

Pittsburgh Presbytery Service of Commissioning
Commissioned Pastor

OPENING WORDS

Moderator:

We, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering, the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation, the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

The Presbytery of Pittsburgh, satisfied that ruling elder *N.* has met all requirements and completed all preparations prescribed in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) now commissions *him/her* as a pastor to serve in and for the *N.* Church.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Moderator:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Candidate: *I do.*

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

I do.

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

I do and I will.

Will you fulfill your commission in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

I will.

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

I will.

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

I will.

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

I do.

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

I will.

Will you be a faithful ruling elder in this commission, serving the people by proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for the people, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Do you, members of *N.* Church, confirm God's call to *N.* to serve as a commissioned pastor in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you respect and follow *his/her* pastoral leadership as *he/she* follows Jesus Christ, praying for *him/her* and supporting *his/her* ministry to the glory of God?

We will.

PRAYER

Commission members gather to lay on hands. Moderator anoints with oil as he/she prays.

Moderator:

Almighty God, in every age You have chosen servants to speak your Word and lead your loyal people. We thank you for your servant *N.* whom you have called to serve you as a commissioned pastor in and for *N.* Church. Give *him/her* gifts to do this particular work. Remind *him/her* always that personally and in *his/her* ministry *she/he* belongs to Jesus alone. Fill *him/her* with your Holy Spirit, so that *he/she* may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be a faithful disciple in all of life.

All may pray together:

God of grace, in baptism you have called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.

DECLARATION OF COMMISSIONING

Moderator:

On behalf of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, I declare that you, *N.*, are now commissioned as a pastor in this congregation, authorized to perform the pastoral functions assigned by presbytery in this congregation for the length of this commission. Welcome to this ministry! May God's Holy Spirit empower you in the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.