

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
LAY READER TRAINING MANUAL

Updated/modified by the Chaplains Office
U. S. Coast Guard Academy
1 March 1995

Table Of Contents

Preface	2
Training Schedule Sample	3
1.1 Introduction to Lay Readers Instructions/Function Of Lay Readers	4
1.2 Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness Introduction	11
1.2A Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (Jewish)	14
1.2B Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (Catholic)	18
1.2C Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (Protestant-Liturgical)	21
1.2D Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (Protestant-Non-Liturgical)	24
1.2E Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (Seventh Day Adventist)	26
1.2F Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (Latter Day Saints)	29
1.2G Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (African Methodist Episcopalian)	32
1.2H Religious Pluralism/Interfaith Awareness (Islam)	35
1.3 Introduction to Audio Visual Equipment and Aids For Worship, Armed Forces Hymnal, Etc.	38
1.4A Faith Group Services-Protestant	41
1.4B Faith Group Services-Catholic	43
1.5 Introduction to Serendipity Relational Bible Study Materials	44
1.6 Forms and Miscellaneous Information	47

Preface

This Lay Reader Handbook has been prepared as a help for chaplains serving Coast Guard personnel, so that through the services of Lay Readers, their ministry might be extended to those at sea or to isolated duty stations. For the presenter, the intent of this manual is to standardize and facilitate Lay Reader training by providing a foundation, suggestions and information on topics normally covered in the Lay Reader training as it does not cover all possibilities or lesson topics. Additions and modifications to this manual are encouraged. For the prospective Lay Reader, this handbook will be a single volume resource, it includes training session materials, as well as personal notes. Further, it will contain practical information compiled over one's tour of duty, and will act as a turnover file for one's relief.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic: Number: 1.1

Lesson Topic: INTRODUCTION TO LAY READER INSTRUCTIONS/
FUNCTIONS OF LAY READER

Allotted Lesson Time: 50 minutes

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: (a) COMDTINST M1730.4B

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare And Lead Lay Reader Services Aboard Ships

Lesson Objective: 1.1 UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF LAY
READERS, THEIR FUNCTIONS AND
RELATIONSHIP TO CHAPLAINS

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO LAY READER INSTRUCTIONS/ FUNCTIONS OF LAY READER

I. COMDTINST M1730.4B states:

1. Authority

- a. Reference (d) provides for the conduct of divine services at units where Chaplains are assigned (1-A-1)

2. Policy

- a. In keeping with the provisions of reference (d) and Coast Guard policy, commanding officers shall provide for the free exercise of religion for Coast Guard personnel, their dependents and other authorized persons.

3. Command Responsibility

- a. The Sabbath shall be observed on Sunday, except by members of the Coast Guard whose religious convictions require them to observe a day other than Sunday as their day of worship. Those whose day of worship is other than Sunday are entitled to respect for their religious convictions and practices. Except by reason of necessity, personnel who celebrate the Sabbath on a day other than Sunday will be given the opportunity to observe the requirements of their religious principles. When excused from duty on a day other than Sunday, the work week of such individuals may include work on Sunday. Determination of compelling necessity rests entirely with the commanding officer.
- b. Consistent with the exigencies of the service, commanding officers are encouraged to give favorable consideration to applications for leave from those who may desire to observe significant holy days for their faith with their families. This is particularly important where appropriate services are unavailable in the local area.
- c. Commanding Officers shall not restrict the free exercise of religion of personnel of the Coast Guard unless there is military need to do so. Such requirements may exist in directives from higher authority or as determined by the commanding officer.
- d. Support of the CRP, including personnel, funding and logistics, is an essential element of a command's total operation. These matters will be managed as an integral part of the command's overall planning, programming, and budgeting activities (see chapter 2).

4. Chaplain's Position In The Command

- a. As the principal advisor to the commander or commanding officer on matters of religion and morals, the chaplain will be assigned as a department head or as a principal staff officer directly under the executive officer or chief of staff, as appropriate.
- b. As the principal advisor to the commander or commanding officer, the chaplain shall have direct access to the commander or commanding officer as provided in section 9-2-3 of reference (f).

5. Lay Readers

- a. Commanding Officers may assign a volunteer lay reader to serve for a period of time to meet the religious needs of a particular religious faith group. The commanding officer may seek the advice of the command's chaplain or a chaplain attached to a higher echelon, regarding the selection of an appropriate lay reader.

II. Functions Of A Lay Reader

1. Duties

- a. Coordinate ministry with supervisory chaplain.
- b. Report to the Executive Officer for performance of duties.
- c. Attend Lay Reader Seminars when possible.
- d. Conduct lay services on Sundays and other appropriate days when the cutter is deployed for a lengthy period of time.
- e. Conduct an orderly service.
- f. Post times and locations of local religious services when cutter is in port.
- g. Organize a church party to attend local church services when in port.
- h. Escort visiting Chaplains/Clergy when aboard ship and provide necessary guidance and instruction.
- I. Submit a report of activities semi-annually.
- J. Advertise lay programs through POD, posters, 1-MC announcements, etc.
- K. Work to make the worship inclusive rather than exclusive.

