

Service Outline

Piano Prelude

Welcome, Introductions (intro any special guests), Ordination Explanation

Song 1 — In Christ Alone {or another similar worship song}

Scripture & Prayer — 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Song 2 — Soldiers of Christ, In Truth Arrayed {or another similar worship song}

Scripture: — 1 Peter 5:1-5

Charge to Candidate

Ordination Ceremony & Gifts (three symbolic gifts are giving in the ordination details below)

Pastoral Response — Installed pastor responds with a brief commitment and encouragement to the people

Prayer by Other Pastors & Leaders

Song 3 — Doxology

Ordination Ceremony & Gift

Throughout the New Testament, we see pastors as men divinely called by God and equipped by the Holy Spirit to lead and to serve local bodies of baptized believers in the form of the church. Pastors minister before God on behalf of the people through prayer, through service and through witness. Pastors minister before the people on behalf of God through prayer, instruction and proclamation of the Word.

Paul writes in the New Testament Book of Titus 1: 6-9 as follows:

(6) A pastor must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. (7) Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. (8) Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. (9) He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppress it.

This afternoon, we gather to celebrate the ordination/installation of **{candidate}** for Gospel ministry as a pastor.

Our Church has viewed and affirmed **{candidate's}** character and competency in ministry and he has been affirmed in his calling by other ministers throughout our area.

We have heard **{candidate}** give testimony of his personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

We have heard **{candidate}** declare his call from God to pastoral ministry.

We know that he is as serious and faithful student of the Word of God.

We have the affirmation of our greater church membership here at **{church}** by its overwhelmingly positive vote to call to **{candidate}** to serve as **{lay pastor, lead pastor or other specific title}** of our church.

Through all of this, we have found **{candidate}** to be a man divinely called to ministry by God who we believe possesses the scriptural characteristics we have just read from the book of Titus to labor in the work of pastoral ministry here at **{church}**

I now invite **{candidate}** to join me and to respond to the following questions.

Do you stand ready and able to take charge of this congregation of believers as one of their pastors?

Do you believe and declare that in accepting this charge that you are influenced by a sincere desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the church?

Do you solemnly promise that by the grace of God you will endeavor faithfully to discharge all the duties of a pastor as articulated in Holy Scripture?

{Candidate}, I offer you salt which we know to be a preservative. By God's grace, may you preserve the truthfulness of God's Word in your leadership as one of the pastors of this church.

I now offer you light to remind you that Jesus is the light of the world. By God's grace, may you daily lead this church so that the fullness of Jesus' light might shine through each one of its members as a witness to this community and to the world.

I offer you this shepherd's staff. A shepherd used his staff to guide his sheep and to protect his sheep from the enemy. By God's grace, may you faithfully shepherd this flock of believers that is being entrusted to your care.

Finally, I offer you this Bible. A pastor's greatest tool is the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. May you faithfully study and apply God's Word to your life and your hearers'.

I now invite {candidate} to further respond to the charge given him today.

I now joyfully announce to this congregation, and to all assembled this afternoon in support of this congregation, that **{candidate}** has been affirmed and ordained for Gospel Ministry as a pastor and that he is entitled to all support, encouragement, honor and obedience in the Lord. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I now invite all ordained leaders to join me as we offer **{candidate}** prayers of affirmation and support.

Other Considerations

Who will you invite from outside your church to take part?

- Other pastors or associational leaders from the area
- People of special importance to the pastor being installed

What gifts symbolic or otherwise might you give?

- The three mentioned in the script include: a jar of salt, a candle, and a shepherds staff
- Other options include a nice preaching Bible, notes of encouragement/prayers, or a gift card for books (many pastors love to read)