

Intercessor: Sample Training Outline 2

Focus on Leading the Prayers

60–75 MINUTES

Ahead of time

Send invitation letters to those who may find this role a calling. Publish an invitation in the church's newsletter or on the church website. Mention this training session for several weeks during the announcements. Talk with and encourage individuals who might be well suited for this ministry.

Materials

- Bible or lectionary
- Copies of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and other prayer books as desired
- Copies of handouts, customized as needed (see the CD-ROM)
- *Serving the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Assisting Ministers* (Augsburg Fortress, 2013), one per participant

Welcome and scripture

Meditative reading of 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Opening prayer

Holy God, you call us always to turn to you with our needs; you promise to hear us and deliver us from want. We thank you for your word, for the spirit of prayer and thanksgiving, for the joy of life in your merciful compassion, and for calling us to be your people. Guide us in the way of speaking that most honors your many gifts. Help this body of Christ know the saving power of your blessed presence. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Get acquainted

Make sure all know one another's names. Invite participants to share what has drawn them to this training opportunity.

Exploring volume and pace

- Bring copies of a set of prayers of intercession.
- Encourage several volunteers to pray the petitions for the group.
- Drawing on the Intercessor Overview ("Leading the prayers," pp. 78–79), unpack the virtues of the mantra "Half as fast. Twice as loud." Work at literally trying to double the volume and halve the pace. Is it possible to be heard all the way in the back as clearly as in the front of the room?
- Practice the use of silence within the intercessions.
- Engage one another in constructive critiques.

Working on enunciation

- Encourage several volunteers to pray the petitions for the group. Encourage the hearers to close their eyes for the reading and pay attention to consonants, plosives, initial and ending letters, and our tendency to be “lip lazy.”
- Which words lacked clarity? What was commonly misheard or misunderstood? Why? Talk about it. Try it again.

Working on posture

- Drawing on the Intercessor Overview (“Posture,” p. 78), discuss the following:
 - * What is proper posture?
 - * What shall we do with our hands?
- Encourage a volunteer to lead the prayers in the worship space using the posture that would be used in worship.
- Engage the group in constructive critique, focusing on appearance issues for now.
- Repeat the exercise with one or two other readers.
- Gift each participant with a copy of *Serving the Assembly’s Worship: A Handbook for Assisting Ministers* (see Materials list) with encouragement to use it as review, reference, and inspiration when preparing to serve in this role.

Closing prayer

Useful handouts for intercessors

- Pattern for Worship, pp. 18–19
- Intercessor: Summary of Duties, p. 80
- Tips for Intercessors: Preparing the Prayers, pp. 81–83
- Tips for Intercessors: Leading the Prayers, pp. 84–85
- Intercessor: Preparing for Worship, p. 86
- Being a Lay Worship Leader, pp. 213–214
- Why Be a Worship Leader? pp. 215–216
- How to Totally Get It, pp. 217–219
- What Actors Can Teach Us about Worship Leadership, pp. 236–240
- On Time and Prepared: How to Keep the Pastor from Freaking Out on Sunday Morning, pp. 260–261
- You and Your Alb, p. 264
- Microphones: Possibilities and Pitfalls, pp. 265–267