- l. Assist those of other faiths by providing literature.
- m. Make referrals to appropriate resources.
- n. Promote community relations projects.
- o. Support informal groups such as: prayer groups, scripture study, charismatic renewal groups etc.
- p. Roman Catholic Lay Readers, appointed Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist by the Military Archdiocese distribute Communion at special Eucharistic service within parameters.

2. Limitations

- a. A Lay Readers Program is not a substitute (alternative) for a Chaplain's ministry, but is to be an extension thereof.
- b. A Lay Reader will not administer sacraments (except as authorized by church).
- c. Lay Readers should not take offerings (except as directed by CO).
- d. Lay Readers should refrain from formal preaching, teaching and governing.
- e. Roman Catholic Lay Readers may distribute Communion to Roman Catholic personnel only while at sea or at isolated duty stations.
- f. Jewish Lay Readers are to be named only after being cleared with the Jewish Chaplain responsible for the geographic area.
- g. Lay Readers will not be asked to perform acts contrary to their own consciences

3. Qualities Of Lay Readers

- a. Will be a volunteer (either officer or enlisted).
- b. Will have some expertise in the area of faith, and be a practicing member of his/her faith community.
- c. Will demonstrate wholesome conduct at all times.
- d. Will prove to be effective, responsible, and motivated.

- e. Will be willing to cooperate with Chaplains and other Lay Readers of different viewpoints.
- f. Will be able to accept others and be tolerant of their viewpoint.
- g. Will carefully order and maintain the cutter's, or duty station's religious equipment and supplies.
- h. Will assume responsibility for rigging for Divine Services.

4. Training

- a. Lay Readers must attend an 8 hour training seminar before being appointed.
- b. Catholic Lay Readers must also attend a special Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Class before being appointed by the Military Archdiocese.
- c. Lay Readers will receive instructions, guidance, and regular, adequate supervision from appropriate Chaplain.
- d. Lay Readers must make special effort to attend training seminars when not deployed. These seminars will:
 - 1. Provide available materials.
 - 2. Deepen understanding of own and other faith groups.
 - 3. Meet contacts for various faith groups.

5. Supplies

- a. Consumable supplies, e.g. bread, wine, missalettes, etc. will be provided by local chaplain.
- b. Nonconsumable supplies, e.g. audio and audiovisual tapes, Bibles, pyxes, crosses, candle holders, etc. will be provided initially by the Chaplain of the Coast Guard and then by local commands.

6. Expectations Of Chaplains

- a. Chaplains will be: responsible for the training of all Lay Readers.
- b. Work with the Lay Reader in a spirit of team work.
- c. Hold services aboard Lay Readers' cutters or isolated duty stations whenever possible.

- d. Obtain necessary supplies and equipment or help Lay Readers obtain these through the command.
- e. Contact and counsel the Lay Reader periodically.
- f. Consult the Lay Reader about religious life aboard the cutter or station.
- g. Assist the Lay Reader in obtaining information about churches in foreign ports as well as wholesome places to visit.

7. Lay Reader Checkoff List

- a. A Semi-Annual Activity report is provided in this handbook and will provide the Chaplain with a religious overview of each ship. It also alerts the Chaplain of opportunities or problems and thus enables the Chaplain to channel Lay Readers energies accordingly.
- b. Each Lay Reader should complete a copy of the report when newly assigned, and semi-annually thereafter, and present it personally to the Chaplain for discussion. Questions should be answered "yes" or "no". Additional comments, when needed, should be written on the back of the sheet.

8. Becoming A Successful Leader

- a. The success of the Lay Reader Program depends primarily on four elements: the Lay Reader appointed, the support of the Command, and the material the Lay Reader is able to bring to the task and the active oversight of the program by the local Chaplain.
- b. Factors in a successful program include:
 - 1. **PERSONAL ENTHUSIASM:** Nothing can foster enthusiasm like an enthusiastic individual. One can never religiously motivate all persons of a command, but an enthusiastic Lay Reader can help significantly.
 - 2. **ECUMENICITY:** A Lay Reader assists the command in providing a religious program for personnel of many faith backgrounds. This is especially true for the Protestant community with its wide range of denominations. As a result, a Lay Reader will try to meet as broad an area of worship needs as possible.
 - 3. **PREPARATION:** A meaningful faith-experience is a team effort: God and oneself working together. Think enough of your task as a Lay Reader to spend time in preparation.

