

Worship Resources for Celebration of “Ministry Sunday”

(The second Sunday after Annual Conference)

Introduction

The goal of “Ministry Sunday” is to make the moving process less stressful for our clergy and give them more time to get acquainted with the church family.

The second Sunday after Annual Conference has been designated “Ministry Sunday” as approved by 2008 Annual Conference.

The basic idea is to transform the process of moving clergy to new appointments into a two-week process—an outgoing week and an incoming week.

The Sunday in between these two weeks would be similar to a Laity Sunday. If a church has a returning pastor, “Ministry Sunday” would celebrate the ministry of the congregation under the leadership of the returning pastor. If there is a new pastor, then it would be a welcoming celebration. The new incoming pastor would be afforded the opportunity to learn about the ministries

of the congregation and meet members without some of the usual pressure. A pastor can be exposed in one hour to information about the church that would ordinarily require six months.

Either way, the Sunday service would be led entirely by the laity, organized by the lay leader, lay member to annual conference and other leaders of the congregation. A lay speaker might be asked to bring the message. It could be a time when the laity share with the pastor the traditions of the church or celebrate its history.

In each case the clergy would not be responsible for that service or for preaching that Sunday. The returning pastor has the option of whether or not to present the message.

Scripture Passages

Micah 6:8

Matthew 28: 19-20A

Matthew 25: 31-46

Prayers

(“The United Methodist Hymal”)

UMH 69, “For True Singing”

UMH 356, “For Courage to do Justice”

UMH 392, “Prayer for a New Heart”

UMH 481, “Prayer of St. Francis”

UMH 570, “Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola”

UMH 607, “A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition” (closing)

(“The United Methodist Book of Worship”)

506, “Prayer for the Church”

Responsive Readings

(“The United Methodist Hymal”)

UMH 840, Psalm 119: 1-8, 33-48, 129-144

UMH 646, Canticle of Love

UMH 861, Psalm 148

Hymns

(“The United Methodist Hymal”)

UMH 98, “To God Be the Glory”

UMH 99, “My Tribute”

UMH 344, “Tu Has Venido a la Orilla”

(Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore)

UMH 382, “Have Thine Own Way Lord”

UMH 393, “Spirit of the Living God”

UMH 577, “God of Grace and God of Glory”

UMH 583, “Sois la Semilla (You are the Seed)”

UMH 593, “Here I Am, Lord”

UMH 600, “Wonderful Words of Life”

Hymns

(“The Faith We Sing”)

TFWS 2135, “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

TFWS 2149, “Living for Jesus”

TFWS 2150, “Lord, Be Glorified”

TFWS 2152, “Change My Heart, O God”

TFWS 2175, “Together We Serve”

TFWS 2174, “What Does the Lord Require of You”

TFWS 2176, “Make Me a Servant”

TFWS 2223, “They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love”

TFWS 2235a & b “We are Singing/Marching”

CELEBRATING THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW CHURCH FAMILY/PASTOR

LEADER:

Dear friends, today we welcome _____ (names) and (his/her) family. _____ has been appointed to serve as our pastor. _____, you have been sent to live among us as a bearer of the Word of God; a minister of the Sacraments; and a sustainer of the love, order, and discipleship of the people of God.

PASTOR:

Today I reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

LEADER:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness, will you who celebrate this new beginning, support and uphold _____ and _____ and their family in these ministries.

CONGREGATION:

We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

LEADER:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger,

CONGREGATION:

...who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

LEADER:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, strengthen us in our ministries together. Bless richly, we pray, your servants, _____ (names) upon their entrance into our fellowship. Give them and us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for one another and challenge one another that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love, and offering our gifts and talents in your service through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

_____, accept this bible, and be among us as one who proclaims the Word. Amen

_____, take this bread and cup, and keep us in communion with Christ and his church. AMEN.

_____, use this hymnal and book of worship to guide us in our prayer and praise. AMEN.

_____, receive this Book of Discipline, and help us keep the covenant that strengthens our connections as United Methodist. AMEN. _____, receive this globe, and lead us in our mission to this community and all the world. AMEN.

_____, receive this stole, signifying your ordination, and shepherd us as our pastor. AMEN.

_____, receive this stole signifying your consecration and equip us for our ministries in the world. AMEN.

PASTOR:

This yoke has been laid upon me, and I willingly take it upon myself.

PASTOR:

Let us pray.

CONGREGATION:

Lord God, bless the ministries of your Church. We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us. Draw us together in one Spirit, that we may be one in service to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer for Pastor) The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. AMEN.

