

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY
OF THE
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



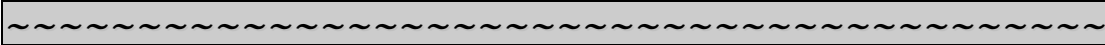
JULY 2007

PROGRAM OF STUDY

**“APPRECIATING THE CME DOORKEEPER:
THE USHER’S DUTY AND
THE WORSHIPER’S RESPONSIBILITY”**

**PREPARED BY:
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INTRODUCTION

The worshiper's individual and collective perception and understanding about the role of the CME Church Usher is very important to the flow and operation of our worship services. Thus, we requested *Ms. Diana Winton, Connectional Usher President, to provide the content for the July 2007 Program of Study. Ms. Winton, who is a member of Curry Temple CME Church, in Compton, California, was elected to the position of Connectional Usher President at the 2005 Lay Institute, held in Louisville, Kentucky.* Since her election our President has been hard at work, organizing and putting together information that will be helpful to the usher ministry. In addition, she has been consistent in making herself available as a doorkeeper and organizer of the ushers for and during connectional events.

This lesson will therefore, provide, insight into the *spirit of the usher ministry* and *the worshiper's responsibility* in responding to the requests, actions, and instructions of our ushers. Hence, what is to follow is not lengthy, yet I trust that it will provide an opportunity for teaching, along with a deeper appreciation for this vital ministry.

Finally, if you are encouraged and helped by this lesson, please relay your appreciation to:

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THE CME DOORKEEPER AS “THE SHADOW WORKER”

WHO ARE THE SHADOW WORKERS? “THE CME USHERS” serving with a positive attitude, working quietly, effectively, and efficiently in the background are “*The Shadow Workers!*” According to Diana Winton, “*God equips an Usher or Shadow Worker for his or her ministry through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These spiritual gifts are special abilities given by God to help make the usher effective. In and through Christ, the usher receives God’s unconditional love, and he/she is called to extend that same unconditional love to others.*”

A DOORKEEPER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IS:

- ❖ An officer that serves in the church where he or she is a member.

- ❖ A greeter that should meet everyone with a smile, making him or her feel welcome. Many times, ushers are the first impression others have of our churches. (“Greetings” is a term and a way of saying welcome, we are glad that you are here).

- ❖ A servant that seats members and visitors politely, courteously, and in a mannerly fashion.

THE MINISTRY OF USHERING IS:

- ❖ A special ministry designed to aid and facilitate the church membership and congregation to receive God’s message during services by *providing a loving and caring atmosphere in which God can manifest His spirit.*

- ❖ **A ministry, which is part of the overall operation of a church service, and plays a critical role in supporting the total program of the Church.**

- ❖ **Being more to the church than merely a seat finder or a doorkeeper. Ushers are official representatives and leaders of the church and work to the Glory of God in witnessing for Him as the “*The Shadow Workers.*”**

- ❖ **One of the most crucial ministries because it is one of the most visible in the church.**

THE USHERS DUTY: WHAT SHOULD THE WORSHIPER EXPECT?

- ❑ **To greet members and visitors with a smile and make them feel welcome.**

- ❑ **To seat members and visitors politely and courteously, at the appropriate times.**

- ❑ **To be helpers, ready to handle all emergencies or assist with them. (Emergencies come in all sizes and shapes, and need to be handled in a quick, effective, and confident manner).**

- ❑ **To assist and aid the Pastor, staff, and congregation during the worship service as needed.**

- To pass out bulletins, visitor cards, fans, and other *approved materials* to assist in the service.

- To know their duties and responsibilities as ushers and leaders in the church.

<p style="text-align: center;">THE WORSHIPERS RESPONSIBILITY: WHAT SHOULD THE USHER EXPECT?</p>
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- To respect and appreciate the role and duties of an usher.

- To greet ushers warmly in return.

- Allow ushers to respectfully seat you quietly and with out any distractions.

- To assist the ushers in keeping the service atmosphere comfortable, and without incident.

- To respect the order of service during the Scripture, Prayer, Affirmation of Faith, the Invitation to Christian Discipleship, Holy Communion, Altar Call, Sermon, and other sacred moments when we commune with God individually or collectively. **WORSHIPERS SHOULD NOT WALK OR TALK DURING THESE TIMES,** unless an extreme emergency occurs.

- **To be knowledgeable of “*Ushering Periods*”, which are *times during the service when ushers are allowed to move to assist worshipers. These times are (but may not be limited to):***
 - **when the choir is singing;**
 - **when the offering is being received;**
 - **during the announcement period;**
 - **during acknowledgement of visitors;**
 - **during pastoral observations;**
 - **after the sermon text is given.**

- **To help us keep your children attentive and quiet during worship service.**

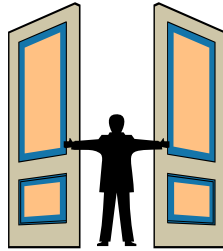
- **To not eat, chew gum, or drink in the sanctuary during service.**

- **As you prepare to leave at the end of service, please help us by picking up around your seat. Thank you.**

- **Enjoy and participate in the service and receive God’s blessings.**

REFERENCE

"THE SHADOW WORKERS"



THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
"DOORKEEPERS"

USHER MINISTRY THEME:

*FROM GOOD TO GREAT!
"USHERS UNITED ON ONE ACCORD
IN THE BODY OF CHRIST"*



Ephesians 4:1-6

BY

DIANA WINTON, PRESIDENT
CONNECTIONAL USHER MINISTRY
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH