worship and learning leaders planning and leading

our **FUSION** experiences. **FUSION** isn't about rejecting who we are as a people or about doing away with things. But it isn't about limiting ourselves to just the ways we are accustomed to doing things, either

**FUSION** is first and foremost about deepening our discipleship. The approach and resources have been chosen for this purpose. The Sunday morning experiences and day-to-day resources and activities are for this purpose. The familiar and the new will be blended together for this purpose.

### **What will happen with our communion and other sacrament services?**

The concern seems to be that somehow the **FUSION** experiences will change the way we share in the sacraments or that we will even stop doing our sacraments. We will continue to observe the monthly communion service as well as the other sacraments of the church. These sacraments are important in the life of the congregation and will be carefully planned and integrated into the **FUSION** experiences.

### **How will PowerPoint presentations fit into Fusion?**

We have heard that some people don't like PowerPoint-based worship services, but we haven't heard specifically why they don't like them. PowerPoint is simply a tool that we will use as appropriate along with other tools during our sharing together. The computer and projector were purchased not just so we could do PowerPoint presentations, but more so that we could use multimedia in our **FUSION** services. There are increasing numbers of video clips and movies; audio files; photographs and clip-art; and other resources that can be used to enhance our worship and learning experiences. The computer and projector help us to take advantage of these resources and use them in our **FUSION** experiences.

### **What if I don't want to participate in some part of the Fusion service?**

We believe that the things we are planning for our **FUSION** experiences will have value for each person who participates. As always, though, everyone's participation in the things we do on Sunday morning or during the week is a matter of personal choice. If you decide you don't want to participate in some aspect of the morning's experiences or you don't want to do the application activities during the week, you are free to make that choice.

### **Additional questions**

If you have additional questions, please get in touch with Linda or Greg Barentine.

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