PASTOR:

Comments by our new pastor. Ending with...The peace of the Lord be always with you.

CONGREGATION:

And also with you.

Celebration of "Ministry Sunday"

litany

Leader: **Awesome god, for the ministries that have nurtured us as your disciples,**

Response: we lift our voices in celebration and praise.

Leader: **Loving God, for the ministries that have enriched the life of our church family,**

Response: We lift our voices in celebration and praise.

Leader: **Father of mercy, for the ministries that have touched the lives of children, youth and those on the fringes of our community,**

Response: we lift our voices in celebration and praise.

Leader: **God of all grace, for the ministries that have helped to transform the world through the power of the holy spirit,**

Response: we lift our voices in celebration and praise.

Leader: **for all that you have done, are doing, and will do in and through us as your loving disciples,**

Leader: **we lift our voices in celebration and praise,
As together we pray as Jesus taught us.....**

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

Service for Celebration of “Ministry Sunday”

Order of Worship –example

Prelude Music

Welcome - Announcements

Songs of Praise

“I Sing Praises”

“In His Time”

Opening Prayer

Song - “The Greatest Thing”

Presenting our Offerings

Thank You, Lord

Taking Time to Greet one Another

Children’s Moment

Parade of Projects - (Celebration of Ministry Litany)

List and recognize the ministries in your church

(i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, UMW, UMM, etc.)

Celebrating Ministers from The United Methodist Church

Message - (The Impact of our Church)

Celebrating the Appointment of our Pastor:

Leader

Stole

Bread and Cup

Bible

Hymnal

Globe

Book Of Discipline

Closing Song

“The Family of God”

Postlude

Ministry Sunday

(An example from The First United Methodist Church in Frederick, Oklahoma)

The purpose of today's service is to inform our new members and guests of the many ministry opportunities and activities that we have going on in our church.

We would also like to introduce our ministries to our new pastor so that he could be a little more familiar with what we have going on here in our church.

I know from talking to him that he is really excited about being here, and he has already voiced some new ideas for new ministries within our church and has given insight on how to enhance the ones we already have.

Since today is our "Ministry Sunday", I thought it would be appropriate to re-explore:

- #1 What ministry is;
- #2 Why it is important for us to minister; and
- #3 How do we minister to others?

Let's take a quick look at these three things:

#1 What is ministry?

John 21: 15-19 reads:

- 15) When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, [a] do you love [b] Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said to Him, "You know that I love You." "Feed (A) My lambs," (B) He told him.
- 16) A second time He asked him, "Simon, son of John, do you love (C) Me?" (D) "Yes, Lord," he said to Him, "You know that I love You." "Shepherd (E) My sheep," (F) He told him.
- 17) He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (G) Me?" Peter was grieved (H) that He asked him the third time, "Do you love Me?" He said, "Lord, You know everything! (I) You know that I love You." "Feed (J) My sheep," Jesus said.
- 18) "I assure you: (K) When you were young, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don't want to go."
- 19) He said this to signify by what kind of death (L) he would glorify God. (M) [c] After saying this, He told him, "Follow Me!" (N)

Jesus says, "Feed my sheep." Ministry, in its simplest terms, is meeting others needs.

As Christians, we have to learn how to become more aware of the needs of others.

Sometimes we become so involved in our own lives that we are blind to what others around us need. There are people around us that are hurting. There are people around us that are sick. There are people around us that are hungry. There are people that are lonely. There are people that are tired, people that are discouraged, people that are lost, and people that are scared.

We, as members of this church, can help meet these needs. We have to train our minds to recognize the opportunity and take advantage of it. There are times when I miss the opportunity to minister to someone, and by the time that I recognize the opportunity, it's too late. I didn't have the right frame of mind. My spiritual senses were not keen enough to notice it right then. We need to strive to have the "mind of Christ."

Jesus said "feed my sheep." Feed his people. Meet needs. That's what we are called to do. That's ministry!

#2 Why is it important for us to minister?

