

Liturgist Training

In the United Church of Christ, we are all called to be the ministers to the people. This is especially true when we share the worship leadership as liturgist with our ordained minister. It is an opportunity to serve the church, connect the worship experience to each other, and experience our own growth. As such, we owe it to God, each other, and ourselves to take the responsibility seriously, prepare well, and boldly minister!

We invite all current and prospective liturgists to stay around to become more comfortable and skilled at this important duty. We will practice facilitating people through the order of worship, microphone technique, speaking methods and reading strategies.

Duties of the Liturgist

- **To guide community clearly through the service**
- **To speak clearly, slowly, and distinctly**
- **To sit near the pulpit to minimize the up and down.**

We usually confirm **during the week of your assigned Sunday** and list liturgists several weeks in advance. If you can't make it, please contact the office ASAP. If we don't have your current email in the directory, provide it to us so we can email you the order of worship bulletin before your assigned Sunday.

Parts in the Order of Worship that a Liturgist may wish to be a part of:

- Asterisk * means – “Please rise as you are able” and raise hands as well (when there is no * , then lower hands, you may be seated.)
- * Call to worship, * Song of Praise
- Prayer of Confession
- (Optional) The Giving and Receiving of Offerings = thanks offering and financial offerings.
- * Closing Hymn

Suggested scripts for offerings and prayers:

Thank offering:

"We now come to the time in our service, when we offer thanks for anything we are grateful for. Does anyone have a thank offering this morning? Anyone else?"

Financial offering:

"Jesus taught us that it is in giving that we receive. We will now receive this morning's offering. Would the ushers please come forward?"

Prayer of Dedication:

"All that we are and all that we have comes from you. May these gifts be used according to your will. We ask this through Jesus. Amen."

Other Optional Liturgist Parts:

- Write your own thank offering and prayer of dedication
- Take part in children's blessing

Reading strategies:

Read ALOUD when you practice. Read it to make sense to you. Use your voice to underline what is most important.

Speaking methods:

Slow, distinct, warm up your voice. Read through your reading enough times so that the reading makes sense to you. Drink hot water or tea if necessary, stretch your face beforehand. While reading, look up, pause, be present with people, vary tone, volume, pace accordingly.

Microphone:

Come 10-15 minutes early and test your voice on microphone. Adjust the mike to your height. Speak far enough away so that it doesn't "pop" when you speak into it, but speak directly into it.

Resources: UCC Book of Worship – pg 11; prayers from NCH.

Reminder Guidelines for Liturgists

1. Assigned liturgists are listed in the back of the church bulletin, starting three weeks before the assigned date.
2. The assigned liturgist will be emailed a copy of the service bulletin with their readings on it, Friday morning before service.
3. The liturgist's main reading usually comprises two parts of the service:
 - Call to Worship (Unison or Responsive)
 - Unison Prayer of Invocation
4. Before Sunday morning, it's best to read through the passages silently, reflecting on the cadence of the words and their meaning. Then, the reading should be read aloud, accounting for pauses in appropriate places. If any words are unfamiliar or difficult to pronounce, please consult with the pastor before Sunday service.
5. If an upcoming liturgist cannot be at worship for his/her assigned date, **please let the church office know as soon as possible**. Call 531-8212 or email at office@skylineucc.org.
6. The liturgist should sit where it's most comfortable for him or her, either in the first or second rows, or at the small table where the pastor sits. After the Scripture reading, he or she may return to his or her seat. If a choir member happens to be liturgist, that person will sit with the choir.

Thank You For Your Service!