



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



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**HOW TO USE THIS TOOL:** Each session outlines best practices and reflection questions. Use the included reflection questions to contextualize the principles and practices to plan and prepare an inspirational, inclusive, and intentional worship services. We are cheering you on and championing you in prayer as you respond to Jesus' invitation to participate with him in gathering for worship and being sent out to share the love of Christ.

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Hey there! All who are thirsty,  
    come to the water!  
Are you penniless?  
    Come anyway—buy and eat!  
Come, buy your drinks, buy wine and milk.  
    Buy without money—everything's free!  
Why do you spend your money on junk food,  
    your hard-earned cash on cotton candy?  
Listen to me, listen well: Eat only the best,  
    fill yourself with only the finest.

**Pay attention, come close now,  
listen carefully to my life-giving, life-nourishing words.**

I'm making a lasting covenant commitment with you, the same that I made with David: sure, solid, enduring love.  
I set him up as a witness to the nations,  
    made him a prince and leader of the nations,  
And now I'm doing it to you.

**- Isaiah 55:1-5 (MSG)**

**Prayer:** Our Father, you are the giver of breath, life, and every good thing. We worship you, the one who sustains us. Inspire our time together and form us through our services into who you are calling us to be. May our services provide a feast of shalom for all who gather to draw near to you.



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



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GROWING A HEALTHY  
**HOPE AVENUE**

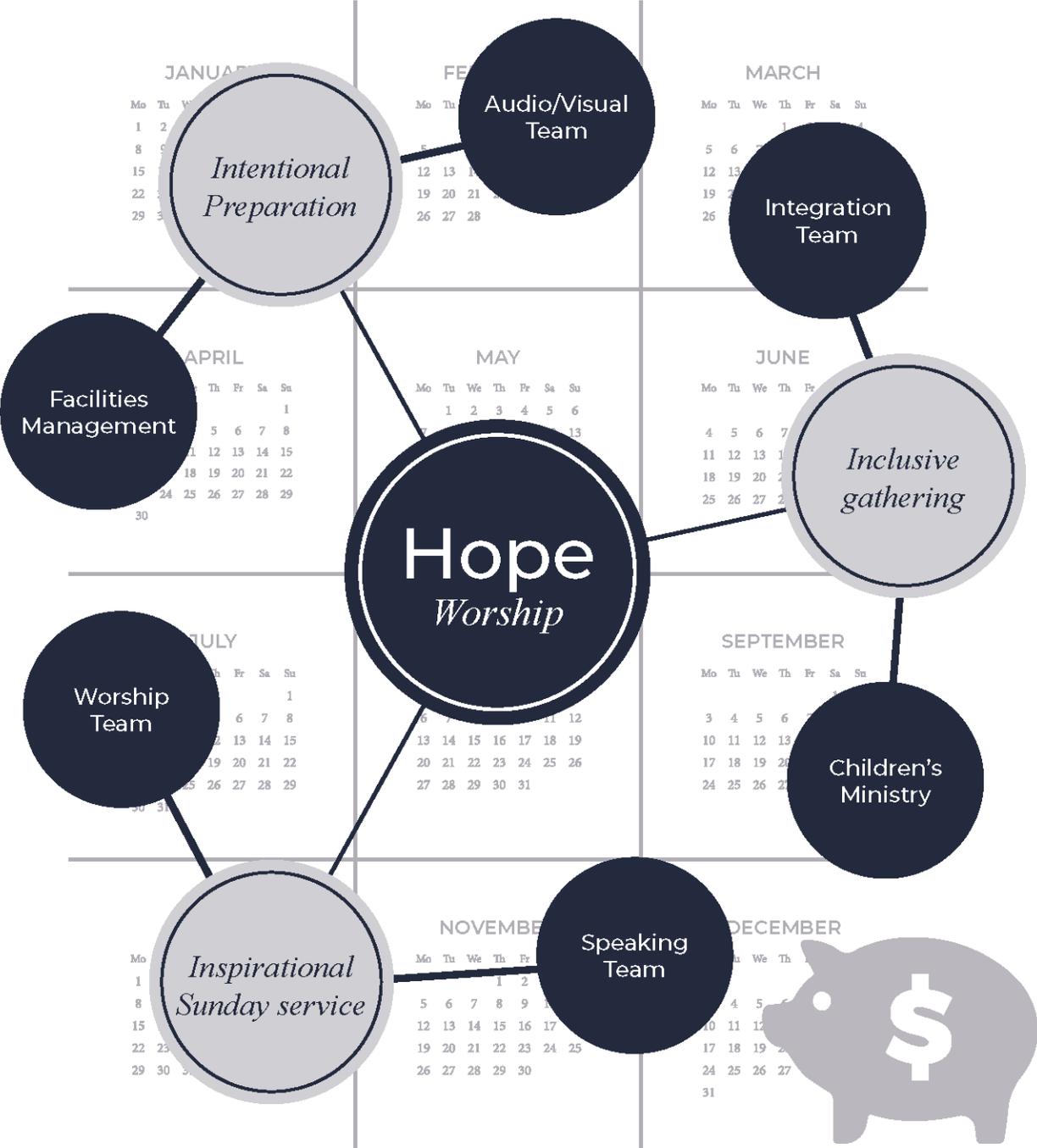
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# SESSION 1

