

TO THE CONGREGATION

Having recognised the call of God on (_____ & _____)
for Ministry, I ask you, the members of this congregation, of which they are
an integral part, to give them the honour due in the Lord as God's workers
among you and to be faithful in prayer for them in their ministry.

Will you promise to stand by them in their work, sharing with them in
every possible way by your presence, support and practical endeavour?

Will you also agree to pray often for them, and for whatever area of
ministry the Spirit of God leads them into.

If so, will you signify your agreement by standing.

(_____) , in the light of what you have affirmed and the
promises you have made 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
that any amount of ministry you may undertake. "In your own heart,
reverence Christ as Lord".

(Congregation stands as (_____ & _____)
kneel while friends come forward to lay hands on them and pray for them).

COMMISSIONING SERVICE for

_____ (Baptist Church) _____ (date)

My Brother/Sister, _____

You have sensed the call of God to service in the ministry in his name. It is
my responsibility to remind you of what this call means ...

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 God in the work of saving the
world. We are called as friends of Christ, co-workers with God, followers of
the Spirit in the one mission of the one God to the world.

The call of God places responsibility upon 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. We are called to go forth from our complacency and risk ourselves
in the mission of God. We are called to follow Jesus Christ our Lord.

The call of God requires commitment. We stand on the heritage of the
past and in the face of an unknown future we are called to respond. By our
work we commit ourselves in our weakness and unbelief, trusting in the
power of the living God.

(_____ to give a brief statement of his/her sense of call to the ministry of the Gospel)

We have heard how this call came to (_____) and how he/she accepted the call to minister. It is my responsibility to ask him/her some questions to clarify his/her response and so that we may clearly understand the spirit in which he/she approaches ministry.

(_____), recognising the gifts you have to offer in ministry, we desire to recognise the call God has placed upon your life.

You have been set apart as a person in whom we have confidence and trust to be a minister.

Here in the sight of God, I ask you—

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?

... I do (_____) responds

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?

... I will (_____) responds

Will you make it your aim in all your service to seek the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit, so that the name of Jesus Christ and his name alone will be glorified?

... I will (_____) responds

Reading: (from "JESUS NOW" – paraphrase of Mark 10)

As you have heard the word of God read and acknowledge these responsibilities:

- Will you also encourage the people of God in their love for Jesus Christ and his Word?
- Will you seek to lead them by your own example?
- Will you commit yourself to a ministry of spiritual and moral calibre within the family of Baptist churches in New Zealand and to work with the Body of Christ.

... I will (_____) responds

- Will you also seek to ensure your own spiritual health and wellbeing?

... I will (_____) responds

— — —

And now I want to address some questions to (*spouse*)

(_____) do you also affirm your faith in Jesus Christ and that you will seek to be an example to those you serve?

... I do (_____) responds

Will you give (_____) support in the task of loving, caring and leading in this church, seeking to develop your gifts as the Holy Spirit enables you, so that the name of Jesus Christ alone might be glorified?

... I will (_____) responds

— — —

(_____), the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord smile warmly upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord keep his eye constantly on you and give you peace. Amen.

Signing of the Ethical guidelines document

You are called to be leaders within the new
kingdom that Jesus represents.

Beware lest you take the appointment lightly.

It by no means increases your status in the eyes of God;

It does not make you more significant than his other children.

Nor is it something you should selfishly aspire to.

Be wary of those inner desires to be king-of-the-hill,
to be prominent or important.

Only those who are gifted and empowered and chosen
by the Spirit of God will be granted the courage and strength—
and the humility—to properly and effectively carry out the
assignments of leadership.

Do not seek the appointment to leadership;
let the appointment, if it is of God, seek you out.

You are called to be ministers and servants of God.

Jesus has set the example, and his spirit daily grants you the grace
to live and act as such.

The important calling of your life is to be faithful to God,
and you are expected to carry out that calling and ministry
right where you are.

You do well to remember that leadership will place on you
responsibilities and demand sacrifices,
you may not be willing or able to assume.

Be reluctant about accepting the mantle of leadership—
unless God himself places it upon you.

Then be recklessly courageous about serving God wherever He leads you
and in whatever He commands you to do.