

**Open Doors Worship Review**  
**By the Centerpointe Elder Board and Ministry Staff Team**

**9:00 A. M. Worship Service**

**Executive Summary**

*Background*

In September 2010, Centerpointe launched Open Doors, an intentional effort to reach out to more people with the Good News of the Gospel through a newly designed Sunday morning worship and teaching plan. Open Doors included adjustments designed to enable the 9:00 a.m. service to reflect a more “Blended” style of worship that would also attract families with younger children. In December, feedback was received from a few individuals indicating that the 9:00 a.m. service was not satisfactory for various reasons. A survey of all who attend the first service was undertaken to more fully understand worship style preferences and to assess openness to reaching out to people not yet a part of the Centerpointe family.

*Survey Implications/Options*

The worship survey provided valuable feedback. The results, presented to Session at its March 2011 meeting, show particular preferences shared by many but also varying opinions about worship and worship style preferences.

This data was reviewed, and Elders and staff discussed options based upon worship goals, style preferences, and congregational openness to reaching out. The two viable options presented as the focus of consideration were:

- 9:00 a.m. “Traditional” Service (focused on those already in attendance with no significant effort aimed at reaching families with children), and a 10:30 a.m. “Contemporary” Service
- 9:00 a.m. “Blended” Service (that balances the worship style preferences of those currently attending with the goal of reaching new people especially families with children), and a 10:30 a.m. “Contemporary” Service

The survey results were also analyzed looking at the sub-group of 60 people whose primary worship style preference is “Traditional.” The sub-group results showed that while there is a preference for traditional worship, there is significant and commendable openness to a blended style of worship and also a strong conviction that Centerpointe should make the effort to reach out to families with young children.

*Outreach Goals*

From the standpoint of worship and outreach goals, it is believed that both meeting the worship style preferences of those already attending (recognizing that even in the 9:00 a.m. worship preferences vary) *and* making intentional efforts to reach people through an accessible worship design are equally important goals. Something is lost when either effort is eliminated.

*Elder Direction*

At the April 18, 2011 Session meeting, the Elders unanimously voted to continue, and be fully committed to option #2, a 9:00 a.m. “Blended” worship service that balances the worship style preferences of those attending with the goal of reaching new people.

As a result of affirming this direction, we have a well-defined concept of our Sunday morning 9:00 a.m. worship service. The description, values, goals and details for this service are detailed on the next page.

## Style Descriptions for 9:00 a.m. Blended Worship Service

This service is designed to thoughtfully blend traditional styles, music, and worship elements with those having a more contemporary feel. Service elements include great hymns and newer worship choruses led by organ, choir, vocal teams and the band, as well as Scripture readings, thoughtful prayers, and liturgical worship elements like readings and creeds.

### Description of the Flow and Feel of 9:00 a.m. Blended Worship Service

By nature, the feel of the blended service tends to be reverent and less outwardly expressive than the contemporary service, though still energetic.

The music choices are a balance between hymns and choruses led by choir, organ, and band. Worship chorus arrangements are typically shorter than what is done in the contemporary service. The hymns can stand-alone with organ and choir, but sometimes the worship band is added to the mix to broaden the sound and blend the worship.

Because people that attend this service come from a church background and are accustomed to singing and being heard, the audio levels are set for musical accompaniment at 80-85db.

The flow of the worship incorporates a blend of traditional and contemporary elements flowing together to create a rich worship experience. There are many liturgical elements to draw from and a variety of elements are used as appropriate each week.

This service is structured with opening praise and prayers, passing of the peace and announcements, offering, message, and a closing song. The delivery of the message is more formal, and the pastor wears a jacket and tie.

This goal for the duration of this service is 60 minutes.

### Outreach Purposes and Goals for 9:00 Blended Service:

The following diagrams depict our expectations for the core of whom we are trying to reach, as well as those already in attendance. This worship service draws largely from long-term Centerpointe members. In an effort to grow this service, worship includes an outreach emphasis to young families that have a church background; it is not purposed to attract people with little or no church experience, although all are welcome.