WHAT IS A HEALTHY  
HOPE AVENUE?

HEALTHY MINISTRY IS  
**TEAM BASED**



**PASTOR LED**

## HEALTHY

# HOPE AVENUE

Worship is our response inside of Christ's perfect response. We participate in the objective reality of Christ's vicarious life of faith, prayer, worship, thanksgiving, and self-offering to the Father. Jesus is our eternal High Priest who sweeps us up into divine worship.

Worship

The calling on the ministry to inspire and bring hope to the congregation on Sunday morning. Under the guidance of a capable lead pastor and able ministry team, the healthy church clearly knows their purpose for when and why they meet – to commune with Jesus.

## PROCESS

*Intentional Preparation*

*Inclusive gathering*

*Inspirational Sunday service*

### Looks like:

- Worship and Integration that are communicating, coordinating, holding planning meetings, and working well together.
- How are we using the RCL?
- How do our special worship events connect to neighborhood engagement?

### Contextualize:

- Are there clear roles and expectations for team members?
- Do the giftings and skills of your leaders match their roles?
- Can they consistently maintain the week-to-week flow?

### Looks like:

- Intentionally welcoming, well-coordinated ministries with clear next steps to discipleship: Greeters, Ushers, Parking Attendants, Children's Ministry, New Member classes, Spaces for fellowship and developing new relationship.

### Contextualize:

- Are guests able to meaningfully follow the service without confusion?
- Does the content of our service spark conversations?
- Do we make physical accommodations? (Mother's room, wheelchair access, etc.)

### Looks like:

- A service that celebrates the nature and presence of our triune God and is participatory with congregational response.
- For instance:
- Communion, baptism, praise, confession, dedication, responsive reading, giving, and scripture reading.

### Contextualize:

- Do guests feel welcome?
- Would a guest be able to participate in our service?
- Is our preaching scripture-based and applicable to the lives of our congregation?

## Reflect

*Involving God's words to us and our words to God.*

*Do we provide space for fellowship?*

*Is the centrality of Jesus proclaimed and experienced throughout our worship gatherings?*

*Is our integration ministry equipped and engaged?*



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



## What are the markers of a Healthy Hope Avenue...

- An inspirational worship service centered on Jesus is the foundation of every gathering. Elements that foster an inspirational service:
  - » A tone of celebration and theme aligned with the season of the Worship Calendar for each service.
  - » congregational response incorporated into the service (i.e., communion, offering, singing praise, silent meditation, etc.)
  - » Christ centered preaching and worship.
- Intentional preparation creates a worshipful and welcoming environment for members and guests. Intentional preparation considers:
  - » The order of service
  - » Alignment with the [Worship Calendar](#) and Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)
  - » Recruiting and Equipping team members with skills and gifts that match the team roles.
  - » Consistency across the Avenue.
- An inclusive gathering is crafted where members and guests meaningfully participate in the service. Building blocks of an inclusive gathering include:
  - » A well-developed integration ministry with hosts and greeters to orient and help guests feel at home.
  - » Children's and Youth Ministry to provide entry points for all generations to worship.
  - » Signage and accommodations for accessibility for those with physical disabilities or are neurodivergent.
  - » A simple, clear weekly bulletin or slide that communicates to members and guests an outline of what to expect.
- An accessible and available digital Hope Avenue is developed. Whether through Zoom, livestream, or a shared video recording there is an option for members and guests to virtually worship with the congregation.
- Participants in the service move beyond receiving a message and responding through worship and prayer, and are provided with clear next steps to participate in the life of the church. (Next steps are communicated both in person and digitally).
- Participants in the service are not only given information about who Jesus is but experience his love through the environment created and flow of the service.

