

## **Appendix C**

### **Chapel at Covenant Theological Seminary**

Chapel takes place every Tuesday and Friday during the regular school year at Covenant Theological Seminary. Chapel is the one regular place and time for community gathering. Ordinarily chapel is formatted as a worship service but at times it is not. Sometimes there will be topical presentations and information sharing of a more informal nature as many PCA churches have in non-worship settings. When chapel services are worship services they will include aspects of worship services as represented in a variety of local PCA churches. In a seminary setting with a limited time frame, not all of the elements of a formal worship service in a local church will be utilized in every service.

### **Involvement of Women in Chapel Services at Covenant Theological Seminary**

#### **I. Overarching Biblical Principles**

- A. The Bible speaks primarily to human persons made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-28)
  - 1. Men and women alike are called to holiness, love, and Christ-likeness
  - 2. The diversity of male and female is placed within the unity of human persons
- B. Biblical structure is to serve the unity and oneness of the body of Christ
  - 1. The Bible affirms gender based structure and office in the home and the church
  - 2. Husbands and elders are to serve families and churches, not visa versa (Ephesians 5:21-33; I Peter 5:1-4)
- C. Men and women are equal before God in the following ways
  - 1. Made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-28)
  - 2. Fallen (Genesis 3)
  - 3. Redeemed in Christ (Galatians 3:28)
  - 4. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17-18)
  - 5. Adopted as children and joint-heirs with Christ (Galatians 3:28-4:7)
  - 6. Gifted for the benefit of the church (I Corinthians 11:5)
- D. Two important ways men are unique before God are as follows
  - 1. The headship role in marriage is given to the husband (Ephesians 5:22-24)
  - 2. The office of elder is given to qualified men set apart by ordination (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 2 Timothy 1:6)

#### **II. God's Design for the Church**

- A. The body of Christ is to function in mutual submission to Christ the head
- B. God has given order and structure for the smooth functioning of the church
- C. Distinction between office and gifts is essential to understanding the church
- D. Roles and function are not always clearly defined but the office of elder is
- E. The leadership office of elder is restricted to men (see I. D. 2. above)
- F. Women exercise gifts in partnership with men and under the authority of elders (Acts 2:17-18; Acts 18:24-28; Phil. 4:3; I Co. 11:5)
- G. Participation and Leadership of Women in Worship
  - 1. Women are not to have teaching authority in church worship (I Timothy 2:11-15)
  - 2. Women are to participate and exercise gifts in worship (I Corinthians 11:2-16)
  - 3. The call to silence (I Corinthians 14:34; I Timothy 2:12) does not mean absolute silence but silence in relationship to the speaking and ruling authority of elders

#### **III. Women and Chapel Involvement at Covenant Theological Seminary:**

- A. The primary leadership of the worship service should be conducted by those holding the office of elder or those preparing for the office of elder as part of the training of pastors
- B. Preaching of the Word should be presented by those holding the office of elder or those preparing for the office of elder as part of the training of pastors

- C. Since women are instructed regarding the manner of praying and prophesying in I Corinthians 11:5, the command to silence in I Corinthians 14:34 and I Timothy 2:12 cannot mean absolute silence
- D. Female participation in the corporate unison or responsive congregational voice in prayer, song, and scripture reading should be encouraged and expected
- E. Female participation in a single voice in prayer, song, and scripture reading (other than the reading directly related to the preaching of the Word) is appropriate under the authoritative worship leadership of elders (I Corinthians 11:5; 14:26; BOCO 50-2)
- F. Other types of single voice speaking by women or non-elder men beyond song, prayer, and scripture reading should be limited to giving of testimony, sharing, encouraging, and occasional presenting of biblical principles for godly living in an area of one's personal expertise when it meets a particular need of the Covenant Seminary community
- G. The type of speaking described in F above should not be presented with the authority of the office of elder but under the authority of elder leadership
- H. Female participation in E and F above should be implemented with sensitivity to brothers and sisters who may apply biblical principles differently. As the denominational seminary we must be sensitive to those who may disagree without stifling the participation of women and non-elder men in chapel worship services

### **Conclusions**

- A. Women may individually pray, sing, and read scripture at Covenant chapel worship services under the official worship leadership as defined in III. A. above
- B. Women may make announcements, give testimonies, and present mission moments at Covenant chapel worship services
- C. On occasion, women and non-ordained men may be asked to present biblical principles for godly living in an area of one's personal expertise when it meets a particular need of the Covenant Seminary community – so long as it is clearly under the authority of the administrative leadership of the seminary with direct oversight exercised through the Dean of Students