

INDUCTION TO PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

FORMAL INDUCTION LITURGY

Presentation: Oversight rep – introduce new pastor

Responsive Scripture from 1 Corinthians 12: 4 - 7

There are different gifts,

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through different people in different ways,

but it is the same God who achieves glory through them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

to use it for the common good.

Let us serve God in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of love.

Narrative: Search Team (*how/why this candidate was called*) - 3 minutes

Prologue: Oversight rep - *taken from the Baptist Union templates*

_____, you have responded to the call of God to serve in ministry in his name. Let me remind you of what this call means, for every one of us.

The call of God is both gift and task. It comes from the depths of God's love for the world, and asks us to join with Him in the work of redeeming the people he made and loves. We are called as followers of Christ, to rely on his Spirit in serving the mission of God.

So the call of God places responsibility on us. We are called to proclaim the kingdom; to nurture the weak, to feed the hungry, to bring light to the darkness, liberation to the oppressed and healing to the broken. This will take courage and faith.

This call of God requires commitment. We stand on the heritage of the past but in face of an unknown future, we are called to trust and obedience. We do so as fallen human beings, knowing in Christ the everlasting power and grace of God.

Statement of Call: *pastor to be inducted testifies to their journey to this point - 3 minutes*

Vows: led by Oversight rep with new pastor standing beside them

_____ we have recognised the ministry gifts you offer, and we uphold God's clear call to your ministry of pastoral leadership. Today we call you to serve as _____ Pastor in this congregation, and so ask you these questions as you take up this role:

Do you confess your faith in God as your heavenly Father, Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and the Holy Spirit as your Helper and Guide? **I do.**

Do you submit to God's Word, as found in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as your supreme rule of faith and life, and do you promise to preach that Word in making the risen Christ known? **I do.**

Do you come in humility to serve the people of God gathered in this faith community, sharing with them the call and responsibility to connect people of all ages with the God who made and loves them? **I do.**

Will you commit yourself to the study of the Bible and to faithful prayer, always seeking to model your life and ministry on Jesus Christ? **With God's help, I will.**

Will you seek to so order your relationships, your thoughts, your words and your actions, that at all times you will be an example of the Gospel you proclaim? **With God's help, I will.**

Do you promise to abide by the ethical guidelines and conduct of a pastor as outlined by the Baptist Churches of New Zealand? **I do.**

Do you accept the call to be _____ Pastor in this congregation?
I do so gladly.

Spouse Vow: *If there is a spouse, they can make this (optional) vow:*

_____ will you support _____ in the task of loving, caring and leading this church, seeking to develop and use your own gifts as the Holy Spirit enables you? **I will.**

Church Vow: *led by wider Baptist leader eg RML*

_____ faith community, do you accept this _____ Pastor into your midst, and do you promise to support, love, respect and pray for him/her?

If so would you please stand and respond. **We do.**

Signing: *new pastor signs Code of Ethics and membership book while prayer team gathers*

Document says—*As a follower of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the gospel, and gifted by the Holy Spirit to be a pastor of his church, I dedicate myself to conduct my ministry within a New Zealand Baptist church according to the principles and guidelines set forth in this code of ethics.*

Induction Prayer with kneeling/laying on of hands:

(if these prayers are written the pastor can keep them)

Declaration *led by wider Baptist leader eg RML*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, head of the church, I declare you _____ to be set apart to work of pastoral leadership amongst the people and community of _____ Baptist Church, and call you to centre their life on worship and encourage this people in mission, for the glory of God and the extension of Christ's kingdom, Amen.

Gifts and formal greetings

Song *Children may rejoin congregation*

Sung Benediction *e.g. Now unto him.*

Right hand of fellowship *includes welcoming into membership*

Shared lunch