

R.E. Cline “The Regulative Principle in Cross-Cultural Church Planting” www.imb.org

Representative examples of what local NT churches did when gathered together:
(See also: Worship in Spirit and Truth, John Frame (Phillipsburg: P&R), 1993 pp. 55-60.)

1. Corporate prayer was offered (Acts 2:42; 1Tim 2:1; 1Cor 14:16)
2. Scripture was read (1Tim 4:13; 1Thess. 5:27; 2Th 3:14; Col 4:15-16, 2Pet 3:15-16)
3. Scripture was expounded in preaching (1Tim 4:13, Lk 4:20; 2Tim 3:15-17; 2Tim 4:2)
4. There was a distinct shift from the synagogue to the gathering of the church (Acts 18:7,11; Acts 19:8-10)
5. The teaching of the word was linked with table fellowship (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7)
6. The songs of the new covenant people both praised God and encouraged one another (Eph 5:19, Col 3:15, 1Cor 14:15,26 cf. 1Tim3:16; Rev 5:9-13; Rev 11:17; Rev 15:3-4)
7. Giving to the poor was recognized as a spiritual service to God and a Christian form of “sacrifice” (2Cor 9:11-15; Phil 4:18; Heb 13:16)
8. The reception and distribution of gifts was related to the office of the deacon (Acts 6:1-6; Rom 12:8,13; Rom 16:1-2; 2Cor 8:19-21; Acts 20:4; 1Cor 16:1-4) and to the gathering of believers (Acts 2:42; Acts 5:2; 1Cor 16:2)
9. The faith was publicly confessed (1Tim 6:12; 1Pet3:21; Heb 13:15; cf. 1Cor 15:1-3)
10. The people received God’s blessing (2Cor 13:14; Luke 24:50)
11. The holy kiss of salutation was commanded (Rom 16:16; 1Cor 16:20); 2Cor 13:12; 1Th 5:26; 1Pet 5:14)
12. The people responded to praise and prayer with the saying of “Amen” (1Cor 14:16; Rev 5:14; Rom 1:25; Rom 9:5; Eph 3:21)
13. The ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper were explicitly provided for. Confession was linked with baptism (1Pet 3:21); and a prayer of thanksgiving with the breaking of bread (1Cor 11:24).