

Commissioning of a Church Leader

The commissioning of a ministry leader should take place during the worship service in the congregation where the ministry leader will be serving.

Commissioning

The pastor says: “[person’s full name], it has become apparent to our elders or deacons, our church council or staff and to our congregation that Jesus Christ has called you, through the Holy Spirit, to serve as the leader of our [name of ministry].”

Pastor asks: “[Person’s name], do you agree to faithfully and humbly serve the people of [congregation’s name] as the leader of our [name of ministry], doing your best, with Christ’s help, in accord with your pastor, to uphold the responsibilities and duties of that role?”

Individual responds: “I do.”

The pastor asks the congregation: “Do you agree to faithfully support [person’s first name] in this ministry, to pray for him/her and uphold him/her in his/her responsibilities, with Christ’s help?”

Congregation responds: “We do.”

Optional: The pastor may then anoint the individual with oil by dipping a finger or thumb in the oil and applying it to the person’s forehead while saying:

We commission you in the name of Jesus, to serve Jesus Christ and this congregation as leader of our [name of ministry]. Amen.

The pastor then lays hands on the individual being commissioned, asks the other elders, pastors, or deacons to do the same, and offers a prayer of commissioning.

Sample prayer:

Father in heaven, we rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, and thank you for setting apart [person’s first name] to lead our [name of ministry]. We pray that you will fill him/her with wisdom, good judgment, courage, zeal and patience for this work and bless him/her in all his/her service in Christ. Amen.

