

HYMNLETS METHOD OF THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

1. Presenter chooses a brief phrase from any hymn, keeping in mind that less-familiar verses may offer new opportunities for learning. The phrase is written for all to see, and the verse(s) sung or played or both.
2. In silence, participants let the words and music resonate.
3. The verse(s) are sung or played again, and participants list feelings evoked by the phrase, then each tells a story from his/her own life...something that is called to mind by the phrase and the feelings named.
4. Participants respond briefly to the question: If I told that story to the Culture, what would be the reaction? (Books, movies, tv shows, politics, current events, pop songs, country music, works of art, etc.)
5. Each responds to the question: What would have been my Position on this earlier in my life, and what's my Position now?
6. Class lists Tradition-source references that are called to mind by the phrase, and one is chosen for examination in depth. (This takes time; let it go as long as necessary.) Insights and implications are treated with special consideration, but no requirement for agreement or group position is demanded. (Gentleness counts.)
7. The reflection ends with a third singing or playing of the verse(s) chosen, and the word Amen.