COMMISSIONING OF CHRISTIANS TO MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

The commissioning as a response to God is appropriately conducted in the Response section of the worship, before the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. It could well be shared by pastor and elder or other congregational representatives.

The leader addresses the congregation:

Christian friends, as Jesus called men and women to service, so God called us to participate in the redemption of all creation. Each of us has been given a unique expression of God’s Spirit. We are to develop, refine, and use what has been given to us for the common good.

THE VOWS

The person being commissioned will rise and remain standing. The leader says:

At the celebration of baptism,
We pledge ourselves to nurture one another in the faith.
You, _______ (name and role; e.g., as teachers)
carry a particular joy and responsibility.

The leader continues:

Do you promise, by the grace of God,
to give yourselves to this calling
with diligence, energy, and love
and to be guided by the Spirit and the Word of God?

I do, by the grace of God.

Christians, let us acknowledge the gift(s) and calling(s)
of your sister(s) and brother(s).

The congregation responds in unison:

We receive you as servants of Christ;
we pledge to support you in your service.
We encourage you with works and prayers.
We consider ourselves co-workers with you in the service of Christ.

THE CHARGE

_The leader says:_

Servants of Christ, accept the service with which you have been entrusted. Do not neglect the gift that is in you. Present yourselves to God as approved workers, ever faithful to the Spirit of God. Remember always that Jesus called you friends as well as servants. Attend to prayer, for without God you can do nothing.

Let us pray:

_The congregation prays in unison:_

O God, giver of all good gifts, we commend ourselves and our sisters and brothers to your constant love and guidance. Fill them with grace and grant them the strength and peace of your spirit. In the name of Christ, our master, servant, and friend. Amen.