**Participants in the service are not only given information about who Jesus is but experience his love through the environment created and flow of the service.**

## Reflection Questions:

1. What elements of a Healthy Hope Avenue do you have in place?
2. What gaps do you see in your Hope Avenue?
3. What are some shifts that need to take place in your church for a healthier Hope Avenue?



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# SESSION 2

HOW DO I DEVELOP  
AN INSPIRATIONAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE?



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



Gathering for worship is a crucial part of the Christian life. Our habits form patterns that shape us. During the intentional flow of a worship service, a beautiful mystery occurs—we are unified with Christ and one another when we gather in worship. The order of our service, along with the rituals and practices we include, form and create the space for us to be increasingly transformed into the image of Christ. Corporate worship is more than the transfer of information; it is an experience and reminder that we are a part of God’s love story for humanity.

**In You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit**, author James K.A. Smith describes the narrative arc of Christian worship and outlines the key purposes of worship:

**1. Gather** - we respond to a call to worship reminding us that God is the initiator and wants us to be with him.

Throughout the Bible and history God is calling out his people. We are not called out to be better or separated from culture, but to remember who we really are. We are called out to be blessed in preparation to be sent out to be a blessing.

The purpose of gathering is not to come together to get our individual needs met but to enter into a missional movement as the body of Christ. To turn toward and relish in our relationship with God and one another. The church is a place of belonging and shared mission.

Elements included in this portion of the service:

- Call to Worship
- Greeting Neighbors
- Announcements.

**...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18-20**

**2. Listen** – we listen as we hear the word of God proclaimed. During this portion of the service, we are reminded that we are invited into the very life of our triune God. The Biblical story is our story.

Elements included in this portion of the service:

- Scripture Reading
- Spiritual Formation practices (i.e., silence, lectio Divina, examen, etc.)
- Children’s sermon
- Sermon (using the RCL pericope)
  - » For distinctives of inspirational preaching that goes beyond the transfer of information, check out our Teacher vs. Preacher Church Hack.

### Reasons for the RCL

You don’t get stuck in a rut of your favorite passages.

Your congregation gets a balanced exposure to the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.

The Scripture texts always relate to the church season.

The overall structure of worship reenacts the life and ministry of Jesus Christ over the course of each year.

The biblical content of worship increases.

**3. Commune** – we participate in the celebration of relationship between us and God, and us and one another at the table. This portion of the service is an opportunity for response. We are not creating something new; we are joining in with a flow of worship that is already occurring between Father, Son, and Spirit. There is an emphasis that all are invited, which requires reconciliation between one another and with God.



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



During this portion of the service, it is critical to disciple members and guests why and how to participate in this portion of the service. For example, during communion it is equally important to explicitly share how to receive the orderly manner and the symbolism of the bread and fruit of the vine. Communing is where we join in and are increasingly transformed into the image of Christ.

Elements included in this portion of the service:

- Praise
- Offering
- Communion
- Intercessory prayer
- Confession

4. **Send** – we go out into creation as God’s image bearers commissioned to carry out his mission to invite others to find humanity in this story. This is the full circle moment of the service, a call to action to join with Jesus in our day to day lives.

Elements included in this portion of the service:

- Benediction
- Songs of sending

## Order of Worship

When we prepare for worship service, we set the table for a feast! Church works best when it is more of a potluck than a catered meal. Everyone contributes to and participates in the feast. However, it is not a thrown-together event where everyone brings a side and there are no main courses. The congregation is coached and prepared in advance for how they will participate. For many it will be through their presence, participation in group worship, and silent prayers during the service. The preparation and inspiration for a worship service can be like creating the menu and theme for a meal. The members of your Hope Avenue team spend time in prayer preparing and collaborating to develop the menu that aligns with the theme of that season in the [Worship Calendar](#).

It takes time to prepare a nutritious meal. Think about the difference between preparation and nourishment of roasted vegetables and opening and eating a sugar filled snack. Your Hope Avenue teams will have meetings and weekly preparation to set the table for the body to come together and worship. One way to create a well-balanced and inspirational service is to develop a consistent order of service that creates the space for congregation to worship and for Hope Avenue members and teams to transition smoothly between portions of the service.

