

Requests for Communion: The Directory for Worship invites groups within a presbytery to participate in the life of the whole believing community through celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, "in connection with the public worship of some gathering of believers which is under its [a presbytery's] jurisdiction or in institutions where it has a missional witness or approved ministry." (W-2.4012, W-3.6204.) The practice in this presbytery has been for a group to notify the stated clerk of the date, location, and event at which communion will be served, and also the name of the teaching elders(s) who will preside. The stated clerk puts that information in the omnibus motion for assembly approval.

The system works fairly well – but we'd like to make it even easier for your presbytery level group to share the sacrament when you worship together. To that end, while it's helpful to put all the details in the omnibus motion, it's not always possible for a group to have every jot and tittle sorted out as early as two months or more in advance. **It is enough if you know the general date of the event, that the sacrament will be served in the context of worship, and that a teaching elder will preside. Following your event, please provide the stated clerk with a report on your communion service. The report should include the actual date when communion was served and the name of the teaching elder(s) who presided. Communion reports will be included in the clerk's report.**

Asking groups to report back is new, and probably overdue. It's only fair to let the assembly know how its authorizations come out. Reporting back also provides groups with flexibility. For example, in this month's omnibus motion, the Camp Oversight and Development Work Group is asking for authorization to serve communion during their spring and fall retreats. They have not chosen specific weekends for those retreats because they don't want their use of camp space to conflict with groups from congregations, and it's too early to know what those groups' schedules will be. By allowing CODWG to provide the actual date when they report back, we allow them greater flexibility.