WORKSHOP II - SYMBOL

A. ASSIGNMENT

I. List 10 Symbols which have lost power in the Local Congregation.

II. List 5 Goals of renewed symbolic life in your congregation.

III. List 5 Blocks to renewed symbolic life in your congregation.

IV. Develop 10 point Program to renew symbolic life for the congregation.

V. Lay out a 1 Year time line for implementing the 10 point program.

B. PROCEDURES FOR WORKSHOP

1) Have total group work individually on first assignment for 5 minutes. Do not give rest of assignment at this time. Do not limit definition of symbols should a question be raised, but refer back to the content of the lecture. Deal with the whole group's insights per the Battle Plan, on page 11.

2) Have total group work individually on Assignment II & III for total of 10 min. Do not give rest of assignment at this time. If necessary to illustrate a Goal and a Block, select one in education area.

3) After item 2 above, have group move into sub-groups (9-12 in each) with assignment to gestalt individual's goals and blocks down to 10. Also (major emphasis) to corporately deal with assignments IV and V. Total time (60 minutes).

C. LECTURETTES

1) Corporate Wisdom: One of the most significant re-discoveries of our time is in the recognition of the power of the corporate mind. You and I have the information needed to reconstruct human life. No longer do we live in the two-story universe where it is assumed that correct wisdom comes down from above. Corporate teamwork is the way that any accomplishment takes place in an urban world.
(May best be used when workshop divides into small groups.

2) Brainstorming and gestalting: Two key methods of workshopping are: brainstorming- in which data is called forth for all participants and it is recorded, in this case on a blackboard, without evaluation. All information seriously given in response to the question is received, and without discussion. Get data out as rapidly as possible. Gestalting- then is the ordering of the data, into an agreed upon number of categories without dropping any of the insights. Then a re-statement is made of each gestalted point.

3) Depth Theological Study: The foundation for recovering self-consciously the power of the symbolic is depth theological grounding over against the demon of "understanding." Imaginal study of the meaning of the symbolic is necessary for the renewal of the church's worship life.

BATTLE PLAN FOR WORKSHOP II- SYMBOL

SEQUENCE OF PRESENTATION:

1) Call for symbols which have lost power and list(from group responses)on the blackboard. Receive all answers. Pick out three items to push. Push reflective type questions: ex. "Who decided that _____ would be part of your worship decor?" "Who picks out the hymns that are used?" etc.

It would be helpful to choose one item which refers to structure of worship, one on decor, and one element of worship (ie. songs). Aim here is to help group be s/c about:

a)Ojective question: Who is sustaining dead symbolism; what groups are making decisions?
and
b)Subjective: Responsibility of participants; involvment in way things are and the way things can be.

(TIME: 20 Min.)

2) Ask one person of each group to lay out its 1 Year Time line and 10 Point Program on board. Engage group in conversation about blocks while boardwork goes on (10 min.). Push primarily for gestalt methodology: Was there a variety of blocks within group's list? How did you end up with the five? What do you think of that process? What would you do differently? How was list of blocks helpful in overall assignment?

Have someone from first group walk seminar through timeline tying each milestone into 10 point program. Allow seminar to ask questions for clarity. Have all groups go thru presentation. Have goals and blocks read and ask others to identify where these were being met by time line and where gaps existed in program. Push the area of study as key to renewal of symbolic life and raise questions of the symbolic outside of the traditional worship structure. Ask comparison questions: Which is most aggressive? What are the dangers? Which is most likely to come off?

Wrap-up: The "most likely" is any of these that a group decides is going to come off and has the symbolic life to hold it present to the mission. This is just an exercise, the whole process must be reduplicated in each local congregation.

5 Min.	20 Min.	10 Min.	60 Min.	45 Min.
Quest. I Individual Work	I Corporate Discussion	II & III Individual Work	II & III Gestalt IV & V Group work	Corporate Present. & Discussion

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WORKSHOP ON WORSHIP

4:15 (5 min.) — CONTEXT: on the need to look at the worship life of the congregation as objectively as we examine the condition of the spark-plugs on our car, or the quality of our food. Explain how to fill in Worksheet 1. Assign one-third of the group to do the sheet with the Communist in mind, one-third with the Bourgeois, and one-third with the Christian churches. — Whole group

4:20 (20 min.) — INDIVIDUAL WORK: Do Worksheet 1 for one of the three communities. — Individually

4:40 (20 min.) — SHARE on the blackboard the brainstorm of all three. Start with Communits. Do Bourgeois thoroughly and deeply. End with the Christian churches, emphasizing especially the dehumanizing problems. Have all participants take notes on all three, using the additional copies of Worksheet 1. — Whole group

5:00 (80 min.) — <u>80-MINUTE WONDER WORKSHOP</u> on problems, trends, blocks, and proposals for Worship in the Local Congregation. — Whole group

Use Worksheets 2 and 3.

Explain the 80-Minute Wonder.

Blackboard Chart:

P Brainstm	Problem Gestalt	Trends Brainstm	Trends Gestalt	Blocks Brainstm	Blocks Gestalt	Proposal Brainstm	Proposal Gestalt
	to 4		to 4		to 4		to 4
1	3	2	5	4	7	6	8
10 min.	10 min.	10 min.	10 min.	10 min.	10 min.	10 min.	10 min.

Each Brainstorm uses 5 minutes to put down wisdom individually and 5 minutes to put it up corporately on the board.

Each Gestalt uses 10 minutes for two people to work on Gestalt and 10 minutes to achieve a corporate conclusion. While the people are working on the Gestalt, the next brainstorm is conducted.

The order of the activities is marked on the chart on the preceding page, 1-8.

The purpose of this fast-moving workshop is to show how discipline can master a vast amount of familiar data in a short time. The most important columns are the Problem Brainstorm and the Proposal Gestalt.

Definition of categories is an important context:

Problems-- Malfunctions; inadequate, dehumanizing practices going on today in the local congregation, which is a global institution.

Trends---- Positive renewal efforts that are going on in the local congregations anywhere in the world that are dealing creatively with the problems.

Blocks---- Trees that have fallen across the road of these trends. Aspects of the local congregation's life and structure that hold positive motion in check.

Proposals- Ways to cut through or go around the trees that block the road. Actual activity that does deal with the blocks.

In the process of gestalting blocks and proposals, keep in mind a search for the major "block" and the key proposals that deal with that block.

6:20 REFLECTION:

(10 min)

1. What insights did we achieve into the major blocks to renewing the Worship Life?

2. Where would you feel we could probe further into seeing the major contradiction?

3. What arenas fo concrete activity would be entailed in carrying out these proposals?

6:50 SEND-OUT