**It will be beneficial for your team to develop the order of service that aligns with your context. If you need an example to jump start your ideas, click here for our [Order of Service Church Hack](#).**

**Take some time as the Hope Avenue team to meet and prayerfully consider your order of service. How can your service align with the arc of narrative worship?**



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## DESIGNING A WORSHIP SERVICE

Write out the current order for your worship service. You may use some of the words mentioned in Session 2, or your own words to describe the parts of your service.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Consider the following purposes you may wish to convey through your worship service.

- **Our service points toward worshipping Jesus.**
- Our service features a balance of worship actions.
- Our service encourages participation.
- Guests are able to meaningfully follow the service without confusion.
- Our service is conversational, involving God's words to us and our words to God.
- Our service content sparks conversations that continue into the fellowship afterward.

**Look at the typical format of your worship service. Considering the list above, what purpose does each part of your current service fulfill?**

Flow of worship service:

Purpose:

- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



## REFLECT & REFINE YOUR ORDER OF SERVICE

**Do the purposes of each portion of your service align with the narrative arc of worship?**

**Are there changes that need to be made to align with each season of the Worship calendar? (For example, will you participate in communion weekly during Easter?)**

Flow of worship service:

Purpose:

- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |



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# SESSION 3

WHAT ARE THE KEY  
COMPONENTS OF AN  
INTEGRATION TEAM  
INTEGRATION MINISTRY?



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A crucial part of the Hope Avenue of a congregation is the Integration Ministry. Integration is an intentional process to create a welcoming environment for guests. Its purpose is to create a system by which we can keep constant contact with visitors with the purpose of participating in what the Lord Jesus may want to do in their lives. This ministry is the pathway to discipleship. It builds relationships with guests and creates the safe and welcoming context for seekers to participate in the service and experience the love of Christ.

## What is Integration Ministry?

1. The intentional process of creating a welcoming environment for guests.
2. A system by which we can keep contact with visitors with the purpose of participating in what Jesus may want to do in their lives.
3. Forming relationships with guests and creating a safe and welcoming context for seekers to participate in the service and experience the love of Christ.



## What is the Purpose of Integration Ministry?

The purpose is to create a safe and welcoming space for guests. To accomplish this goal the following must be considered:

1. Physical ambiance
2. Proper signage.
3. Well-positioned greeters
4. An effective information table
5. Connection Cards
6. Proper follow-up

## Who Should be a Part of Integration Ministry?

The members of the team make the “first impression” on your guests. So, these should be your members who naturally connect with all kinds of people. People who welcome and guide, not smother or monopolize.

## Before Services

- **Parking Greeter:** The first point of contact. The initial contact is made in the parking lot, it is done with a sincere smile and guides the person to the second point of contact.
- **Door Greeter:** This is the second point of contact at the front door. This person directs the visitor and points out the restrooms, children's ministry, the sanctuary, and refreshments.
- **The Friend:** This is the person that will intentionally look to befriend the visitor. He or she will offer refreshments, take them to the information table and introduce them to others in the body. This person is available before and after services.
- **Usher:** This is the last step. It's the step where the visitor will be seated in a comfortable place and to their liking.





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## Before & After Services

- **Information Table Greeter:** When services are not in session this individual makes sure they can answer any questions a guest may have. The table must have bulletins, connections cards, and a ready supply of gifts for guests. This person must also make sure to collect the vital information. Before leaving this person provides the ministry leader and pastor with a list of visitor information.
- **Person(s) who craft Relational Spaces:** Have a coffee station and/or snack bar set up with seating nearby. These areas provide a place for a natural gathering of people and for conversation to flow.
- **Person(s) who follow up with visitors:** Send a personalized thank-you letter to be received by Friday, and make a phone call on Tuesday night thanking them for visiting our church and inviting them back.



## What are the Benefits of an Integration Ministry?

- An integration ministry will create an inclusive and befriending environment where guests and members feel welcomed from the parking lot to their seat.
- An integration ministry creates movement. The idea is to move a first-time guest to a second-time guest, to a regular attender, and eventually to a member of the local body.
- An intentional integration ministry will create an environment on Sunday morning where guests and regular attendees will engage in worship and the word with much more ease.
- An integration ministry creates needed pathways for disciple-making relationships to spark.



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



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## INTEGRATION MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

Part of GCI's core identity is inclusivity, as we reflect the nature of our Triune God. One way to make sure our churches are spaces for a real encounter with Jesus and one another is to have a well-organized integration team. Having this team in place may seem like a minor detail, but it is a vital element of a missional church. These team members help set the tone for a welcoming space, and provide a means for members to engage and serve within the congregation.

