

God asks the church to be a community sharing a common purpose and continually growing in faith. People experience the presence of Jesus in the world through the ministry of the church.

When your local church serves the needs of people—members and non-members—it is an expression of the love of Christ. The church is created for service.

Christ calls every member of the church into ministry and provides spiritual power and gifts through the Holy Spirit. As a greeter, you are a minister.

After Pentecost, the gift of greeting or hospitality was first exercised for the church and those whom Christ died to save. As believers praised God, their love for one another attracted others to their fellowship and “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Sharing God’s Love

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’” (Ellen G White, *The Ministry of Healing*, 143.)

A greeter performs a major role in ensuring that people see and experience Christ’s love for them. Having received God’s unconditional love through Christ, we are called to extend that same unconditional love to others. The ministry of greeting is perhaps one of the most crucial in the church because it is one of the most visible. It is a ministry that impacts the choices people make for Jesus.



THE MINISTRY OF **Greeting**

Have you been asked to serve your local church as a greeter? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and are wondering what a greeter is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand this role within your local church.

The Role of the Greeter

First impressions are often lasting impressions. Consequently, the ministry of the greeter is vital and one of the most important things that happens in any congregation.

When a person steps into a church for the first time, he or she evaluates the atmosphere. They may be thinking: "Will they accept me? Will it be easy to make friends? Will my spiritual and personal needs be met? Will it be easy to find my way around? Will my family like it here?"

Often the first person to make contact with others, the greeter sets the tone for an individual's experience at church.

The greeter's role involves:

- providing a warm and inviting atmosphere
- striking up conversation with strangers and showing a genuine interest in them
- ensuring that both friends and strangers are comfortable, welcomed and loved
- checking that visitors have somewhere to go for lunch
- answering questions and supplying information about church services and activities
- handing out materials such as "Welcome Packs" and bulletins

Note: Some visitors may like to sign the "visitor's book" or have the church pastor make contact, but this needs to be approached with care to ensure the visitor doesn't feel pushed.

Becoming a Greeter

A greeter is appointed on a yearly basis.

Responsible to

The chairperson of the greeting committee (large churches) or the head deacon or deaconess. The greeter also works closely with the pastor, Sabbath School leaders and the ushers or deacons.

Time Commitment

This depends on the number of greeters and the size of the church.



Roster's vary eg: one Sabbath a month, all Sabbaths for one month per year or one month a quarter.

There may be a greeters' meeting once or twice a year in larger congregations.

You will need to be on duty in the foyer of the church about twenty or thirty minutes before Sabbath School begins and continue until the sermon begins at least. Be prepared to miss some of the program if there is no sound equipment in the foyer.

Term of Office

Two years.

Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of a member for the role of greeter.

- **Hospitality:** Is the ability to provide an open door, a genuine and warm welcome to others. It accepts of the uniqueness of others regardless of race or belief. Hospitality begins at the front door and is ongoing. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he/she has received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:9-10)
- **Helping skills:** Make an impact on those who may have questions or need directions. Practical help and assistance can be invaluable to those with disabilities.
- **Discernment:** Makes it possible for a greeter to listen to the needs of each person. Being able to discern another's frame of mind can influence what care is provided for a person. Creative thinking and engaging other church members to assist are functions of greeters.
- **Exhortation:** Is the special ability God gives to bring encouragement and comfort to others. The greeter will be called upon to help hurting people. This gift is useful with the bereaved, lonely and discouraged.