

WAYS TO START YOUR MEETINGS

(USE HOOKS, ICEBREAKERS, STARTERS, ETC.)

- a. **Throwback**-Can you recognize/identify the former presidents of your council's usher board or the IUB? Use page 5 in the IUB Revised Manual for the IUB presidents. 1. Play a concentration game. 2. Show the pictures on the screen for identification.
- b. **How Good is Your Memory?**-Place about 15 items on a table. Items such as, tissue, comb, key, fan, sunglasses, water bottle, church bulletin, gum, peppermint, gloves, ink pen, baby bottle. Have each usher look at the items on the table for about 15 seconds. After everyone has seen the items, give them a sheet of paper numbered 1-15 and have them list every item they remember being on the table.
Objective: Ushers are to be observant, keeping up with what's going on? Everything on the table are the things that are usually left behind in the pews after church that ushers have to pick up, etc.
- c. **Let's Go**-Divide the ushers into 2 teams. Place a stack of cards (even amount in each stack) on both sides in front of the 2 teams. Each stack of cards will have the same words in them. When the moderator asks the question, the 2 teams will send their first person up to the front to answer the question. Each team member will shuffle through the stack of cards to see if they can find the answer. The usher who can find the answer, turns around and holds the card up for everyone to see. If it is correct, that person wins the first round.
The moderator will ask questions from these categories: signs, people, classification of duties, duties of different committees, uniforms, etc.
Example Question: What is one of the missions of the IUB: To minimize _____ in our services, especially during the altar call. (Distractions)
The word distractions would be in both stack of cards.
- d. **16 Books of the Bible**-See Handout
- e. **Know Your Signs** (Do you know the different signs and illustrations. Also ask the Pastors if they know the signs?) You can do this in a variety of ways. Hold up cards or display the actual sign.
- f. **Last Person Standing**-See the attached handout.
- g. **Line Up!**-**Great opener for any meeting.** Ask all ushers to line up according to height with the shortest up in the front to the tallest person in the back WITHOUT saying one word.
Let's try another one. Line up according to your birthday month and day in order from January to December. **AGAIN, NO TALKING. GO.**
Ask the same questions or different ones.

Sample Discussion Questions:

1. What obstacles occurred?
 2. Was it difficult not to talk?
 3. Who took charge? How did that make you feel?
 4. How does this activity relate to ushering?
 5. Was it easier with the second one?
- h. **Unscramble the Verses:** Get 2 teams or more and provide each team with an envelope. In it, there will be a Bible verse about ushering that has been cut a part. Ushers work as a team to put the unscramble words back together to make the verse complete. Reward the winning team. Do about 10 verses like that. Examples: Psalms 84:10, Romans 12:13, I Corinthians 12:4-5
- i. **Other**

PROGRAM IDEAS FOR YOUR LOCAL & COUNCIL MEETINGS

- j. Invite Guest Speakers (Locally from your church, from your state, from the IUB, etc.)
- k. Have Panel Discussions & Webinars: Decide on a Hot, Relevant Topic
- l. Put on Usher Skits & Plays
- m. Make sure to have creative, eye-catching FLYERS to draw participants to your session
- n. Schedule *USHER TESTIMONY SERVICE* in your Session!
- o. Conduct Drills-Spend time going over the signs. Make it a competition.
- p. What's Going On In The Sanctuary? Place Gift cards worth \$5.00 and tape them to "Take Me" Cards in a variety of locations in the sanctuary. The point is that ushers should be very observant, always knowing what is going on in the sanctuary. Location examples: clock, back of the chair, organ, in the pulpit, etc.
- q. **Seminar 1: Dress Right Dress**
1. Show powerpoint presentation of usher uniforms that do not fit the requirements
 2. Have an usher(s) come in with her/his uniform in disarray and ask The Question. "What's Wrong with this Picture?"
Have another usher(s) come in and model the correct way to wear the Uniform. Men/Women

r. **Seminar 2: When the Music Stops**

1. Divide the ushers into 4 groups.
2. Decide on 4 Sections of the Manual that you feel is most needed in your group: Ex. Classification and Duties, Signs/Illustrations, Constitution, By-Laws, Uniforms, etc.
3. Have 4 leaders discuss 4 topics in small groups in the room for about 7 minutes. Let the ushers rotate to each group until they have been to each group.
4. Have 4 charts on the wall with the names of the topics at the top already. When the rotation is over for the lessons, it is now time for the groups to get up and stand in front of a chart paper.
5. The group will select a recorder to write down everything the group remembers about the topic they see on their chart paper.
6. Play some upbeat gospel music while the usher is writing on the chart paper what his/her group member is telling him to write.
7. When the music stops, the writing stops, and the entire group moves to the next chart paper. Repeat.
8. WAIT until the music starts before the writer starts writing additional information that they remember about the topic that they don't already see on the chart paper. Nothing can be repeated. It must be new material.
9. Again, when the music stops, the writing stops.
10. Continue doing this until you reach back home- your first chart
11. DISCUSS.

s. Other

Supplies Needed: Timer, Chart Paper, Music, Manual, Markers (4)

