

Worship Committee Meets With Ushers

The Worship Committee (present were Cynthia Perkins, Mary Ann Solet and Leela Sinha) met with UUCE ushers, Jon Thomas and Steve Votey.

Our goals were to clarify present procedures re the role of our ushers and to develop new procedures to create a place of holy worship in our sanctuary.

We know that it is very important that the congregation be aware of and hopefully in agreement with these procedures. We welcome and encourage your comments.

The sanctuary doors are closed at 10:15 when the Gathering Music begins our time of music and meditation. We ask that people become quiet when entering and remain silent during this period. We also request that “going and coming” be kept to a minimum. In an effort to relieve congestion in the foyer, we have reintroduced a sign which indicates the sanctuary for music and meditation and the community room for conversation.

The ushers will ask that latecomers be seated **only** during announcements and welcome, the first hymn and when the young people leave to go to their classes. We especially ask that no one enter during any “special” music.

Four chairs near the door and sound system are reserved for the ushers and spouses so that ushers may meet needs which arise during the service.

We believe that two greeters each Sunday is adequate. Visitors with children, after being welcomed, should be told about our RE program, including the nursery if appropriate, and the fact that speakers are in the library so that if the children become restless, the adults may leave with them and still listen to the service.

All speakers from the floor are expected to use the mike brought to them by an usher, and to give their names. This is so that those listening outside, as well as those inside, may hear what is said.

An usher stands at the front of the sanctuary during music and meditation in an added effort to be sure that all feel welcome.

The ushers reserve 5 hymnals so that they may be given to latecomers, with the book open to the song being sung. It would also be helpful if ushers can redistribute extra hymnals as needed.

Greeters and ushers will suggest that everyone wear a name tag but will not insist.

We believe that we need two more ushers so that that all Sundays are covered, as well to provide two more people trained to operate the sound system.

The rentals list of instructions will state that chairs must be left as they are found. This is also requested of any UUCE groups which might rearrange chair. Ushers will check to be sure that rows are arranged properly.

Both the ushers and the worship committee will become familiar with our disruptive person policy although Leadership Development and the Board determine those who should respond during a disruption.

We encouraged Leela to introduce gradually any new formats, ideas, words or actions for worship which she believes may be beneficial for UUCE, especially if they have been successful in other churches. Members are encouraged to comment on changes.

We also encourage all members to contemplate their understanding of what a worship service must provide, including whether it a place and time to gather together as a community or a time for individual journeys, or perhaps both.