Guidelines for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
Hicks Memorial Chapel

1. Our community celebrates the Lord’s Supper every Thursday, as the climax of our worship week.

2. The Lord’s Supper is an ordered activity that at our seminary, in the end, is celebrated under responsibility of the councils of the PC(USA). Communion services are therefore governed by the following guidelines:

   a. The presider is to be ordained or authorized to celebrate communion according to the polity of her or his own denomination. If a Worship Team wishes to invite any other clergy person that ordained PTS faculty and staff members, the Worship Team first ought to consult with the chair of the Chapel Team.

   b. Because we value our ecumenical partners and students, the seminary has sought and received permission to invite ordained clergy from other denominations to preside over the table, provided that the celebration does not contradict the Reformed understanding of the sacrament.

   c. According to the Book of Order, Eucharistic prayers need to contain these elements: thanksgiving to God for creation and providence, for covenant history, and for seasonal blessings, with an acclamation of praise; remembrance of God’s acts of salvation in Jesus Christ: his birth, life, death, resurrection, and promise of coming, and institution of the Supper (if not otherwise spoken), together with an acclamation of faith; a calling upon the Holy Spirit to draw the people into the presence of the risen Christ so that they may be fed, may be joined in the communion of saints to all God’s people and to the risen Christ, and may be sent to serve as faithful disciples; followed by an ascription of praise to the triune God, and the Lord’s Prayer (BOO, W-3.3616).

   d. All baptized believers are invited to participate.

   e. Those assisting in distributing the elements do not have to be ordained, but do need to be baptized.

3. Presiding clergy is asked to wear vestments used in their tradition.

4. We will be providing you with the elements, including gluten free wafers.