

An Order for the Commissioning of Lay Ministries

FORM B

The officiant usually is the bishop, an archdeacon, mission / ministry area leader or another representative of the diocese.

This liturgy can be used within the context of The Eucharist or a Service of the Word.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The congregation stands

The officiant addresses the congregation

The Church is the Body of Christ on earth and is called, through baptism, to glorify God in worship and mission. All God's people are called to grow into the full stature of Christ and to bear fruit for the Kingdom, in faith, hope and love.

Do you, the members of Christ's body here in, reaffirm your commitment made at baptism to our common Christian vocation?

We do.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of our sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Jesus said, "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you".

Do you commit yourselves to discerning and obeying God's call in your common life as members of God's Church in this place?

We do.

Jesus said, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last".

Do you commit yourselves to serving God through your life within your local community?

We do.

Jesus said, "May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you".

Do you commit yourselves to preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in all that you say and do?

We do.

People of God, receive afresh the authority given by Christ to his Church: bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Let us pray.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, let there be pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy;

for your mercy and your truth's sake. Amen.

May God, whose power working among us can do infinitely more than all we can ask or conceive, be glorified in his Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE COMMISSIONING OF LAY MINISTRIES

Those to be commissioned come forward and a representative of the MAC presents them saying

The Mission / Ministry Area Council believe that those standing before you have been called to serve in the commissioned ministry of....., as members of our Ministry Team (for a period of.....). On behalf of that Council, I therefore ask that they be commissioned for this ministry.

The officiant addresses the congregation

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; varieties of service, but the same Lord. God has appointed in his Church various forms of ministry.

Those called to commissioned ministries join with all God's people in loving one another, sharing in worship, and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. It is not to act as a substitute for others, but rather is to support all God's people in their witness and service, drawing on the same Spirit of Christ which enriches the whole Body.

Do you, the members of this congregation, believe that God has called those assembled before you to lead the ministry in which you all share?

We do.

The officiant addresses those being commissioned

If the Bishop is officiating, he/she says:

I entrust and commission you to this ministry and I invite you to commit yourselves to the task to which you have been called within this congregation:

or

If the officiant is not the bishop, he/she says:

With the authority of the bishop I entrust and commission you to this ministry and I invite you to commit yourselves to the task to which you have been called within this congregation:

In fellowship with all God's people

we promise before God

faithfully to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to us

to work together

to grow in faith

and to make Christ known.

A certificate of commissioning and/or an appropriate symbol of ministry may be presented

The officiant says

May Christ, who came among us not to be served but to serve, be your living inspiration in all that you say and do.

Amen.

Further prayers may be offered here

THE PEACE

Praise God, who made heaven and earth.

Who keeps his promise for ever.

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace

And builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be with you always

And also with you.

The Peace is shared