

3rd Draft – Invocation Instructional Letter

_____, 2005

Greetings _____,

This letter is to confirm your offer to give the invocation at the City Commission meeting on _____, _____. Beginning with a moment of reflection and reverence is a tradition of this City as well as many other legislative bodies. Recent court decisions on legislative prayer provide guidelines that the City of Gainesville must follow. Therefore, we respectfully request your adherence to the following criteria.

Invocations should:

1. Be void of reference to a specific deity, prophet, or religious figure identified with a specific religion (for example, Allah, Brahman, Christ Jesus, Ishtar, Krishna, Lord, Yahweh; or Buddha, Moses, Muhammad, etc.) and void of reference to a specific religion (for example, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Wicca, etc.). General references to a supreme being (e.g., God, Source and Sustainer, etc.) are appropriate, as long as this does not serve to promote one faith or doctrine over others;
2. Use language that respects the diversity of faiths in our community (e.g., by addressing the invocation with sensitivity regarding our differing perspectives on a supreme being);
3. Not proselytize or promote any particular denomination or doctrine (e.g., inviting others to services, referencing the advantages of certain beliefs, or inviting others to join a particular religion);
4. Refrain from criticizing or condemning any other faith or belief;
5. Be offered for the sake of the Commission or the City in general, and not focused on particular individuals or agenda items (e.g., by praying for a specific outcome).

Any questions regarding the application of these guidelines should be directed to the City Clerk's Office at (352) 334-5015. A substantive departure from these guidelines may preclude future invitations to offer the invocation.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to serve our community through this service. Thank you for your cooperation. At your earliest convenience, please provide confirmation of your intention to attend the designated City Commission meeting.

Respectfully,

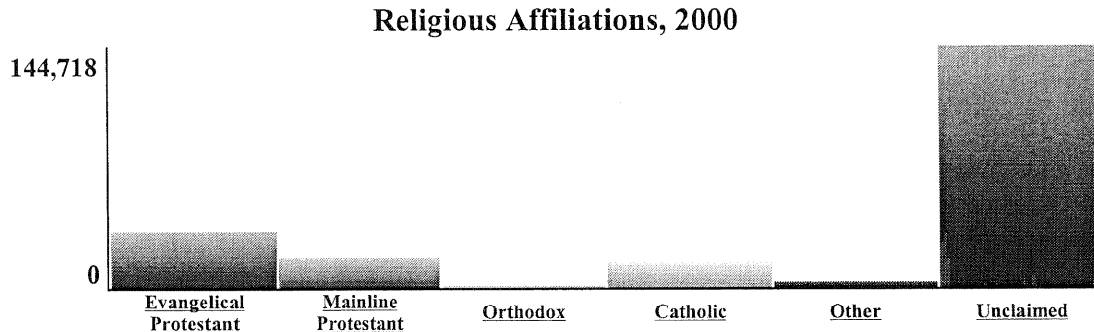
CONFIRMATION AND ACCEPTANCE

I hereby accept the City of Gainesville's invitation to offer an invocation at the City Commission meeting on _____, 20____, at _____:00 p.m. pursuant to the foregoing guidelines.

Signature

050037

RELIGIOUS GROUPINGS
County Report (Alachua, FL)



NOTE: The historically African American denominations are not included in the 2000 congregation and membership totals. For more information on the denominations included, [click here](#).

Religious Bodies	-----1990-----		-----2000-----		--1990-2000 Increase/Decrease		
	Congregations	Adherents	Congregations	Adherents	Congregations #	Adherents #	Adher %
Participants in 1990 and 2000 studies							
Assemb of God	6	798	6	935	0	137	1
Bapt Gen Conf	1	96					
Catholic	6	15,603	6	15,984	0	381	
Chr & Miss Al	2	111	1	23	-1	-88	-7
Chr Ch (Disc)	1	140	1	137	0	-3	-
Chr Chs&Chs Cr	1	152	1	118	0	-34	-2
Ch God (Ander)	2	93					
Ch God (Cleve)	5	606	7	1,118	2	512	8
Ch God Prophecy	1	41	1	48	0	7	1
L-D Saints	3	1,168	4	1,504	1	336	2
Ch of Nazarene	4	603	5	688	1	85	1
Chs of Christ	13	2,121	13	2,016	0	-105	-
Consvr Bapt	1						
Episcopal	7	2,088	7	2,389	0	301	1
Evan Free Ch	1	437	1	570	0	133	3
E.L.C.A.	2	875	2	916	0	41	
Friends-USA	1	99	1	28	0	-71	-7
Greek Orthodox	1		1	201	0		
Int Foursq Gos			1	50			
Pent Holiness	3	223	3	325	0	102	4
Jewish Est	1	1,068	3	2,200	2	1,132	10
Luth--MO Synod	1	857	2	1,074	1	217	2
Mennonite USA	1	45	1	44	0	-1	-
Free Will Bapt	1	19					
OCA: Ter Diocs	1						
Presb Ch (USA)	9	3,081	9	2,349	0	-732	-2
Presb Ch Amer	1	246	2	424	1	178	7
Salvation Army	1	63	1	251	0	188	29
S.D.A.	3	755	4	892	1	137	1
So Bapt Conv	49	24,538	50	24,366	1	-172	-
Unitarian-Univ	1	269	1	350	0	81	3
Un C of Christ	1	484	1	647	0	163	3
Un Methodist	39	10,602	38	11,844	-1	1,242	1
WELS	1	140	1	122	0	-18	-1
<i>Subtotal:</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>67,421</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>71,613</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4,192</i>	<i>(</i>