4. **PERSONAL EXAMPLE:** Live your faith! The best witness for one's faith is given by the good life a person leads.
5. **COMMAND SUPPORT:** The ultimate responsibility for the religious and moral life of one's command lies with the commanding officer. As the Lay Reader is the commanding officer's assistant in this area, the command's support should be enlisted.
6. **INVOLVE OTHERS:** Be inclusive! The success of a program is in direct proportion to the number of persons involved in it. The reason for this is that involvement means "ownership" of a program. Delegation of portions of a service, therefore has a double blessing: it gives the Lay Reader relief from some of the work (e.g. reading scriptures, leading music, etc.), but it also helps others become involved.
7. **USE YOUR CHAPLAINS:** When in port visit your Chaplain. He or she wants to hear about your successes, problems, ideas and needs. A Lay Reader IS a very important person in the Chaplain's estimation-- and in his/her ministry, as the Lay Reader is an extension of that Chaplain.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS
INTRODUCTION

Allotted Lesson Time: 50 minutes

Instructional Materials

Instructional References: (a) COMDTINST M1730.4B

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare Lay Reader to function aboard ship

Lesson Objective: 1.2 UNDERSTAND HISTORY OF AMERICAN
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND BECOME AWARE
OF OTHER FAITH GROUPS

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS; INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. COMDTINST M1730.4B PARA. 4a States:

"In keeping with existing regulations, it is the Coast Guard policy that Commanding Officers shall provide for the free exercise of religion by all personnel of their commands. All Coast Guard personnel, their dependents, and other authorized persons will be provided appropriate opportunities to observe the requirements of their religions and principles, except by reason of necessity. Determination of this necessity rests with the Commanding Officer."

2. Foundation of the total Command Religious Program:

- a. Free exercise of religion (religious pluralism).
- b. Justification for chaplains and lay readers.

3. The history and heritage of the nation is based on this freedom.

II. Religious Pluralism And The Military

1. American Military Chaplaincy

- a. The American military chaplaincy was the first such chaplaincy in history to take religious pluralism seriously and to develop structures appropriate to a pluralistic society. In this respect it has become the model for chaplaincies of the armed forces of other religiously pluralistic nations.

2. Minority Rights

- a. Very early in United States' history there was some recognition of minority rights and of a need for accommodating different religions which existed side by side.

As early as the French and Indian War (1754-1760) the Virginia Council, at the request of Colonel George Washington, had appointed a chaplain for his regiment. Washington was undoubtedly Anglican, since that was the established church in Virginia. But at the same time, in 1758, provision had also been made for dissenting clergymen (Baptist) to serve with the troops when requested.

The consciousness of religious pluralism and minority needs and rights, was thus present from the beginnings of our nation.

3. Interfaith Awareness

a. Cooperation

1. The pattern of cooperative pluralism which has evolved out of the historic development preserves the interests of three parties:

a. The Government

b. The individual worshippers who are members of the armed forces.

c. The Churches and Synagogues

b. Recruitment and Detailing

1. This interfaith awareness in part drives the recruitment and detailing of chaplains.

2. It also drives the recruitment and appointment of lay readers.

c. Without Compromise.

1. The Chaplain Corps' motto:

"Cooperation without compromise"-- means:

a. Respect for others

b. Support of others

c. No proselytizing

d. Follow the existing laws

e. No need to compromise one's own religious values and practices. (Liturgies)

2. Free Exercise Of Religion

a. This is the principal! However, it cannot be so construed as to interfere with good order and discipline.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2A

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS (JEWISH)

Allotted Lesson Time::

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. Hebrew Bible
b. Kiddush
c. Calendar of Jewish Holy Day Observances

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Readers services aboard ships.

Lesson Objective: 1.2A TO UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF THE JEWISH FAITH.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS: JUDAISM

I. History Of Judaism

- a. Patriarchs
- b. Moses
- c. Judges
- d. Kings
- e. Prophets
- f. BCE = Before Common Era (Christian = B.C.)
C.E. = Common Era (Christian = AD)
- g. Jews in the Diaspora
- h. Persecution of the Jews.

II. Beliefs

1. Goal of Judaism: to make all life holy.
2. God is one (monotheistic)
3. Human beings are made in God's image and can choose good or evil. There was no "original sin" and, therefore, no mediator is needed.
4. Duty - whereas God made a covenant to care for the Jewish people, they have a social obligation to care for others.
5. MITZVOTH - Jews must study the Torah. The Pillars of Judaism are:
 - (a) The Hebrew Bible (especially the Pentateuch (Torah) which means "guidance teaching")
 - (b) The Talmud: Rabbinical enlargement of the Torah
6. Atonement: Sins can be atoned through repentance, promise not to sin again and prayer.

