

Invocation Guidelines for the Dubuque Rotary Club

Background and Guidance from Rotary International

Invocations at Club Meetings:

Many Rotary Clubs customary open weekly meetings with an appropriate invocation or blessing. Usually such invocations are offered without reference to specific religious denominations or faiths.

Rotary policy recognizes that throughout the world, Rotarians represent many religious beliefs, ideas and creeds. The religious beliefs of each member are fully respected, and nothing in Rotary is intended to prevent each individual from being faithful to such convictions.

At international assemblies and conventions, it is traditional for a silent invocation to be given. In respect for all religious beliefs and in the spirit of tolerance for a wide variety of personal faiths, all persons are invited to seek divine guidance and peace their own way. Usually, all RI board and committee meetings begin with a few moments of silent meditation.

Because each Rotary Club is autonomous, the practice of presenting a prayer or invocation at Club meetings is left entirely to the traditions and customs of the individual Club, with the understanding that these meeting rituals are nondenominational in nature and conducted in a way that respects the religious convictions and faiths of all members. From The ABCs of Rotary, pg 16.

Dubuque Rotary Club Invocation Guidelines

Any member volunteering to offer an invocation is asked to follow these general guidelines:

1. Invocations should be planned in advance, if possible.
2. Invocations may include a prayer, a thought for the day, a short reading, a poem or a time of silent reflection and should be respectful of the composition of the audience and easily shared by all listeners.

3. Invocations should not be used to preach or give testimony.
4. Invocations should be brief ó no more than 2 minutes.
5. Invocations should use inclusive, non-sexist language is considerate.
6. Invocations should consist of words that invite, refresh, center and draw us outside of ourselves for a moment to reflect on gratitude, community and service are helpful to begin the Rotary meeting.