Participants in 1990 only

<u>Advent Chr Ch</u>	1	25
<u>AME Zion</u>	1	160
<u>Black Bapt Est</u>		10722
<u>Chr Brethren</u>	1	45
<u>Ch Cr,Scientst</u>	1	
<u>Prim Bapt Ascs</u>	1	21

Participants in 2000 only

<u>Amer Bapt Assn</u>	2	142
<u>Baha'i</u>	2	306
<u>Buddhism</u>	2	
<u>Calvary Chapel</u>	1	
<u>Comm of Christ</u>	1	25
<u>Coptic Orth Ch</u>	1	
<u>Reg Bapt Gen As</u>	1	34
<u>Hindu</u>	2	
<u>Int Chs of Crst</u>	1	127
<u>Muslim Est</u>	1	450
<u>NatPrimBapt USA</u>	2	71
<u>Prim Bapt Chrch</u>	2	
<u>Metro Comm Ch</u>	1	67
<u>Vineyard</u>	1	402
TOTALS:	176	78,394
		194
		73,237

The population for this county (or equivalent) in 1990 was 181,596; in 2000 it was 217,955.

The total population changed 20.0%. The unclaimed population represents 66.4% of the total in 2000.

Data source: *Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990* and *Religious Congregations and Membership in the United States 2000*. Copyright © 2001 Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB). All rights reserved. Published by Glenmary Research Center, 1312 Fifth Ave., North, Nashville, 37208. www.glenmary.org/grc

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Send feedback about the ARDA and this website to feedback@thearda.com.

Invocation Sign-up Sheet

2005

2006

January 9th _____
January 23rd _____

February 13th _____
February 27th _____

March 13th _____
March 27th _____

April 10th _____
April 24th _____

May 8th _____
May 22nd _____

June 12th _____
June 26th _____

July 11th _____
July 25th _____

July 10th _____
July 24th _____

August 8th _____
August 22nd _____

August 14th _____
August 28th _____

September 12th _____
September 26th _____

September 11th _____
September 25th _____

October 10th _____
October 24th _____

October 9th _____
October 23rd _____

November 14th _____
November 28th _____

November 13th _____
November 27th _____

December 12th _____

December 11th _____

MARY L. CHAMBERS, CMC
City Clerk
P.O. Drawer 1300
Pompano Beach, Florida 33061



050037

Phone: (954) 786-4611
Fax: (954) 786-4095
e-mail: www.ci.pompano-beach.fl.us

City of Pompano Beach, Florida

December 1, 2003

Dr. Edward Hernandez
Pastor
Christ Community Church
901 East McNab Road
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

Dear Dr. Hernandez:

You have been invited to give an invocation on behalf of the Pompano Beach City Commission prior to the City Commission Meeting on *November 25, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.*, in Commission Chambers, 100 West Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida.

Since the Invocation will be given at a public government meeting, our legal counsel has respectfully asked that your inspirational message be applicable to all faiths and include all persons in our diverse community, and that no specific religion or religious deity be mentioned or promoted in any way.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation in this regard.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Chambers, CMC
City Clerk

MLC/ah

050037



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CITY HALL, 112 SOUTH OSCEOLA AVENUE, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4090 FAX (727) 562-4086

OFFICIAL RECORDS AND
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

, 2005

Reverend

Clearwater, FL 33755

Dear Reverend

Non-Invocation

This letter is to confirm your offer to give the invocation at the City Council Meeting on Thursday, , 2005. The Council would appreciate your consideration of the diverse beliefs of our citizens as you prepare your invocation.

The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers on the third floor in City Hall, 112 South Osceola Avenue.

Your willingness to serve is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please call me at 562-4093.

When you arrive, please advise the City Clerk, Cyndie Goudeau.

Respectfully yours,

Judith LaCosse
Staff Assistant

BILL JOHNSON, VICE-MAYOR
BOB HAMILTON, COUNCILMEMBER

FRANK HIBBARD, MAYOR

JOHN DORAN, COUNCILMEMBER
CARLEN A. PETERSEN, COUNCILMEMBER



"EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER"