

## Cantor Guidelines

9/14/13

**LITURGY is "the work of the people." Worship prepares us for our "liturgy" at work, home, and with everyone we encounter. Good worship draws on the gifts of all the assembled people, and your gift helps to equip the people to go out and do "liturgy."**

***"The CANTOR must be singer, proclaimer, liturgical minister and spiritual leader, a singer of lullabies and victory songs, a true-story-teller and a person of prayer..."*** Diana Kodner, Handbook for Cantors.

***"...the intent of music is to clothe the liturgical text..."*** Pope Pius X

The cantor:

- provides visual leadership by allowing the assembly to be guided by your physical presence, posture, and movement
- leads worship with solo and group singing
- proclaims the Word
- teaches the assembly songs by singing introductory verses
- animates the singing of the assembly by cuing assembly entrances and leading them throughout the singing

### **Preparation**

1. Meet with John Elmquist to review and rehearse music.
2. Practice the music so it is familiar to you – to avoid any distraction from your leadership and the expression of the texts.
3. As preparation for worship, you may want to read the lessons and psalm during the week. (You can find the texts on this Website: [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org).)
4. Arrive early on Sunday morning to rehearse with the choir and note any special parts of the worship service.
5. A large bulletin, as marked up by Pr. Michael, will be placed in a colored folder (to coordinate with the church year).
6. Select a robe that hangs close to your ankles. Wearing a cincture (belt) is optional. Choose one that does not interfere with going up and down the altar steps. Please remember that the robes are light-weight and see-through, so wearing something light colored without a lot of pattern keeps the assembly focused on worship and not your clothes
7. Attach a wireless mic.
8. Gather in the narthex (choir room if no procession) with other worship leaders for prayer right before worship.
9. Sit in the end chair before worship begins. The cantor does not process or recess.

### **During Worship**

10. Lead the opening hymn from the music stand.
11. Stand at the lectern during all assembly singing (hymns, psalm, liturgy).
12. Raise both hands to invite the assembly to rise before all hymns and Gospel reading. (Be prepared to cue the assembly to stand throughout the worship at appropriate times.)
13. Use one hand to cue the assembly singing. It isn't necessary to keep your hand(s) raised during the assembly singing, only to get them started.
14. During communion hymns, be conscious of a balance of sound between you and the assembly – it is more desired to have a balanced sound than a single voice (you!), even if that means decreasing your volume.
15. After the assembly communes, receive communion with other worship leaders
16. Enunciate clearly in order to let the text come through.
17. Use eye contact with the assembly as often as you are comfortably able to draw them into being an active part of the worship. You may prefer to direct your gaze toward the balcony.
18. Stand near or sit in your chair any time you are not leading the assembly (e.g., when the pastor and assisting minister lead worship from standing in front of their chairs; for the assisting minister at the beginning of the Gospel procession).