

New Visitor Survival Kit

for Minnehaha United Methodist Church

**Chris
Johnson**

Long-time member

cut along dotted line

If you're thinking about a first visit to Minnehaha UMC, you might feel that you'll stick out like a sore thumb. So to help you blend in and enjoy the service, we've created six sure-fire tools to help you feel more at home. Good luck!

#1: WEAR THIS FAKE NAMETAG

Nametag with coffee stain and aged yellow background. You'll look like you were born in the church.

Unisex alias. (Never use your real name.)

Proof that you're a long-time member. (Words don't lie.)

#2 MEMORIZE THIS CHEAT SHEET

When was the church founded?

1889. (Special bonus: Our first minister was Joseph W. Heard. Nobody knows that.)

What is Rev. Sechrist's favorite TV show?

Dr. Who. (Ask her if Daleks have souls and get ready for a long conversation.)

What is the church's official bird?

Trick question. The church doesn't have an official (or unofficial) bird or animal or insect. But we do have a Blessing of the Animals service every summer. Remember that.

When was the church fire?

1958. Everything's been fixed up since then.

Where is the Food Shelf located?

In the basement of the church. We provide food for hundreds of hungry people every month. It's one of our key missions.

What does CTF stand for?

Congregational Trust Fund. (Surprisingly, this comes up a lot more than you think.)

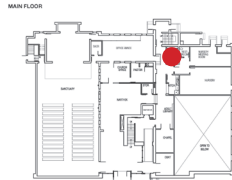
#3: KNOW WHERE THE BATHROOMS ARE LOCATED

It seems like somebody's always looking for a bathroom, and you'll be found out right away if you don't know. So memorize the maps below. The little red dots show the bathrooms. Some are for men, some are for women and some are unisex. You're on your own for that.

LOWER LEVEL

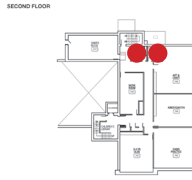


FIRST FLOOR



MAIN
ENTRANCE

SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



#4: SEE THE FISH

We have a new logo and we're still getting used to it. Half the members of the congregation can't see the fish in the logo. So if it comes up, just say, "It's right there," and point toward the center. Then everyone will know that "Chris Johnson" is one smart cookie.



#5: GO WITH THE FLOW

Sometimes it seems like churches have a special language that newcomers can't penetrate. This is the case at Minnehaha UMC, too. The thing is, everybody else is making it up as they go along, so just go with the flow.

#6: BE YOURSELF

If you want, you can wear a fake mustache or eye patch, or not write your name, email address or interests in the Welcome folder. That's all OK. Just be yourself. Enjoy the service. Stay for coffee and conversation afterwards. And if you have a question, ask. Thanks for coming.

