



Your Ministry as an Acolyte

Flower Mound United Methodist Church
Flower Mound, TX

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Guidelines for ACOLYTES
at Flower Mound United Methodist Church

*An ACOLYTE is a person who serves Jesus by helping the
Worship Leaders and the Congregation during Worship.
This is how you do your job as an ACOLYTE.*

1. Getting Ready
 - a. Please visit the restroom, if needed, before you begin your job.
 - b. Arrive in the Altar Guild Room (A4) at least 10 minutes before the Worship Service begins and put on your robe.
 - c. Find your candle lighter on the rack in Room A4 and wait where told by the Coordinator(s) for Acolytes.
 - d. The wick in your candle lighter will be lighted for you.
 - e. The “flame” represents the Light of Jesus.
 - f. Keep the wick pushed up enough so that the “flame” burns brightly.
 - g. Hold the candle lighter so that it does not drip wax onto the carpet.

2. During the **Procession Hymn**, the ACOLYTES lead the procession, taking the Light of Jesus into the sanctuary and down the center aisle.
 - a. Go up the step into the Chancel to the Altar and light the Candle from in front of the Altar while standing in front of the Candle.
 - b. Extinguish the “flame” on your wick by pulling the wick down into the inside of the Candle lighter as soon as you have lighted the Candle.
 - c. Go down the step and be seated.
 - d. Push the wick back up so that it will not get stuck.
 - e. Place your Candle lighter quietly on the chairs beside you or underneath your chair.

3. Participate with the congregation in the Worship Service by following the bulletin carefully and the direction of your Worship Leaders.

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- b. The Congregation and the Worship Leaders can see you. Behave in such a way so that you help others to worship.
4. If it is a Communion Sunday, you will go forward to the Communion Rail as the Ushers give you direction.
 - a. Because of where you are usually seated, most of the time you will lead a group of persons to the Communion Rail. The first one to kneel does so next to the opening in the Communion Rail.
 - b. Receive the Bread and the Cup.
 - c. Return to your seat when you are finished praying.
5. When the Offering is announced [“will the ushers please come forward”],
 - a. Pick up your two Offering Plates.
 - b. Step out into the aisle and face the Ushers who will be approaching from the back of the Sanctuary.
 - c. Hand the Offering Plates to the Usher and be seated.
 - d. When you hear the Doxology being played, step out into the aisle and face the approaching Ushers.
 - e. Receive the Offering Plates from the Usher.
 - f. Turn and lift the plates as an offering to God.
 - g. As soon as the Doxology is finished, place the offering plates on the altar and return to your seat.
6. As soon as the last Hymn begins to be played,
 - a. Quietly pick up your candle lighter.
 - b. Walk up the step and stand in front of the candle which is on the Altar.
 - c. Light your wick in the candle flame, adjust your wick, and extinguish the candle flame.
 - d. Carry the light of Christ to the back of the Sanctuary.
7. When you exit the Sanctuary and go into the Narthex,
 - a. Extinguish the wick “flame” by pulling the wick down into the inside of the Candle lighter and then push the wick up out of the Candle lighter about 1 inch.
 - b. Return to Room A4 and hang the Candle lighter on the rack.
 - c. Hang your robe neatly.

Some Thoughts for PARENTS of ACOLYTES

An understanding of ACOLYTE Ministry could easily be limited to “aren’t they cute in their robes” as they—with uncertainty—walk cautiously down the aisle while keeping an eye on that flickering flame; OR, the position of ACOLYTE can be viewed as a needful and meaningful assignment within the life of the Congregation.

1. It is a major opportunity for Children to begin a serious participation in and provision of leadership for the gathered Body of Christ.
2. For the majority of Worshippers, the ACOLYTES bringing those “flames” down the center aisle is a reinforcement of the Invitation to Worship which has just been given by the one who has announced the Ministry Opportunities.
3. Those two Lighted Candles on the Altar, representing the humanity and the divinity of our Lord Jesus, are lighted within the context of Worship to remind us why we are gathered. That could be done prior to the arrival of worshippers, but not with the same visual impact provided by the work of the ACOLYTES.
4. The Offering Plates could be kept in the Narthex and just simply appear as the Ushers carried them from the rear of the Sanctuary. Instead, the Plates are down front in the care of the ACOLYTES. When they step into the aisle to present the Plates to the Ushers, those Offering Plates are visible to the Congregation and remind Us that our monetary gifts are about to be received. And when the ACOLYTES receive those Offerings given by the People and transport them to the Altar, the transition is completed from the Worshippers in the Pews to the Worship Leaders in the Chancel and those two Lighted Candles. The ACOLYTES have served—once again—to provide the visual aspect of giving/receiving the Offerings.
5. And when Worship closes, the ACOLYTES symbolically carry the Light of our Lord Jesus back out into the world reminding the Body of Christ that we are to be His Light out there.

Please be helpful in these ways.

1. Make sure that your ACOLYTE is ready on her/his assigned day. If possible sit with her/him to help reinforce the task for the day.
2. If your ACOLYTE is unable to serve on the assigned date, please be responsible for finding a replacement from among the

Coordinators of ACOLYTE Ministry will be busy people even as you are.

3. Sometimes they will be very rushed on Sundays and would find it difficult to give direction in a “no-show” situation.
4. Certainly, last minute emergencies can happen to any of us. In that case, a “no-show” will be dealt with by grace and prayer.

Whom to contact

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