ORDRE FOR INSTALLATION OF CHURCH WORKERS

This order is most appropriately used on a Lord’s Day, during the morning worship. After the presentation of the offerings, and before the General Prayers, the minister may offer the following prayer.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Father, who art rich in mercy to all who call on thee, we bless thee that thou art pleased to call us to be fellow laborers with Christ our Lord in his Church and Kingdom. Teach us, O Lord, to serve thee as thou art worthy to be served, to give and not to count the cost, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for any reward other than that of knowing that we do thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Instruction

Beloved in the Lord, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, so each member of his Church is called to the service of his brethren. The Lord gives to each one his own place and task in the Body of Christ, and also gifts by which he is qualified to accomplish the work to which he has been appointed. Scripture declares that “there are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord,” and “there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone.” To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

In our church we recognize the place and need for several kinds of leadership and service that call for the sincere and willing dedication of Christian men and women. It is with joy in thanksgiving that we now set apart for service in our congregation him who has been appointed and chosen to the following work:

Here the minister may name the person (or persons) who is to be set apart together with the designation of the particular service as Deaconess, as Director of Christian Education, as Assistant in Christian Education, as Officer and Teacher in the Church School, as Officer of Church Organizations, as Church Visitor, or as __________________.
The Interrogation

Beloved in Christ, before installing you in your particular ministry, I ask you to arise and answer sincerely the following questions in the presence of God and his Church:

Do you acknowledge yourself called of God through his Church to the work and service of ______________? (Here name the appropriate number and kinds of service.)

Do you acknowledge the holy Scriptures to be the only rule of faith and practice, and will you in your service further and support the Christian Faith as it is expressed in the Confessions of our Church?

Do you promise to fulfill your ministry, as God may give you grace, with diligence and zeal worthy of the calling to which you have been called?

What is your answer?

Answer: Yes, truly, with all my heart.

The Installation

The almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, fill you with his grace, that you may faithfully perform your duties, and that in so doing you may serve him acceptably and faithfully, to the praise of his holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Declaration and Charge

Beloved fellow servant in Christ, be an example, therefore, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith. Neglect not the gift that is in you. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. Be diligent in prayer, remembering that without Christ you can do nothing.

Address to the Congregation

Beloved congregation, receive this fellow worker as a servant of Jesus Christ. Support him in his Christian service and responsibility in the life of the church. Encourage him by your words and prayers. Consider yourselves
coworkers with him in the service of Christ.

Since no one is sufficient for these things, let us call on God with thanksgiving.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal and ever merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank thee that thou hast chosen to thyself a Church which thou dost rule by thy Word and Spirit, and in which thou art pleased to use the service of men. We commend this servant here before thee to thy continual love and guidance. Fill him with thy grace that he may accomplish the work set before him. Grant him patience to bear the difficulties which he may meet in his work. Strengthen him with thy Spirit that he may remain steadfast, knowing that, when the chief Shepherd shall appear, he shall receive a crown of glory that does not fade away. Hear us, O Father, through thy beloved Son. Amen.

General Prayers

The General Prayers should be concluded with the Lord’s Prayer if it has not been previously used in the Order.

Hymn

Benediction

In case the service of installation is used in another place in the Order, it should be concluded with the Prayer. The service of worship should then continue to follow the Order to the end.