# Storytelling Skills and Strategies

Melanie B. Coddington, CDR Regional Minister

# Nonverbal Communication

Emerging from the assembly…**Poise** or **Bearing**

*Who are you?*

*Where do you come from?*

Taking your place at the ambo…**Posture** and **Stance**

*How do you feel about what you are about to do?*

*Why should we bother to listen to you?*

Settling the assembly…**Eye Contact**

*Are you asking us to actually pay attention?*

##### Verbal Communication

### Projecting the voice

…**Breath Support**

Maintaining erect posture

Getting a full breath

Using the diaphragm and lower abdominal muscles

…**Resonance**

Vowel positions

Substantial consonants

Using the lips as a megaphone

### Modifying the natural timber

Horizontal and vertical mouth opening

Using the yawn space

Showing/covering the upper teeth

**Becoming a storyteller**

Written punctuation is for *silent* reading; it has little to do with the *spoken* word.

The *natural* discipline of the spoken word is **CADENCE.**

**CADENCE** is what happens naturally when people tell stories!

**Gathering the text** into meaningful word groupings

Eliminating unnecessary pauses

*Thus says the Lord: All you who are thirsty, come to the water!*

*You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat;*

*come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!*

Using **inflection**…the musical quality of the speaking voice

Variation of pitch to sustain interest

Special application in dialogue

As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. Father!” he said. “Yes, son,” he replied. Isaac continued, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?” “Son,” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust.” Then the two continued going forward.

Using **deliberation**…varying the rhythm of the text

Fast-Paced sentences

Clipped and crisp

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharoah’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea.

Stretching words and syllables

Stretching vowels and consonants

Then the Lord told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and charioteers.”

Purposeful pauses

When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore [pause] and beheld the great power that the Lord had shown against the Egyptians [pause] they feared the Lord [pause—You bet they did!] and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Clueing-in to **conversation**

Using **gesture**