Consider who in your congregation naturally plays the role of a host, who listens well, is warm and welcoming, and is informed about the life of congregation. Gather this group together and develop or refine your integration ministry.

### Go on a field trip together

**In person:** Ask Hope Avenue Team members to visit two or three robust congregations in your surrounding community. (It's helpful if they meet at a different time slot than your own.) Observe how it feels to be a visitor and notice how their greeter ministry works. Pay attention to how the service flows and how the different members of the teams transition between different parts of the service. You might get some great ideas!



**Digitally:** Host a watch party for your team or take turns worshipping online with other churches. Observe how the experience is developed to connect you with the congregation, and what next steps are given to help you engage beyond streaming the service.

### Map your facility

**In person:** Review a sketch (floor plan) of your facility with your team. Where would optimal places for signage, parking lot attendants, and greeters to be positioned? Are there any changes that need to be made to help the facility be more accessible and welcoming? (For example: Is there wheelchair access? Are there diaper changing tables in all restrooms?)

**Digitally:** Participate in your online service as a guest. If you were a guest, would you:

- Be able to find the link to join on your website? Know when and how to participate?
- Have opportunities to connect with or contact a leader in the congregation?
- Feel welcomed and know how to participate in all portions of the streamed service (i.e., as a digital service participant?)



Based on your experience what changes could be made to better integrate online guests into the congregation?



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## Next steps

Church next steps are intentional actions that individuals take to further engage their faith within your congregation. Intentionally creating a pathway for guests to connect beyond the Sunday service can actively support their spiritual formation by facilitating responses that lead to deeper relationship with Christ and with the congregation.

**In person:** Review your in-person next steps plan and printed material.

- Are there connection cards or QR codes available to complete a connection card? If so, is there a connection card follow-up team and plan in place?
- Some example next steps:
  - » Follow Jesus
  - » Ask a question/Connect with the pastor
  - » Serve by volunteering
  - » Participate in the Love Avenue (Outreach Team)
  - » Give
  - » Attend a New Believers Class
  - » Join a Connect Group
- Is at least one clear next step explicitly shared and explained during the service?
- Is the information correct and up to date on any printed material you provide?



**Digitally:** Review your digital next steps

- Are there digital connection cards available? If so, is there a connection card follow up team and plan in place?
- Are links provided to take any next steps that are shared?
- Is there a clear way to connect with the pastor or congregation on the same link or page where the digital service is provided?



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# SESSION 4

WHY IS CREATING AN INCLUSIVE  
GATHERING IMPORTANT?



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



Healthy Church always seeks to create a healthy environment where both attendees and guests feel welcomed. This is not something that occurs accidentally—there must be some intentionality behind it. In fact, it is a vital ministry of the church. The Hope Avenue of a Healthy Church begins with such a ministry. In our previous session, we looked at developing an integration ministry to create a welcoming environment.

Healthy churches are more focused outward than inward. Norman Wirzba, author of *The Ground of Hospitality*, described God's creative power as "a hospitable power that constantly makes room for everything else to be and to flourish." To make room for another to flourish, often we first must decenter ourselves. This is the life we are called to, as we're being conformed to the image of an other-centered, self-emptying God of Love.

## Consider the following ways to make room and center newcomers:

- Logistically, expect guests every time, and adjust your facility accordingly. Rather than locking your doors for security, consider placing someone near the door at all times. Imagine the courage it takes to go to a new church, only to arrive a few minutes late and find the doors locked. Watch for latecomers and greet them warmly. Set up extra chairs each week; bringing out more chairs after guests arrive signals to them that they are at best, unexpected and at worst, unwelcome. Communicate to regular attenders to leave open the last row and some aisle seats for visitors.
- Expect and plan for differently abled guests. Reserve a spot for a wheelchair. If your building isn't accessible to a wheelchair, be in prayer and discernment about finding another space. Always have speakers use a microphone to include listeners with hearing loss. Making an effort to include and accommodate every hearer must outweigh any discomfort a speaker feels over having their voice amplified.
- Expect children every week. If you don't have a children's program, there are resources in Equipper to help you develop one. In the meantime, you can provide a welcome gift that includes toys and activities to use during the service.
- Plan ahead for an accessible message. Expect guests who have no knowledge of the Bible. Don't make fleeting biblical references, like, "Everyone remembers the story of Noah." If you mention Noah, at least briefly explain who he was and the flood. Save the difficult theological terms for the Faith Avenue. Your listeners include those who read on different levels and have a variety of learning styles. If you pass out Bibles, don't assume guests know where to turn to find the passage. It's more inclusive to print the Bible passage in a program and include it in PowerPoint slides.
- Plan ahead for an organized, meaningful worship service. From the perspective of new visitors, a lack of preparation will feel chaotic, unsafe, and alienating—and it conveys a lack of credibility. The audience feeds off the energy of the leaders involved in the worship service. We must take responsibility for the energy we bring. Simply put, feeling prepared will lower your own anxiety and by extension, help everyone present to feel calmer.

