



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH of CHRIST
Northfield · Minnesota

300 UNION STREET
NORTHFIELD MN 55057
(507) 645-7532
(507) 645-0930 FAX
church@firstucc.org

Guidelines for Worship Welcomer

The **Worship Welcomer** is the first person that speaks at the Sunday morning worship and welcomes the congregation to our service.

- Please arrive about 10 minutes before the service is to begin
- Check in with the Deacon of the Month
- As the bell rings after prelude (opening music), go to the pulpit and when the bell has ended begin your welcome with these words:

Good Morning! Whatever has brought you to this place at this time, we welcome you, and hope that this hour we spend together in worship and prayer will refresh and renew you for the week ahead. We are happy you have joined us this morning. My name is _____ and I have been attending First UCC for about _____.

- Here you may offer two or three sentences about why this faith community is important in your life or you may choose to use any one of the statements on the reverse side of this sheet.
- Conclude with: **The Lord be with you,** (to which the congregation will answer, “And also with you.”)
- Return to your seat.

Thank you for being a part of the leadership of our Sunday worship service!

The Board of Deacons

Alternative statements:

- a) Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, binds us to other Christians in a unity that does not demand uniformity and a diversity that does not lead to division. “In essentials—unity; in non-essentials—diversity; in all things—charity.
- b) We are a dynamic church community that is attentive to the Word of our still-speaking God. We seek to be responsive to God’s call for justice, mercy and peace.
- c) This congregation is one, which is part of a larger denomination with 144 congregations in Minnesota and 5,888 congregations and 1.4 million members nationwide. As a member of the United Church of Christ, this congregation is part of a Global Mission, which has ministries with partner churches in 85 countries and supports nearly 200 missionaries and volunteers in these settings.
- d) As a church, we look to the Word of God in Scriptures and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to proper our creative and redemptive work in the world.
- e) We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth’s resources. “To believe is to care; to care is to do.”
- f) We believe that each person is unique and valuable. As an open and affirming church, we believe that everyone has a place in the body of Christ. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where people have a strong sense of being valued and loved.
- g) It is here we come to feed our spiritual hunger. It is here we come to gain strength, stamina and community support that helps us through the tough times.
- h) We are here to strengthen our relationships to God and to the human family.
- i) Our UCC has been described as a church that unabashedly engages both heart and mind, tying faith to social justice and shaping theology and service in an ever-changing world.
- j) Our church is a member of an historic denomination that has distinguished itself as a leader, being the first to:
 - o Stand against slavery (1700)
 - o Ordain an African American person (1785)
 - o Work in the mission field (1810)
 - o Ordain a woman (1853)
 - o Ordain openly gay, bisexual and transgendered persons (1972)
 - o Choose an African American leader for an integrated mainline church (1976)