7. Messiah:
 - a. Traditional Belief: The Messiah, a direct descendant of the ancient Hebrew King David, will purge the world of evil and establish an age of perfect peace.
 - b. Modern belief: A Messianic Age (not a person) will come when people work with God to make a better world.

8. Holy Days:
 - a. Shabbat (Sabbath - Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) - celebrated either at home or at a synagogue. A Shabbat service consists of prayers from the Prayer Book, sermon, hymns, reading from the Torah (no work is done on the Sabbath).
 - b. High Holy Days are:
 1. Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year
 2. Yom Kippur - days of penitence
 - c. Other Holidays:
 1. Hanukkah - celebrates liberation from the Syrians in the year 167 C.E. Menorah candle is lit and gifts are given.
 2. Pesach (Passover) celebrates the Exodus.

9. Jewish Life Cycle
 - a. After birth boys are circumcised and girls receive their Hebrew names in the synagogue.
 - b. BAR/BAT MITZVAH: At age 13 a child takes responsibility for living a Jewish life. (Bar/boy; Bat/girl)
 - c. CONFIRMATION: (usually 10th grade) - affirms desire to participate in Abraham's Covenant.
 - d. MARRIAGE: Affirms life, home and children.
 - e. DEATH: Kiddush prayer affirms faith in God.

10. Judaism Today - 3 major Jewish groups:
 - a. Orthodox - beliefs and practices are traditional:
 - I. Worship and prayers are unchanged,
 - II. Torah must be taken literally,
 - III. Authority of rabbi as leader and teacher is absolute,
 - IV. Dietary laws are observed,
 - V. Traditional roles exist for men and women.
 - b. Conservative - belief is that law continues to evolve. Each generation must reinterpret it to preserve its relevance.
 - I. Sabbath rules are observed.
 - II. Some prayers and readings are in English.
 - III. Men and Women sit together and girls have a BAT MITZVAH.
 - IV. Dietary laws are kept.
 - c. Reform
 - I. Torah means "teaching" rather than "law" and so is open to interpretation.
 - II. Scripture is not always literally true.
 - III. Beliefs and practices are more liberal (need to change with the times).
 - IV. Services are in English and women participate.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2B

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS
(CATHOLIC)

Allotted Lesson Time:

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader Services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.2B TO UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS,
BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS: CATHOLICISM

I. Historical Survey:

- a. 33 A.D.: One Christian Church: "The Way"
- b. 115 A.D.: First called "Catholic" or "Universal"
- c. 1000 Eastern Orthodox Church will not recognize authority of the Pope, the Churches go their separate ways.
- d. The Catholic Church through its monasteries preserve Western civilization during Barbarian invasions.
- e. 1517 Martin Luther breaks from the church to reform it from the power and prosperity which weaken it spiritually. This was followed by a "counter reformation" within the Church through the Council Of Trent.
- f. 1565 first Catholic parish in North America at St. Augustine, Florida.
- g. Today, there are 49 million Catholics in America comprising 18,000 parishes.

II. Sources of Belief: ("The Deposit Of Faith")

- a. Scripture: Old and New Testament
- b. Tradition: The Church's official teaching which merely deepens one's understanding of scripture (does not add anything new to the scriptural message).

III. Beliefs:

- a. Catholics believe in the Trinity.
- b. The human race is in need of salvation, in Jesus, because of original sin.
- c. Jesus Christ, true God and true man, continues his ministry through Seven Sacraments
 1. Baptism: Incorporates us into Christ (Church): justification.
 2. Confirmation: Confers of the Holy Spirit so one can witness Christ.

3. Eucharist (Communion) - Christ feeds a believer with His Body and Bloods (the Mass: the prayer structure surrounding Communion). Catholics believe that the Bread and Wine at Mass are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. As a result a Catholic Lay Reader is careful to keep the Hosts in a secure place, and return the Blessed Sacrament to a Church's Tabernacle after deployment.
 4. Reconciliation (Confession) - Christ forgives a repentant person through a priest's ministry.
 5. Anointing of the Sick - Christ continues his healing of sick persons.
 6. Marriage - Christ unites two persons in faithful love.
 7. Holy Orders - Christ allows one to share in his priesthood for the good of the Church.
- d. The Catholic Church is a structural society
1. Pope: Bishop of Rome - successor of St. Peter: Universal teacher
 2. Bishops: Successors of the apostles - teacher for a diocese or together they can teach universally (e.g. in an Ecumenical Council).
 3. Priests - ordained to help bishops in teaching the laity and administering the sacraments.
- e. A Catholic is to know, love and serve God and does this through pondering Scriptures, receiving the Sacraments and social outreach to the poor and needy.
- f. Morality: Sin is a failure to obey God's word. A mortal sin is a disobedience so great that it kills one's relationship with God, while a venial ("forgivable") sin still leaves us in God's friendship. Since sin is a social reality, hurting another, and hurting the Church's witness, one goes to the representative of the Community to receive Christ's forgiveness.