I Peter 4: 10-11 reads:

- 10) Based on the gift they have received, everyone should use it to serve others, (A) as good managers of the varied grace of God.
- 11) If anyone speaks, [his speech should be] like the oracles of God; if anyone serves, [his service should be] from the strength God provides, (B) so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

As we have already established, people have needs. We have gifts and talents to help meet those needs. Previously, I spoke of those that are hurting, tired, hungry, and so on. When we use our gifts, our talents, and our resources to serve others, we should remember who we are doing it for. Verse 11 says, “so that in everything, God may be glorified.” When we minister to others, if we have the right heart, God gets the praise and glory. Ministry is not about us. It’s about Jesus. God does not want our relationship with him to be a private relationship. He fully expects us to be unashamed of our faith, using every opportunity to give him the praise and glory. So when we help people that are in need, he gets the credit, not us. Don’t get me wrong, when we help others, it certainly makes us feel good after we’ve done it, but that shouldn’t be our primary motivation for ministry. Ministry is not just something we do as Christians or as Methodists to make ourselves feel good. Ministry is an important aspect of our relationship with Christ. It is important for us to minister because God needs to be heard and seen by other people. People are looking for a way in this world. There is a song by the group “Casting Crowns” called “If We Are the Body”, and the chorus says:

But if we are the body
Why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing?
Why aren't His words teaching?
And if we are the body
Why aren't His feet going?
Why is His love not showing them there is a way?
There is a way.

This leads me to the third and final point.

#3 How do we minister to others?

I Corinthians 12: 14-27 reads:

- 14) So the body is not one part but many.
- 15) If the foot should say, “Because I’m not a hand, I don’t belong to the body,” in spite of this it still belongs to the body.
- 16) And if the ear should say, “Because I’m not an eye, I don’t belong to the body,” in spite of this it still belongs to the body.
- 17) If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?
- 18) But now God has placed the parts, each one of them, in the body just as He wanted. (A)
- 19) And if they were all the same part, where would the body be?
- 20) Now there are many parts, yet one body.
- 21) So the eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” nor again the head to the feet, “I don’t need you!”
- 22) On the contrary, all the more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary.
- 23) And those parts of the body that we think to be less honorable, (B) we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts have a better presentation.

- 24) But our presentable parts have no need [of clothing]. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable,
- 25) so that there would be no division (C) in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other.
- 26) So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
- 27) Now you are the body of Christ, (D) and individual members of it.

We all have different gifts and talents that God has blessed us with that we can use to help build His kingdom. Some people are good at painting and decorating. Some people are good at building and constructing things. Some are good at mowing and trimming and making the yard look nice. Some are good at cooking. Some are good at organizing. Some are good at fixing cars. Some are good listeners. Some are good with advice. Some are good encouragers. Some are good at serving. Some are good at writing kind notes. Some are good at making people feel at home. Some are good at sharing things.

My point is that we all have something to contribute. We have to be sensitive enough to recognize where we can be used. What are you good at? What do you enjoy doing? You've seen all the ministries that are available. I want to encourage you this morning to pick one and get involved.

I think our church does a great job of ministering to people. If you take a look at our congregation, you can look around and see doctors, lawyers, bankers, farmers, teachers, coaches, school administrators, retail business owners, city/state/federal government employees, hair stylists, insurance agents, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, building contractors, current and retired military...we could go on and on. Our church has good representation among the many facets of our community. Everywhere I look, I see one of you getting involved in the community and making a difference where you are. You are utilizing those gifts that God has blessed you with. This is an inspiration to me and I want to thank you for that. You are setting a good example for the younger generation and showing them what ministry is all about.

Let me give us warning, though, not to become complacent with what we are doing. Sometimes we get a little too comfortable with the way we do things and the way we approach things. Remember God is not as concerned with our comfort as He is our character. Let's continue to build on these strong ministries that we already have. Let's begin to think outside the box a little and discuss starting some new ministries in our church.

Something else that is vital in the health of our church is that we can't neglect each other. We have to minister to each other too. Sometimes we get so focused on ministering to those outside our church family, that we forget about feeding each other. We have to build each other up and rely on one another. We also have to remember to minister to our preacher and his family. We can easily get into a habit of thinking that our pastor is here to minister to us, and that is true. But we have to remember that our pastor and his family are not just here to minister. It is our responsibility and our obligation to minister to them and keep them fed. We have to take care of them.

I'm extremely proud to be a part of this church, and I hope you are too. God certainly has His hand on us and we are truly blessed. I'd like to end by reminding you of our Church Mission Statement. It's on the front of your bulletin. I'd like us all to read this together:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the mission of the First United Methodist Church of Frederick is to make God's vision our vision; that vision includes creating a loving, worshipful community which proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, challenges people to live in a committed personal relationship with Him, and nurtures them in the Christian faith, thereby equipping them to be doers of the Gospel.

This is what it's all about. Let's make it happen!

(scripture passages taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible)