

Insights on Adult Education from the Book of Order

Compiled by Rev. Emily Martin, after an Adult Forum discussion in January of 2010

See the Directory of Worship, W-6.2000 (<http://www.pcusa.org/oga/constitution.htm>)

- We enact our faith both individually and collectively
 - Implications: Our Christian Ed programs should equip us to do both; we do bear some individual responsibility for our faith development, as well as collective responsibility for each other's
- Nurture (bringing to maturity in Christ) and Pastoral Care (acts of compassion and presence) go hand in hand.
 - Implications: One might give and receive care as part of Christian Ed. events; we could be more intentional about this (sharing prayers concerns, praying together, etc.)
- Baptism and Communion are important aspects of Christian Nurture
 - Implications: We shouldn't underestimate the power of ritual and worship to both educate and be conduits of God's grace; some people learn best by enacting/participating/using their bodies.
- Christian Nurture is about claiming our identity as Christians
 - Christian Ed should help us wrestle with the distinctions between the values of faith and culture; presentations about seemingly secular topics should be intentionally connected to faith and morality
- Christian Nurture involves self-discovery
 - Presentations of information are not enough; there must be opportunities for people to reflect and connect information to their own lives; people should change as a result of Christian Nurture.
- Christian Nurture connects us to the larger world
 - We should not shy away from global topics in our programming.
- Christian Nurture builds self-discipline and discipleship
 - We should not set expectations too low
- Christian Nurture deals with the moral and ethical
 - We should be tackling tough issues, even if we disagree
- Christian Nurture helps us make informed choices about Education and Occupation and Relationships
 - How can we do better about this?
- Session is responsible for Education
 - need more opportunities for session to help vision for adult education; session should be regularly participating in Adult Ed events; session member may provide leadership for some adult ed programs.