

# Guest Speaker's Guide to Participating in a Living Interfaith Service

First and foremost: Welcome! We are glad to have you join us to share your spiritual path. Living Interfaith is likely to be rather different from any past speaking opportunities and we'd like to share a bit about what we are looking for. Your sharing/sermon should be 15-20 minutes.

- 1) We gather neither to convert nor convince. We come together to share. We come together respecting each other's spiritual paths. Indeed, one of the reasons we come together is to learn more about our diverse spiritual traditions. We do so NOT to determine a right path or a right tradition, but out of respect for our common humanity. We believe that an essential part of "love thy neighbor" is getting to know our neighbors better – and how better to get to know our neighbors than by sharing sacred space?
- 2) This is a sacred service. While presentations can be a wonderful and important way to learn, that is not our purpose here. We aren't looking for presentations about a particular spiritual path – we are looking for a sharing. How is this holy day or tradition important, both to your tradition and to you personally? Are there personal experiences you can share? What has been most meaningful to you about celebrating this holy day?
- 3) No matter what your tradition, you are facing a friendly congregation. Please know that you have nothing to prove or defend. We've asked you to participate not to confront you but to learn more about your spiritual path and what you find in your path that is helpful to you.
- 4) Please feel free to make a spiritual point along the way, but please never put it in the context of "them and us."
- 5) Please share with the minister any thoughts you may have for readings and hymns.