

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

How to Make Sure You're Heard

Neither the sound system operators or the sound system electronics are capable of reading your mind so they need all the help they can get to ensure that the Congregation gets your message. Here's what you can do to provide that help.

First: While the operators are familiar with the regular worship service speakers they have no idea how loud you're apt to talk so you need to "hide" a sound check in your presentation if you can. For example: "Good morning", (wait for Congregation to respond), "Wasn't the rain awful this morning? We didn't even have time to build an Ark before it arrived." (then start your message). At this point the sound system operator will have set the level so the important part of you what you have to say should come through fine.

Second: Speak slowly and clearly. Enunciate like you were talking with your slightly deaf Great Aunt about how she's going to include you in her new will.

Third: Adjust the microphone so it is just below chin level, centered and aimed at your mouth. This is particularly important when using the pulpit, solo and floor mikes. If you're sharing a mike with others who are also speaking you should either move into position when you talk or move the mike toward you. The hand held mikes are more forgiving but you still need to be aware of where they are spatially.

Fourth: Maintain the approximate position of your mouth relative to the location of the microphone as best you can while you're talking. Why, because the sound level of your voice at the microphone diminishes with the cube of the increase in distance between them as you move around. In simple terms if you double the distance the sound level doesn't drop to one-half it drops to one-eighth of what it was. The sound system operators can't react fast enough to compensate for this, so part of your message might get lost.

Note: If you're a musical soloist or group you should contact the sound system operator before the performance to test for the best setup. The same holds true if you're putting on a non-musical event.