



# Worship Time Discernment



*Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born anew.” - John 3:3 (NRSV)*

Coming through and out of the COVID-19 pandemic, worship attendance patterns for churches across the country (and the world) have greatly changed. This phenomenon is not unique to Holman as congregations throughout the community have wrestled with the next faithful step to grow in ministry.

In response, many Holman church members inquired as to whether the church should shift to having one service. Some observed lower worship attendance in-person with access to joining worship online, while others expressed cost-saving possibilities and potential for growing church school and small group gatherings. Others expressed the priority for growing worship attendance as having two services is important to meet the needs of worshippers at either 8:00 or 11:00 am on Sundays. All agree that our shared priority is to “step out on faith” and trust God in taking new directions in ministry. At its February 2025 meeting, the Church Council began a discernment process on worship times.

At its Saturday, March 1 meeting, the Holman Church Council [shared the results of the surveys](#) from their ministry areas. The council also reviewed [membership and worship attendance data from the past twenty years](#) ([holmanumc.com/churchcouncil](http://holmanumc.com/churchcouncil)).

With a priority on discerning a path for Holman Church to grow in ministry (spiritually and numerically), the Church Council voted in favor of (1) **shifting to one Sunday morning service** and (2) for a **task force to be assembled to recommend a time that would serve the needs of Holman and community**.

The Worship Time Discernment Task Force discerned that the best possible times for one service would be *9:30 am* or *11:00 am* with potential benefits and risks for each time. As a Holman member and/or worshipper, the Pastors and Church Council request that you (1) **pray over and review the Task Force presentation** and (2) **complete the following survey** as the Church Council meets to discern Holman’s next most faithful step in worship.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) What are the most significant aspects of Holman worship for you?**

**2) What could the church gain in ministry by moving to one Sunday worship service? What opportunities for ministry would one service create?**

**3) What could the church lose in ministry by moving to one Sunday service? In what ways could one service hurt the church's ministry?**

**4) As we discern one worship service time, which time (9:30 am or 11:00 am) would best support the ministries of the church? What faithful step is God calling the church to take?**

5) The Church Council and Worship Task Force believe that one worship time *would allow for investment and expansion of before and after Sunday worship ministry opportunities*. With one service, there should be a renewed emphasis on growing small group Christian formation opportunities including:

- *Church school classes for children and youth,*
- *Pastors' Sunday School Class before (or after) worship,*
- *Monthly prayer, yoga and meditation classes/gatherings before worship,*
- *Music lessons or audio-visual training offered*
- *Weekly communion service in the chapel, etc.*

**What before and after worship gatherings could be life-giving for you and/or your family?**