

**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 a servant body, created for service. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

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

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)

## Ushering

### Training

Time needs to be set aside by the pastor or an appointed person to meet with deacons/ ushers for training.

Training may include items such as:

- first impressions and how to make them positive
- approaching people and understanding body language
- dress and appearance
- eye contact and the importance of remembering names
- how to ask non-threatening questions
- extending invitations
- problems ushers face
- development of relational skills
- how to assist in an emergency



## THE MINISTRY OF Ushering

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

## The Role of the Usher

The usher can minister to those entering the church for Sabbath School, worship and other events such as public evangelistic meetings.

The usher is responsible for:

- identifying those in need of hospitality
- greeting and putting worshippers at ease
- directing visitors to a particular room
- providing physical assistance with wheel chairs or climbing stairs
- escorting members and guests to seats
- distributing materials, hymnals and bulletins
- staying alert in case of emergency and being ready to provide assistance or to contact those who can help in special circumstances

## Becoming an Usher

An usher may be appointed by deacons or a head usher.

### Responsible to

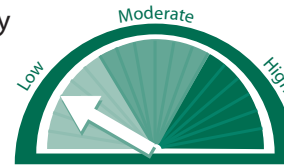
In small churches: the head usher.

In large churches: a team leader.

Your church may have an usher team of which all ushers are members and the head usher may sit with the Church Board.

### Time Commitment

This varies with individual church needs. An usher may serve one time per week or one Sabbath a month (establishing the roster at least three months in advance is advised).



There may be meetings for training, practice, problem solving, discussion and future recruitment.

Regular attendance is a benefit so that ushers are reliable.

### Term of Office:

Two years.

## Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. While no one need feel a burden to exhibit particular spiritual gifts to be qualified to perform the ministry of an usher, certain gifts are certainly helpful.

**Helping skills:** to unselfishly meet the needs of others through practical help. This enables those teaching or preaching to minister the Word of God and enable the hearers to concentrate on the truth they are learning.

**Hospitality:** is the capacity to provide an open door to those in need of food, lodging and fellowship. To assist guests and members physically and spiritually is a great help. An usher can encourage members and visitors to feel "at home" and relaxed.