Special Notes

The Catholic Lay Reader is also called to be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, so that the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated Hosts) may be entrusted to him/her to be distributed at the weekly Eucharistic service. The Lay Reader must be given special instructions and be designated an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist by the Military Archdiocese.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2C

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS
(PROTESTANT - LITURGICAL)

Allotted Lesson Time::

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader Services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.2C UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS,
BELIEFS OR PRACTICES OF LITURGICALLY
ORIENTED PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS: PROTESTANT -- (LITURGICAL)

I. History

Prior to the 16th Century, some members of the Catholic Church wanted to "reform" their church. The Renaissance had lured many of its members, including the hierarchy, to become more infatuated with material rather than spiritual values. In 1517, Martin Luther, himself a Catholic priest, nailed his famous 95 Thesis on the doors of the local Wittenburg Castle, thus beginning the first of a number of new Christian religions which the Lutherans at the Diet Of Speyer (1529 A.D.) first called "Protestant". The first group of new Christian religions still had their roots in a long Catholic Tradition, and so for a lack of a better classification, they would be called liturgical Protestants. Some of these denominations would be: Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran and Methodist. Many of these faith groupings came to the United States by the early 1600's.

II. Some Characteristics Of Liturgical Protestant

- a. Follow a set ritual in their worship.
- b. Wear liturgical vestments
- c. Follow a set selection of Scripture readings, and have special feast days throughout the year.
- d. Baptize infants.
- e. Their churches may use religious art, crucifixes, candles, incense, etc.

III. Beliefs

- a. Belief in the Trinity and in Jesus Christ as God's Son.
- b. Protestants believe in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament as being God's Word. Some hold that although God inspired the Sacred Writer with a message, none the less a person today must "peel away" the human idiom to find God's message. Other Protestants take a more fundamental approach saying that one must accept the words of Scripture literally.
- c. Men and women are in need of justification, because humankind was separated from God the Father. This justification comes through faith, baptism being a sign of that union, and an inclusion into a specific faith group.

- d. The Eucharist (The Lord's Supper) is a channel through which God bestows his grace and forgiveness. Jesus Christ is present "in, with and under" the elements of bread and wine.
- e. A person is directly reconciled to God by sincere repentance.
- f. Creeds (such as Apostolic and Nicene) as well as catechisms express the basic tenants of ones faith.
- g. Preaching is stressed in the weekly worship service, thus highlighting the importance of the Word of God.

IV. Organization

Protestant denominations are organized in a variety of ways. For some such as the Episcopal Church, authority rests with a bishop who oversees a diocese, while in other denominations authority rests in elected representatives (e.g. in the Presbyterian Church).

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2D

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS:
(PROTESTANT - NON-LITURGICAL)

Allotted Lesson Time:

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.2D UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS,
BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF NON-
LITURGICALLY ORIENTED PROTESTANT
CHURCHES.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS: PROTESTANT -- (NON-LITURGICAL)

I. History

Whereas many of the religions of the 16th and 17th centuries retained a sense of liturgy, and a spirituality which was fed by ritual and scripture, the new religions of the 18th and 19th centuries were born in the age of "Enlightenment", which sought to explain life, and one's relationship with God through the Scripture. As a result, the focal point of the Sunday Worship service is the reading of Scripture and the Sermon. Usually, these churches do not have set rituals, and allow for a more free-flowing ceremony. Also, they typically do not baptize infants. Some faith groups that may fit into this general category would be: the Baptists, Disciples Of Christ, Pentecostals, etc.

II. Beliefs

1. Most of these faith groups believe in the Trinity, and all believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. A person is justified by faith in Jesus Christ and some (e.g. Presbyterians) hold that a person is predestined to be saved.
3. Scripture is the sole authority for faith and practice and is literally interpreted by some of these faith groups.

III. Some Characteristics/Organization of Non-Liturgical Protestant

1. Some faith groups have no creeds, or confessions of faith (e.g. Church Of Christ) as the Scriptures as the sole expression of faith.
2. Some worship services are very simple, using instruments (as there were none in early Christianity) and acappalla singing.
3. More often authority rests in the local congregation.
4. Many revivalistic churches are concerned with perfection, holiness and Pentecostal experience.
5. Some churches practice divine healing and in speaking in tongues. The latter is an indication of "Baptism in the Spirit".

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2E

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS:
(SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST)

Allotted Lesson Time:

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.2E UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS,
BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF THE SEVENTH
DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS: SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

I. What Seventh Day Adventist's Believe (Brief Summary):

1. Inspiration of the Bible.
2. Bible as the sole rule of faith and practice.
3. World created by God (not evolution).
4. The virgin birth, sinless life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. Jesus is both God and Man.
6. Salvation is by grace through Christ.
7. The Trinity.
8. There is a heaven and hell.
9. There will be a resurrection.
10. God alone is immortal.
11. Saturday is the Sabbath.
12. Must live a holy life (possible only by the indwelling of Christ).
13. Obedience is evidence of discipleship.