### Children's Ministry Resources:

Choosing a curriculum that aligns with the RCL allows families to continue discussing the message since all ages will have discussed the same passage. Here are a few used by GCI congregations:

Resources for RCL-synced children and teen studies/classes:

- [Spark House curricula](#) (various options for children and teen teaching curricula, including ones synced with the RCL)
- [Ministry to Children](#) (lessons synced with RCL)
- [Trinitarian children's lessons](#) (by Jonathan Stepp – free lessons for various seasons in the worship year, including the upcoming Advent season)
- [Sermons 4 Kids](#) (free RCL synced resource)



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



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With some planning and intentionality, we can help our guests feel welcome and included. May we love one another, laying down our lives for the sake of fellow human beings, just as Jesus loved us!

## Reflection questions:

1. What are some characteristics of your service that reflect an outward focus and inclusive Hope Avenue?
2. Take some time to evaluate your Children's Ministry by completing [this survey](#).
3. What are some areas of your Hope Avenue that could be tweaked to benefit newcomers?
4. Review the markers of a healthy Hope Avenue from session one along with your answers to the questions above. What are the two or three practical shifts you can make to develop a healthier Hope Avenue?



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# SESSION 5

HOW DO I INTENTIONALLY  
BUILD TEAMS?



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



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## A healthy Hope Avenue team starts with...

- Developing a culture in the congregation that is centered on Jesus and creates a welcoming environment for members and guests to participate in the service
- Continuing to discern gifting of the congregation and crafting a weekly service that proclaims the tangible hope and assurance of Jesus.
- Discerning from those who are gifted in participating in ministry sub teams:
  - » Worship Team
  - » Speaking Team (including offering, communion, etc.)
  - » Children's Ministry
  - » Integration Team
  - » AV Team
  - » Facilities Management

