

Tips for Preparing an Effective Offertory

The word “Offertory” in the suggested worship service outlines has been replaced by the phrase “Disciples’ Generous Response,” reflecting the continuing journey to understand more clearly the nature of our response as disciples to God’s grace and love.

An effective offertory....

- contains an integrated message with the rest of the worship service reflecting the ministry of Jesus Christ supported by Community of Christ members, friends, and/or affiliates, through contributions to Local and World Mission Tithes;
- helps contributors recognize the *sacred* purpose of their contributions to Mission Tithes;
- connects persons of all ages to the message, nurturing disciples to be ready and eager to respond;
- is presented by a prepared and engaging worship participant (priesthood or non-priesthood) who believes in and is a contributor; and
- has elements of a joyful celebration of thanksgiving.

Preparation

- Consider the use of visuals, illustrations, or object lessons.
- If you need help, seek assistance from someone with more experience.
- Make the message challenging; everyone can give something regularly (according to means and capacity).
- Talk to the people; make eye contact.
- Focus on the contributor as much or more than the contribution.
- Be honest, objective, and positive.

Reminders

- We *receive* the offering; we do not take it up.
- It is an *offering*, not a collection.
- The first Sunday focus is Oblation ministry except in March and September when it is World Hunger.
- Giving is more about *grace* than formulas and calculations.
- First decide *how much* to give, then decide *which funds* to give to. This is illustrated through *My Tithing Plan*.
- Share equally between Congregation Ministries and World Ministries.
- *Every* gift is important—to God, to the giver, and to the ministry of the church.
- Funds are the means to ministry. God not only wants our money, God needs our money. But first, God needs our heart.
- Giving is a joy and a privilege.

Available Resources

- Survey of Stewardship Scriptures
(see www.CofChrist.org/generosity/scriptures)
- www.CofChrist.org/generosity/list.asp and www.CofChrist.org/bishop
- Local (from congregation/mission center leadership)and World (see www.CofChrist.org/offertory) stories about how Mission Tithes Impact Lives
- Local (from your CFO)and World (see www.CofChrist.org/worldministries/update/)contribution updates
- Offering envelopes (with printed messages) from your CFO
- *Becoming a Generous Disciple: Six Principles to Live By* from Herald House
- Tracts—*A Disciple's Generous Response, Tithing, World Mission Tithes* from Herald House
- *My Tithing Plan* (see www.CofChrist.org/generosity/mytithingplan for a download copy) or see your CFO for a copy.)
- Watch for Herald articles with the Mission Tithes Impact Lives logo