II. What Seventh Day Adventist's Are:

1. Not a cult - William Martin's book: "The Truth About Adventism"
2. Not Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Not Latter Day Saints.
4. Not Christian Scientists.

III. Difference Between Seventh Day Adventist's And Other Groups:

1. Day of Worship.
2. Emphasis on clean and unclean foods (diet similar to that of the Jews). Approximately 50% of North American Seven Day Adventist's are lactoovo vegetarians.
3. Abstinance from all harmful substances, including alcohol, caffeinated beverages, tobacco, and drugs (except those prescribed by a doctor).

IV. Ministering To Seventh Day Adventist Personnel:

1. A Sabbath Person's Conviction must be his/her own, not what the church says or teaches.
2. Provide space (when at sea) to worship/meditate according to own convictions.
3. Make recommendation to the Command to exchange Saturday duty/work for Sunday.

V. When Trouble Develops Regarding Worship On Saturday:

1. When feasible, possibly offer Seventh Day Adventist's the opportunity to work each Sunday, if necessary, to have each Saturday in order to observe Sabbath on Saturday.
2. Transfer to Command where Sabbath observance will be less acute a problem.
3. Separation from Naval Service may be necessary.

Note: While it is assumed that every member wishes to contribute fully to the command, it would be unfortunate to find some claiming Saturday as a day of religious observance simply to avoid some duties.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2F

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS:
(LATTER DAY SAINTS)

Allotted Lesson Time:

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.2F UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS,
BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF THE LATTER DAY
SAINTS

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS: LATTER DAY SAINTS

I. Background

1. The leadership of the Church is considered Lay in that it is voluntary and unpaid. Young men at the age of 12 are ordained to the lay priesthood. A few responsibilities given at first and then little by little young men are taught the responsibilities and powers of the priesthood. This priesthood is added on until he becomes an Elder in the church, usually at age 19. This is usually the age that most young men go on missions for two years. As missionaries they financially support themselves or are supported by family and friends.
2. On board ships Latter Day Saints groups are self sufficient. They appreciate your love and support especially in obtaining a place to meet. The group members, if male, will have been ordained to some level of the priesthood. Usually a church leader at the homeport will have designated one member as the Group Leader. If this person is acceptable to the CO, he will be designated the Latter Day Saint lay reader for the ship.

II. Mormons Believe:

1. In 1820, Joseph Smith was 14 years old. After reading and pondering the advice found in James 1: 5-6, he went to inquire of the Lord as to which church he should join. In answer to his prayer he was visited by God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, and Their instruction was that he be an instrument to bring a "restoration" of the fullness of the gospel. Under this premise and assignment, the Church Of Latter-Day Saints was established 6 April 1830 with six members.
2. The Church in Old Testament times went through periods of righteousness, however periodically, the Lord chastised the people through a specifically called prophet 114 Jesus Christ, the Son Of God, came to fulfill the Law of Moses and established his Church upon the earth. After a number of years, the Church ceased to exist on earth and was Restored in its fullness to the earth in 1830 through a prophet.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2G

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS:
(AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPALIAN)

Allotted Lesson Time:

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.2G UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS,
BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF THE AFRICAN
METHODIST EPISCOPALIAN CHURCH

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS: AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPALIAN

I. The African Methodist Episcopal Church

1. Why African-Americans needed a separate church:
 - a. To facilitate self-expression in worship and society.
 - b. To promote themselves social recognition, dignity and self-respect.
2. Original and continuing program of the African Methodist Episcopal Church:
 - a. Emphasis on self-help through educational institutions.
3. African Methodist Episcopal Church as protest movement:
 - a. Theological, doctrinal or ideological dispute not a primary concern.
 - b. Protest against inhuman treatment at the base of its origin.
 - c. Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church a result of racial discrimination.
4. Why Richard Allen, the founder, chose Methodism:
 - a. Emphasis on plain, simple gospel which the uneducated could understand.
 - b. Orderly system of rules and regulations which the socially underdeveloped needed.

II. Theological Themes Implied In African Methodist Episcopal Church/Black Church Practices:

1. God is a liberator of Oppressed.
 - a. Bible biased toward the poor and disenfranchised.
 1. In the Old Testament God liberates oppressed Israel.
 2. In the New Testament Jesus is seen in his sociopolitical context as liberator.

