Winter 2019 Worship and Sacraments Exam

Section I: Reformed Liturgical Heritage

You are the new pastor of a small rural congregation located near a lake. Savannah, who has been attending worship regularly with her family for several years, tells you that she has never been baptized. During the conversation she states, “Pastor, I want to be baptized in the lake, but my husband said that Presbyterians don’t ‘dunk.’ I want to be dunked in the lake.”

REQUIRED RESPONSES: (Total responses for this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.)

1. Using The Book of Confessions and guided by the provisions of the Directory for Worship, discuss a Reformed understanding of the nature and purpose of Christian baptism. In your response include a discussion of the modes of baptism. Support your discussion with citations (e.g., 0.000) from at least three (3) different documents from The Book of Confessions. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).

2. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1, describe how you would respond to Savannah.
Section II: Constructive Theological Reflection on Worship

The session of Salt Flats Presbyterian Church where you serve as pastor has declared a fast to recognize this year’s Good Friday remembrance. Danica, a youth member of the church, approaches you and says, “Pastor, I don’t understand. Presbyterians don’t fast, do they? I’ve never heard of that. Why should we fast, what good does it do?”

REQUIRED RESPONSES: (Total responses for this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.)

1. Using the Directory for Worship, write an essay about fasting and other practices of discipleship as a part of the worshiping community. All references to the Directory for Worship must include the citation (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Based on your answer in Required Response 1, create an annotated outline for a four-week youth study dealing with practices of discipleship. For the purpose of this exam, an annotated outline is one with explanatory notes.
Section III: Application to Ministry

You are the new pastor at First Presbyterian Church preparing for your first Sunday in worship. In an orientation meeting with session members you ask about the congregation’s worship practices. During the conversation the following comments are made:

José: Scripture is only read before the closing song so people will remember the passages for the day.
Nicole: The offering is collected only on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, since most members get paid only twice a month.
Adum: On communion Sundays, there is never a sermon so worship doesn’t last longer than one hour.

REQUIRED RESPONSES (Total responses for this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.)

1. Using the Directory for Worship, list the fundamental elements of Reformed worship and discuss their appropriate ordering for the Lord’s Day. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1, and demonstrating appropriate cultural and pastoral sensitivity, respond individually to José, Nicole and Adum, making certain to address at least one (1) issue raised by each of them.