

Ordination Service

The Intention - [All standing]

In the presence of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are gathered here this day to ordain (name) to the Christian ministry. We do this in the confidence that God has called him/her to this office through the call of the deacons and members of this church, and through his satisfactory completion of a course of training approved by the Congregational Federation, and by the amazing working of the Holy Spirit in his own heart.

So welcome, Praise the Lord, Bless the Lord and let's worship

Call to Worship / Welcome

Jesus said. "Full authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the Age"

Hymn –

Prayer

Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth and all things visible and invisible, we are moved with wonder at the transcendence of your grace by which we are invited to believe that as we meet in Jesus' name, you are among us and in us.

Make us sensitive to your presence. Let us feel in awesome gladness the moving of your Spirit among us. May none of us escape this place without the assurance that we have shared this time with the risen Lord, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We pray for (name), that he shall be strengthened by your mighty power to fulfil his ministry with glory to your holy name, and with the reverent boldness of one who knows himself to be duly authorised to minister by our Saviour and only Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Hymn –

Statement by the Presiding Minister

It is fantastic, that we meet together in this way today in the very presence of Jesus Christ to celebrate and rejoice at (name) answering his call to Ministry here at (name of church)

It is good to remember just what it means for us to be the church of Jesus Christ in the world.

Congregationalists are bound to their local church where we uphold the scriptural right of every church to maintain independence in arrangement of its own affairs according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, including – worship, mission, leadership and day to day responsibilities.

We seek a unity within the Church, for which Christ prayed, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We recognise and practice the unity of all Christians within the world wide church, We share with other Congregationalists in (area) and the Congregational Federation Nationally.

We play our part in Churches Together with nearby churches. We are also in partnership with churches over the world through the Council of World Mission.

We worship, work and serve with all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ, to bring about His Kingdom here on earth and to help people everywhere to know the complete joy of living their lives in the company of a loving, living Lord of Life.

It is also important for us to be reminded of our understanding of Christian Ministry.

(name) has the approval of the Congregational Federation and will be recognised in May at National Assembly.

As we belong to the fellowship of the Church, we also have a part to play in the life of the church.

Together with all who proclaim Jesus Christ is Lord we are a royal priesthood, God's own people. We are called by God to proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us

out of darkness into his marvellous light - and to live out in our lives the love of him who first loved us.

It is the calling a minister to be a pastor and a preacher.

To introduce the word of God to God's people so that He can live in them.

To illustrate what living a Godly way of life looks like.

To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who need the good news.

To lead God's people in their praying and worshipping.

To celebrate baptism and the Lord's Supper.

To show through pastoral care the love of God for all people.

To maintain the church as a place of generosity, forgiveness, and learning together, so we grow in Christian character.

All that a minister does is to enable the whole church to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ so that it may proclaim good news to the poor, with liberty, healing and justice for all people as it looks to the coming kingdom of our God.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, we appeal to you brothers and sisters to respect those who labour among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love, because of their work.

So, let us listen to how (name of church) church meeting in the presence of Jesus Christ and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayer has called (name) be their Minister and will receive him as appointed by God.

Statement by the Church Secretary

[Explaining how the church has been led to this particular candidate]

Statement by Minister

[Testifying to his call to the Congregational ministry and to this particular church]

Questions to Minister

I, (name of person leading), by the grace of God, and here representing the Congregational Federation, call upon you, (name), to testify to your Christian faith, and to assure us of your ability to undertake the work of a minister in the churches of our faith and order.

Do you believe that God has called you to be a minister in his Church?

I do so believe.

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and do you confess Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord?

I do so believe and confess.

Are you persuaded that the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments reveal all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

I am so persuaded.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in study to deepen your faith, that you may ever uphold the truth of the Gospel and faithfully proclaim it?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you congregational and people of God, exercising the oversight not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you do it, and living as an example to them?

I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Will you promote unity, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among those whom you will serve as minister?

By the help of God, I will.

Do you believe that Congregationalism represents a truly scriptural concept of ecclesiastical polity, and will you administer the business of the church according to that concept?

I do so believe, and in that manner I will conduct the business of the church.

Having heard your testimony to your faith in Jesus Christ, and of your call to the ministry of his Church, and of your readiness to abide by our Congregational constitutions, and of the preparations you have made to equip yourself to the work of the ministry, I am persuaded that your call is from God and that we may proceed to your ordination assured that what we do accords with his will and purpose for your life and that of the churches you will serve.

Turning to the congregation

Our brother in Christ (name) and those who have trained and examined him are satisfied that he is truly called of God to the ministry of the Church. If you are able to share that conviction with us, will you please stand.

Let us pray ...

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we stand before you to signify that we believe our brother (name) is truly called and adequately prepared to be a minister of the gospel in the Congregational Federation. Be pleased to honour our faith and grant that all our prayers and hopes for his future ministry may be fulfilled as you

enable him to keep the promises he has made this day, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Will the congregation please be seated,

Choir sing

Those who are to share with me in laying hands on (name) please join me now.

[The candidate kneels]

The Ordination Prayer

[laying on hands]

(Name), in the name of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we ordain you to the Christian ministry. May the Lord fill you with his Holy Spirit and grant you with all the necessary grace to be a faithful and wise minister of the gospel.

May he also give you the physical strength to meet the demands the ministry will make upon you. May he grant you power to preach with conviction, patience to endure hardness, tolerance and courtesy in your attitudes to those you will serve, and love for all people.

Above all things else, may it please the Lord to make you a winner of souls, an effective evangelist able to introduce men, women and children, to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Support him in his work, Lord. Grant him peace in his heart and in his home, and so preserve him from everything unworthy of his calling that his life is never in conflict with his message.

All this we seek in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Declaration of Ordination

[(name of person leading), takes the candidate by the right hand, and says:]

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great head of the Church, and in the name of the churches of our Congregational faith and order, I declare you to be ordained to the ministry of the Church of Christ. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and even forevermore. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you
peace.

The Right Hand of Fellowship

Let those appointed to represent the churches of our faith and order, and such other representatives as intend to add their prayers to ours for our reverend brother/sister in Christ now ordained to the ministry and inducted to this church, extend their hands in fellowship and love.

Hymn - And can it be

Charge to the Church –

(words of encouragement)

Hymn –

Blessing – (from new Minister)