2. Churches mission is to reform society:
 - a. African Methodist Episcopalian Church/Black Church is conscious of American society.
 1. Church has mandate for prophetic witness in a society bent on oppression of blacks/poor. It sees its mission in continuity with old Testament prophets.
 2. The church exercises its moral evasion of civil laws it sees as unjust.
 - b. Church and politics are inseparable within the African Methodist Episcopalian Church.
 1. Political activity is practiced and highly encouraged in African Methodist Episcopalian Church.
 - a. Church is active at all levels of government: local, state and national levels of government.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.2H

Lesson Topic: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS:
(ISLAM)

Allotted Lesson Time:

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.2H UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE ASPECTS,
BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF ISLAM

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM/INTERFAITH AWARENESS:

ISLAM

I. History

1. Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570 A.D. After his death, the Califs ruled from Medina. The Islamic culture and prestige rose so that, around the year 1000, the city of Cordoba, Morrish Spain was a center of learning in architecture, law, medicine, philosophy and theology. In the 13th century, weakened by internal strife, much of Islam fell to Genghis Kahn. In two centuries, however, the Mongals converted to Islam and formed the Ottoman empire which threatened Western Europe. However, Islam fragmented from within and was subject to Western colonialism which divided and exploited the Muslims. Only now is Islam beginning to rebuild its strength and ideals.

II. Beliefs

1. Islam means "submission" to the one God (not a Trinity) who has been revealed through the last and greatest prophet Muhammad. (Believers of Islam are called Muslims, not Mohammadens.)
2. Allah (God) has spoken through 27 prophets some of whom were: Adam, Abraham, Jesus (who is not the son of God to Muslims) and Mohammad.
3. All that happens is God's will, and angels do his bidding.
4. Many of the Jewish and Christian sacred books have been distorted by man. The Koran (Quiran means the "re-read book"), composed by Mohammad, is God's pure work.
5. Adam and Eve did not reject God but were deceived by Satan. There is no original sin.
6. Anyone who hears about Muslim beliefs must be a believer. To become a believer one must believe in one's heart and bear witness to that in public.
7. Prayer is offered 5 times a day and prayer consists of: ablution, ritual, washing of oneself; facing Mecca; prayer in a clean place. There is a weekly congregational service on Friday.
8. Mosques: Men and women pray in mosques but do so separately. There are no images, candles, etc. allowed in a mosque and no offerings are taken. A mosque is a place of religious learning and a place for marriages and funerals.

9. Muslims fast during Ramadam (the 9th month on the Islamic calendar), having no food, drink or sexual relations from dawn until sunset.
10. Religious tax: Besides prayer and fasting, paying religious tax to benefit the poor is a way to achieve holiness.
11. Pilgrimage (Haj): Once in a lifetime a Muslim should go to the Sacred Mosque at Mecca.
12. Five Pillars of Islam: Prayer, Fasting, Pilgrimage, Tax and Witness.
13. Sunni/Shiah: The majority of Muslims are Sunnis - they elect the best qualified person to lead them while the Shiah's believe their leader to have been divinely appointed. There are many more dramatic differences between Sunin and Shia sects than choice of leaders.
14. Islamic Law: The Quiran (Koran) is the first code of law while the Sunnah (a commentary) explains the Quiran.
15. Aim of Life: All was created for man and worldly success is a gift from God, but should a person not be successful he can be happy in the life to come.
16. Fridays are weekly holy day.
17. Women - are considered equal to men. They must be protected against financial need and must not mingle with strange men (therefore they should not work) - as this is a source of temptation.
18. Dietary Rules: Any intoxicant (liquor or drugs) is forbidden. Pork is forbidden.
19. Penal Law:
 - a. Murder is punished by death
 - b. Intoxication - 40-80 stripes (lashes of a whip on the back)
 - c. Adultery - death by stoning
 - d. Fornication - 100 stripes,
 - e. Stealing - cut off hands
 - f. Apostasy - death

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.3

Lesson Topic: INTRODUCTION TO ARMED FORCES HYMNAL, AUDIO-TAPES,
AUDIOVISUALS, OTHER MUSIC AIDS FOR WORSHIP

Allotted Lesson Time:

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. Book of Worship for United States Armed Forces
b. Other Music Aids

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.3 TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE
ARMED FORCES HYMNAL, MUSIC AIDS, AND
HOW TO UTILIZE THESE TO ENHANCE
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT SEA OR AT
ISOLATED DUTY STATIONS.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO ARMED FORCES HYMNAL, ETC.

