

Subject: Church Growth & Management – Celebrate Clergy Appreciation Week

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Celebrate Clergy Appreciation Week

The second week in October has been designated as Clergy Appreciation week. Although most ministers work tirelessly for the church without the need for acknowledgment it is a wonderful event when everyone in the congregation joins together to recognize the presence and value of their minister.

Here are some ideas the Board of Trustees and others leaders in your spiritual community can set in place to show appreciation. Some take planning and time, others can occur almost spontaneously. Pick and choose, add your own, celebrate and have fun.

In the church newsletter or email communicator.

Publish a photo and brief history of your minister tenure's with the church on the front-page. Recognize the ministers family if she or he has one by printing their bio, accomplishments, personal contributions to the ministry.

Include an invitation to the congregation to create their own way of recognizing the minister during the month. Some suggestions might be: offer to mow their lawn, babysit, cook a meal for them, wash their windows, etc.

Shower your minister with blessings.

Encourage the congregation to send note and cards of appreciation throughout the month.

Hallmark has a number of Clergy Appreciation cards.

Have people sign up to deliver dinner to the ministers house one day a week for the month.

Every day if enough people sign up!

Plant a tree or name a star in honor of your minister. Invite local dignitaries to the ceremony of presentation.

Clergy Appreciation Sunday The Second Sunday in October.

Choose an appropriate gift to present to the minister during the service

Suggestions:

A gift certificate at the minister's favorite clothing or book store.

A gift certificate for a spa massage.(not one by a congregation member)

An all-expense-paid vacation for the minister and family.

An evening out at a fine restaurant followed by a theater production.

Set up a 24 hour prayer vigil for the minister & family from Saturday at 8 am to Sunday Service.

Have the children create a special banner or card for the minister to present at the end of the church service. They might also learn a special song to sing.

Take a second offering for the minister.

Present a skit appreciating the minister by recognizing all the different types of work they do.

Have a special meal following the service.

Have fun with these ideas and let them inspire more.

When the Board or Core Council members have a spiritual practice together business runs smoothly because that is the business we are in.

Here are a few ways to have a spiritual practice together:

Meet before the Sunday Service for a centering.

Have prayer buddies to check in with during the month, either in person or by phone.

Use a common treatment or meditation at home.

Hold semi-annual retreats. One for goals and directions, the other for spiritual practice.

A typical agenda for the Core Council/Board meeting might look like this:

Everyone arrive 10 minutes before the meeting is to begin.

This allows everyone to settle in.

Before the official start to the business everyone is asked to share what is happening in their lives and make any prayer requests they may desire. Social chit-chat is not recommended here, genuine sharing is encouraged. The time allotted should be no more than 20 minutes.

This sharing time is followed by a 15-20 minute meditation or visioning time. The first order of business is to report on what good or wonderful things happened in the past month for the church. Once the consciousness of Oneness and success has been established the rest of the business will just flow. It might seem that this would add a lot of extra time to the meeting but it seems to shorten the time needed to reach consensus.