## How to Start a Healthy Hope Avenue Team

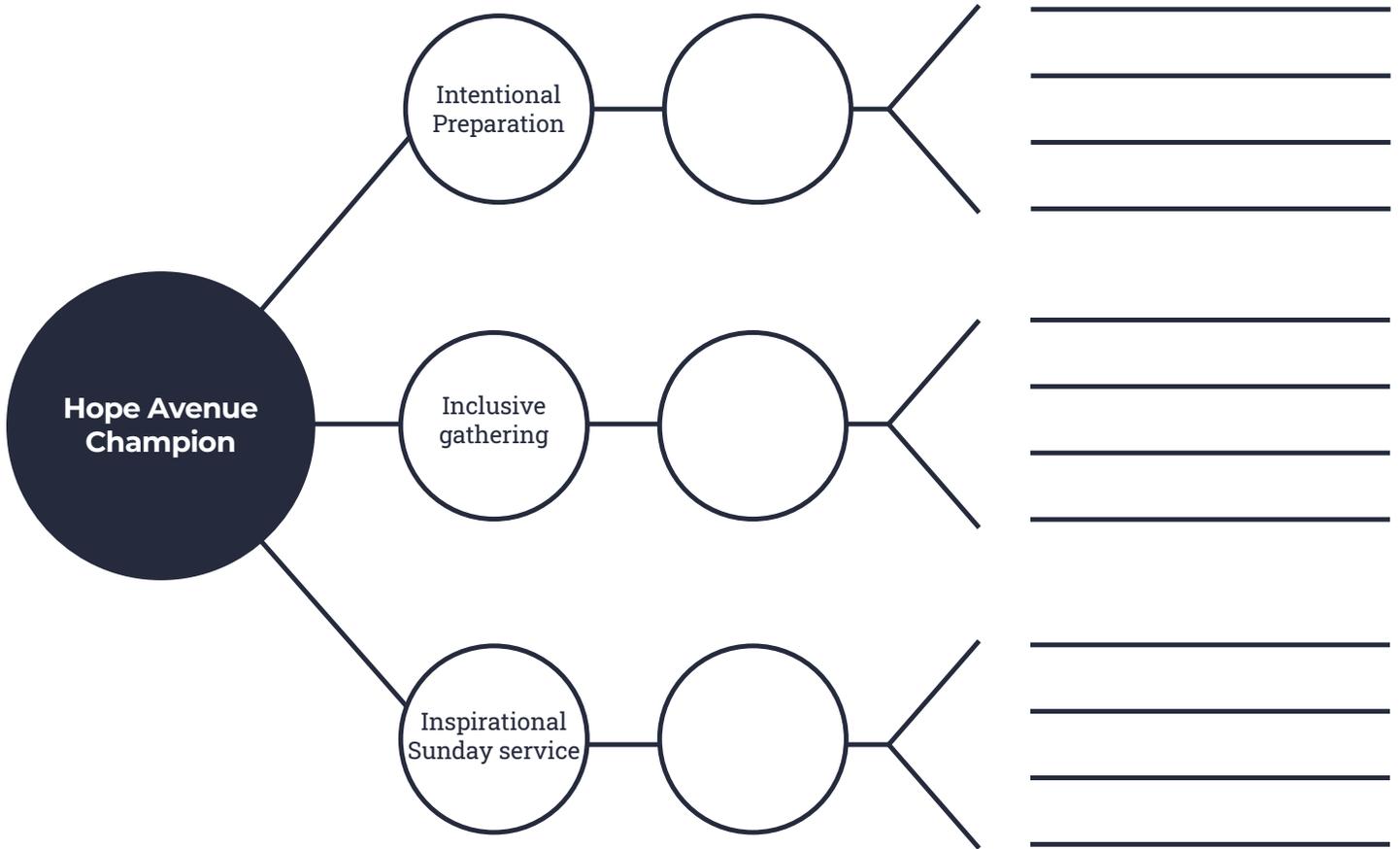
- Invite those currently serving in the Hope Avenue or who would be a good fit for the team to join a six to eight week connect group.
- During the group, go through verses or choose a curriculum that focuses on the importance of worship.
- Intentionally pray for your congregation and neighborhood.
- [Share the job description](#) of their role with each team member and take them around the [ApprenticeSHIP Square](#). Help them experience healthy equipping, empowering, and encouragement that will help them replicate this leadership when building their teams within the Hope Avenue.



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



Consider the best practices above. Who on your leadership team or in your congregation would be a good fit for the Hope Avenue? Use the sheet below and the Hope Avenue Diagram (Pg. 4) to prayerfully consider and brainstorm the roles and individuals who would be a best fit for your Hope Avenue.





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# SESSION 6

WHAT ARE THE ANNUAL RHYTHMS  
OF THE HOPE AVENUE?



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As the church moves through the spiral of the Christian year, we remember God's faithfulness in his promises of mercy, truth, justice, and love. We humans need reminders and rituals. We follow the Christian calendar not out of ritual or obligation, but because rhythms and reminders form and shape us.

The Christian calendar reminds us of God's redemptive acts towards humanity. The GCI graphic shows the seasons of the Christian calendar. Jesus is at the center of the calendar because he is the embodiment of God drawing humanity to himself.



In between each of the seasons there are culminating days that help us transition between the meaning of the seasons. The chart below highlights the holy days and gives a summary of each season



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



## GCI WORSHIP CALENDAR



### ADVENT

A season of anticipation. Posture of waiting with expectation.



### CHRISTMAS

A season of joy and wonder – God is with us! Posture of contemplation and celebration.

CHRISTMAS DAY



### EPIPHANY

A season of discipleship. Posture of sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning who he is.

EPIPHANY DAY

TRANSFIGURATION DAY

ASH WEDNESDAY



### EASTER PREP

A season to open ourselves wider to more fully appreciate our deep need for Jesus. A posture of preparation to receive the overflowing graces of Good Friday and Easter.

PALM SUNDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY



### EASTER

A season of transformation – the inauguration of new creation. Posture of contemplation and celebration.

EASTER SUNDAY

ASCENSION DAY

PENTECOST SUNDAY



### ORDINARY TIME

A season of participation with Jesus in the building of his church. A posture of being sent and joining Jesus in disciple-making..