I. Introduction to use of Armed Forces Hymnal:

1. Orders of Worship (pp 574-590)
 - a. Regular
 - (1) Short Form (pg 574, #613)
 - (2) Longer Form (pg 576, #614)
 - b. Memorial Service (pg 643, #625)
 - c. Patriotic Service (pg 645, #626)
2. Lectionary (pg 647, #628 - 631)
3. Prayers (pp 717 - 746)
 - a. The Lords Prayer No. 727
 - b. The Creeds Nos. 728-729
 - c. Praise Prayer Nos. 730-735
 - d. Calls To Worship Nos. 736-740
 - e. Invocations Nos. 741-760
 - f. Prayers for Pardon Nos. 761-774
 - g. Words of Assurance Nos. 775-781
 - h. Miscellaneous Prayer Nos. 782-813
 - i. Thanksgiving Prayers Nos. 814-815
 - j. Offertory Prayers Nos. 816-822
 - k. Benedictions Nos. 823-832
 - l. Prayers for the Sick, Wounded, Dying Nos. 833-839
4. Guitar Chords (pp 753-759)

5. Hymn Tune Names/Meter (pp 773-782)

6. Familiar Titles: Hymns (pp 809-815)

II. Introduction To Hymn Tapes

III. Audiovisual

IV. Other Worship Aids

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.4A

Lesson Topic: FAITH GROUP SERVICES FOR LAY READERS
PROTESTANT

Allotted Lesson Time: 25 Minutes

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. None

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.4A TO UNDERSTAND AND BE ABLE TO USE THE
VARIOUS PARTS OF A WORSHIP SERVICE

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

FAITH GROUP SERVICE

PROTESTANT

(AN EXAMPLE)

I. Protestant

1. Orders of Worship (pp 574-590)
 - a. Call to Worship
 - b. Invocation
 - c. Hymn
 - d. Scripture
 - e. Prayer
 - f. Homily/Discussion/Study/Audio-Visual
 - g. Hymn
 - h. Benediction
2. Worship Is:
 - a. Celebration
 - b. Thanksgiving
 - c. Confession
 - d. Forgiveness
 - e. Affirmation
 - f. Dedication
3. Prayer Is:
 - a. Adoration
 - b. Confession
 - c. Thanksgiving
 - d. Intercession
 - e. Supplication

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.4B

Lesson Topic: FAITH GROUP SERVICES FOR LAY READERS
CATHOLIC

Allotted Lesson Time: 25 Minutes

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Portion of Handbook this

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.4B TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST, AND BE ABLE TO CONDUCT A EUCHARISTIC SERVICE

NOTE: This section will require a special follow-on four hour workshop.

Course Title: LAY READER COURSE

Classification: Unclassified

Lesson Topic Number: Number 1.5

Lesson Topic: INTRODUCTION TO SERENDIPITY RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS

Allotted Lesson Time: 60 Minutes

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References: a. Serendipity Bible
b. Serendipity Study Materials

Instructional Aids: 1. Podium
2. Chalk Board

Course Objective: Prepare and lead Lay Reader services aboard ships

Lesson Objective: 1.5 TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH AND BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN USE OF THE RESOURCE MATERIAL

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION

SERENDIPITY RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDIES

I. Eight Assumptions In These Studies:

1. YOU are created in the image of God and endowed with unlimited potential.
2. Your POTENTIAL can best be realized through Jesus Christ in the company of a supportive Christian community.
3. To become a real SUPPORTIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, you need to get to know one another in depth...and this takes time, effort, and a common commitment to life together.
4. Personal GROWTH begins with inner change - as you respond to the invitation of God for newness of life.
5. The HOLY SPIRIT has endowed you with SPIRITUAL GIFTS for ministry to others - within your supportive community and through the community to the church at large.
6. SCRIPTURE is the living account of God's redemptive activity and the best guide to His will.
7. Spiritual WHOLENESSE includes your whole being - your emotions, your relationships, your values, and your style.
8. CELEBRATION happens naturally and spontaneously when you are set free in a supportive Christian community to discover and express the beautiful person you are in Christ.

II. Overview:

1. Course 1 Discovering My Identity
2. Course 2 Working Through My Hang-ups
3. Course 3 Dealing With My Problems
4. Course 4 Learning The Basics
5. Course 5 Handling Crisis
6. Course 6 Facing The Issues
7. Course 7 Becoming a Caring Community

8. Course 8 Reshaping My Lifestyle
9. Course 9 Family Relationships
10. Course 10 Discovering The Deeper Life

III. Lesson Outline

1. Warm-up
2. Relational Bible Study
3. Overtime Challenge (for those who desire)

IV. How To Use Serendipity Bible For Personal Study

LAY READER LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

In accordance with COMDTINST M1730.4B

(Name, Rate, Rank)

is appointed

(Name of Faith Group)

Lay Reader until: _____
(Date)

(CO'S Signature)

Copy To: SVMN's Service Record

LAY READER SUPPLY STORAGE LOCALE

The _____ supplies are stored aboard
(Name of Faith Group)

_____ at _____

Lay Reader: _____

Date: _____

Copy: Executive Officer
Chaplain
Lay Reader

Date: _____