

## 7 Marks of Vital Congregations (even during Covid-19)

### Mark #5: Spirit-Inspired Worship

#### **Share in reading aloud the entire scripture texts and quotes below:**

**Micah 5:6-8** *“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you; but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

**First Corinthians 13:1-13** . . . *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; . . . It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

*“Spirit-inspired worship . . . is standing on holy ground, encountering God, and experiencing wonder. It challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts, and sends people out different. It is not self-gratifying, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment. –PCUSA Office of VCI*

*“the changing contemporary culture demands mainline Protestant worship move from providing rational responses to experiential ones, from a few representatives leading the congregation to broader participation, from being word-based to being image-driven, from isolate individualism to worship that promotes community. –Mark Pierson, *The Art of Curating Worship: Reshaping the Role of Worship Leader**

*“It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake some day and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.” –Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk**

#### **Sample Reflection and Discussion questions:**

- 1) Revitalizing requires adjusting to new circumstances.  
What parts of the scripture and quotes sticks with you?" How do you feel about the virtual or distancing worship requires during Covid-19?
- 2) Have you experience anything new in worship during Covid 19? Is there anything you hope your congregation could continue to do when it returns to in-person worship in you sanctuary?
- 3) How did Dillard’s words make you feel? Do you believe that a sleeping God or a waking God is present in most worship you experience?