

## MAS 533 Creating Spiritual Services 2 credits / 3 ceu

Instructor Name	Tom Thorpe M.A.R.
Office Hours	By appointment – available most days
Telephone	Office (816) 251-3535 Ext. 2210 Mobile (913)683-0674 Home (816) 875-3276
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:thorpetf@unityonline.org">thorpetf@unityonline.org</a> <a href="mailto:tomthorpe@aol.com">tomthorpe@aol.com</a>
Required Texts	None
Other Required Reading	Web pages and other documents as assigned. (see the note below for a preliminary reading assignment)
Recommended Texts	<p><i>Introduction to Christian Worship</i> – James F. White (I suggest the Kindle edition which can be read on most computers. Try the “free sample” before deciding whether you need to purchase this text.)</p> <p><b>Special Services &amp; Chants - I</b> (I have incomplete information about this product and recommend it with some hesitation. However, it IS a resource you should know about.) List Price: \$24.95 Item Number: BA2262</p> <p><b>Special Services Manual -Black</b> (This is the traditional Unity Minister’s Special Services Manual. It’s still somewhat useful, but dated. Although it isn’t required for class, you’ll probably find yourself using at least some of the material it includes.) List Price: \$19.50 Item Number: BA1009</p>

### Course Description:

This course looks at the 5 W’s (and one H) of worship. (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.) We will do our best to arrive at one or more working definitions of worship. We will explore the religious and cultural foundations out of which Unity worship emerged. We will examine the various elements of Unity worship services and their function, with the goal of facilitating an experience of the Sacred. The class will also include the study of rituals and special services in the liturgical year, such as Christmas, New Year, and Easter Unity traditions. Part of this class will be spent creating wedding, memorial, christening and other individual special services as well as integrating creative art forms. Each student will have, as a result of this class, his or her own personal service manual.

### Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to design, integrate, and facilitate the elements of a worship experience. This includes church services, rituals, and ceremonies.

2. Demonstrate the ability to integrate creative art forms into a worship experience. This includes music, liturgical dance, readers theater, and other art forms.
3. Explain how the elements of the service work together to create the whole experience of the Sacred.

The above objectives partially fulfill the following outcomes for the Master of Divinity and Certificate programs:

- MD-2 and C-2. Describe and integrate administrative and leadership abilities to create a productive and growing ministry.

**Assignments:**

1. Create and present a wedding service
2. Create and present a memorial service
3. Create and present a Christening or baptism service
4. Participate in the creation and presentation of a special celebration
5. Write a reflection paper .

A detailed syllabus will be available AFTER the first class meeting. Presentation schedules will depend on the number of students enrolled in the class. In preparation for the first class, it is suggested that students at least browse the information at the following links.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/649187/worship>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/504688/ritual>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/117239/church-year/67654/Origins-of-the-church-year?anchor=ref7668>