

Order of Installation of a Commissioned Minister

Based on the Order for Commissioning and the Order for Installation of a Pastor
from the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*

Greeting

Association Representative: The _____ Association of the _____ Conference of the United Church of Christ, greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, who calls us to the ministry of reconciliation. Hear these words from the apostle Paul: My sisters and brothers, I want you to know the truth about gifts from the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Presentation

Local Church Representative: _____ Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called _____ as a Commissioned Minister of _____ and respectfully requests that the _____ Association install [him/her] in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Association Representative: The _____ Association has reviewed the request of _____ Church. We have prayerfully examined _____, and we are pleased to install [him/her] as a Commissioned Minister of _____.

_____, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its ministers, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

Exhortation

Association Representative: Hear these words from the apostle Paul: At all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Covenant

Association Representative: Dear friends, _____ Church has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called _____ to minister in this place as Commissioned Minister of _____ and that it now receives [him/her] as appointed by God for this ministry. The _____ Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that [he/she] has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office. _____, seeing that you are called to commissioned ministry by the grace of God and that _____ Church, United Church of Christ has been led to call you as commissioned

minister, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the _____ Association?

Commissioned Minister: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, teaching the word of God as a Commissioned Minister of _____, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Association Representative: Members of _____ Church, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your commissioned minister?

Local Church Members: We, the members of _____, receive _____ as our commissioned minister, promising to labor with [him/her] in the ministry of the gospel and to give [him/her] due honor and support. We gather with [him/her] and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Association Representative: Members of _____ Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with _____ Church and its commissioned minister?

Association Members: We, the members of the _____ Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the commissioned minister of _____ Church as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Prayer of Installation

Association Representative: Let us pray. Almighty God, who out of your great love gathered one church by the power of the Holy Spirit to be the light of the world, we thank you for those in all ages who have given their lives to tend it, to care for it, to lead it, and to serve in every way to forward its ministry. Now we thank you especially for _____ whom we install for the ministry to which you have called [him/her]. Guide, inspire, empower _____, and keep [him/her] faithful to your call that by [his/her] life, your church may continue to be blessed and its mission brought closer to the fulfillment you intend; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

All: Amen.

Declaration

Association Representative: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the _____ Association of the _____ Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as commissioned minister of _____ Church.