

COMMISSIONING SERVICE for

_____ (Baptist Church) _____ (date)

Greetings:

- on behalf of the wider family of Baptist churches throughout NZ
- the Association region
- local churches
- others...

If today is an average Sunday, 380,000 people will go to a church service here in NZ today.

You are part of that wider family of followers of Jesus, some of whom call themselves 'Baptist'.

_____ this church has called you and you have confirmed your agreement to take up this task.

It is my responsibility to remind you of what this call means ...

The call of God is both gift and task. It comes from God—from His love, and is to the world—asking you to join with Him in the work of reconciliation.

The call of God places responsibility upon us. You are called to declare the kingdom in word and sign and deed.

The call of God requires commitment. You stand on the heritage of the past and in the face of an unknown future. You commit ourselves to joy and pain, victory and struggle, strength and weakness, trusting in the power of the Spirit of God.

In coming pastor and spouse to share their sense of call... (may have already been done in another setting)

Commisioning

..... **and** do you affirm again your faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord?"

..... **and** "I do"

"Do you affirm again your faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the power of God to bring new life to all who believe and follow Him?"

..... **and** "I do"

"Do you believe you are called to this position and do you promise to serve the Lord here with all your heart?"

..... **and** "I do"

"Do you promise to abide by the ethical guidelines and conduct of a pastor as outlined by the Baptist Union of New Zealand documents?"

..... "I do"

"To those of you already on the staff team—are you prepared to work together as a team, with **and**, supporting and encouraging one another as you serve the Lord and this church? If so, would you please stand and declare 'I am' "

(Staff) "I am"

"Church, do you accept this couple into your midst, and do you promise to support, love, respect and pray for them. If so, would you please all stand.

Scriptures – Romans 12:3-8

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

..... **and**, in the light of what you have affirmed and the promises you have made, and with the affirmation of this church family, I ask you to:

- Minister always in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Proclaim the truth lovingly and fearlessly.
- Call us to live for the Kingdom of God, to keep our eyes on Jesus, and the Word of God in our hearts.
- Be an example by your own faith, remembering that in all that you do, your own individual life before the Lord will count more in the end than any amount of ministry you may undertake. "In your own heart, reverence Christ as Lord".

Laying on of hands: Elders/church leaders..... (Prayer for new pastor...)

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, head of the church, I declare you to be set apart to work amongst the people of this church who call themselves Baptist, the local community and beyond."

Welcome into membership? (may have already been done)

Signing re membership and Code of Ethics