TRINITY SUNDAY

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



Meet with the leaders of your congregation a month or two ahead of the season in the calendar. Do some research on the meaning of the season. Spend some time in prayer planning a meaningful and inspirational celebration of our triune God.

## W O R S H I P C A L E N D A R SEASONAL PLANNING SHEET

Season of the Year	
Meaning of the Season	
Pericopes of the Season	
Local Theme or Sermon Series	
Music Aligned with Theme	
Spiritual Practices/ Congregational Participation	
Holy Days During this Season	
Additional Notes	



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



## DESIGNING & PLANNING A SEASONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Use your completed Seasonal Planning Sheet to create your Seasonal Worship Service flow.

<p>Season of the Year</p>		<p>Date:</p> <p>Flow of worship service &amp; Purpose:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>
<p>Pericopes of the Season</p>		
<p>Spiritual Practices/ Congregational Participation</p>		
<p>Holy Days During this Season</p>		
<p>Additional Notes</p>		



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# SESSION 7

FOLLOW-UP SESSION -  
REFLECTING ON YOUR  
HOPE AVENUE



# GROWING A HEALTHY HOPE AVENUE



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Reflecting on your season in the Christian calendar take time as a team to discuss the first cycle:

- What wins are you celebrating?
- How can you make shifts to refine the process and improve the experience?
  - » Is there something you need to stop doing?
  - » Is there a new practice that can be implemented?
- **Connect with the other Avenue Champions:** Are there opportunities to collaborate or support each other that are being missed?

# APPENDIX

## SAMPLE SESSION 6 TOOLS

Meet with the leaders of your congregation a month or two ahead of the season in the calendar. Do some research on the meaning of the season. Spend some time in prayer planning a meaningful and inspirational celebration of our triune God.

# W O R S H I P C A L E N D A R SEASONAL PLANNING SHEET

Season of the Year	<i>Advent</i>
Meaning of the Season	<i>Celebration of the incarnation; anticipation</i>
Pericopes of the Season	<i>Matthew 24:36-44; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 1:46-55; Matthew 1:18-25</i>
Local Theme or Sermon Series	<i>A Weary World Rejoices</i>
Music Aligned with Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i></li> <li>• <i>Deliver Us</i></li> <li>• <i>The King is Coming</i></li> <li>• <i>We Wait</i></li> <li>• <i>Within Our Darkest Night</i></li> <li>• <i>O Holy Night</i></li> </ul>
Spiritual Practices/ Congregational Participation	<i>Advent Candle Lighting</i>
Holy Days During this Season	<i>Each Sunday in Advent prepares the congregation to celebrate Christmas Eve, and transition to Christmas season.</i>
Additional Notes	<i>Intentionally choose individuals or families for candle lighting.</i>

# SAMPLE SESSION 6 TOOLS

## DESIGNING & PLANNING A SEASONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Use your completed Seasonal Planning Sheet to create your Seasonal Worship Service flow.

<p>Season of the Year</p>	<p><i>Advent</i></p>	<p>Date: <i>11/27/22</i></p> <p>Flow of worship service &amp; Purpose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Gather</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Call to Worship:</i> <i>Scripture - Psalm 122</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <i>Commune</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Praise Set:</i> <i>We Wait</i> <i>The King is Coming</i></li> <li>- <i>Offering</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <i>Listen</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Advent Candle Lighting: Hope</i> <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i></li> <li>- <i>Sermon - Matthew 24:36-44</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <i>Commune</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Communion</i></li> <li>- <i>Praise:</i> <i>O Come, O Come, -</i> <i>Emmanuel</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <i>Listen</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Announcements</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>6. <i>Send</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Benediction</i></li> <li>- <i>Song of Sending: O Holy Night</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p>Pericopes of the Season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Matthew 24:36-44</i></li> <li>• <i>Romans 15:4-13</i></li> <li>• <i>Luke 1:46-55</i></li> <li>• <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i></li> </ul>	
<p>Spiritual Practices/ Congregational Participation</p>	<p><i>Advent Candle Lighting</i></p>	
<p>Holy Days During this Season</p>	<p><i>Each Sunday in Advent prepares the congregation to celebrate Christmas Eve, and transition to Christmas season.</i></p>	
<p>Additional Notes</p>	<p><i>This week's candle lighting led by the Jones family.</i></p>	

## WORKS CITED

You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit by James K.A. Smith, Brazos Press; Illustrated edition, April 5, 2016

The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching Paperback, by Robin Knowles Wallace, Abingdon Press, May 1, 2011