

INDUCTION SERVICE

Statement of Christian Ministry

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 to the call to ministry – here at (name of church) Congregational 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 the (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 and International Congregational Fellowship.

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.

As we belong to the fellowship of the Church, we 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). To be their minister and will receive them as appointed by God.

Statement by Church Secretary

Including how the call happened

Statement by the Minister Elect

How (minister) received the call to the church

Questions to the Minister Elect

Do you believe in God the Creator, in whose image men and women are made – in whose world we love and in whose gifts we rejoice;

And do you believe that you are called to celebrate life with this company of God's people.

To share in their joy and in their sorrow – proclaiming new birth and leading in worship, that all of creation may praise its maker?

This I believe.

Do you believe in God the Redeemer, who brought good news for the captives – sight for the blind and freedom for the oppressed and do you believe that you are called to proclaim Jesus Christ in this company of God's people and for the community in this place, showing in words and in actions as bread is broken and wine is shared, that the one who was crucified is the one who brings life?

This I believe.

Do you believe in God the sustainer, the Spirit of truth, who consoles and empowers and is poured out on all flesh so that the sons and daughters shall prophesy; and do you believe that God has called and will equip you with the gifts to guide, to comfort and to encourage, to baptise and to teach in this company on God's people and with the church throughout the world?

This I believe.

Questions to the Church (members of the Church to stand)

In your church meeting you have recognised that God has called (name) to the Christian Ministry and to the pastoral oversight of (name of church) Congregational Church. You are invited to make a public declaration of the support you will give him as he fulfils that calling.

Do you accept that there is one body and one Spirit just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, our Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all; and do you promise to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?

We do;

Do you recognise that God has called (name) to the Christian ministry and to the pastoral oversight of this church; and do you promise to welcome (name) In the Lord with great joy, showing respect to the one whom you have called to

be your minister and esteeming him very highly in love because of his work, giving him all the support and encouragement he will need.?

We do.

As the Lord has commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel do you promise each one to give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheer full giver; and do you promise each one, to use whatever spiritual gifts God has given you for the common good recognising that you are the body of Christ and that each one of you has a part to play in it?

We Do.

THE ACT OF INDUCTION

I now invite everyone to stand

(name) may you find your belief in this call renewed as you respond to God's guiding in taking up this work in (name of church)

May your faith be deepened here among the congregation as God leads you to work with the present and future members and friends of this fellowship.

(name) we pray that; God will bless you and keep you, God will smile on you, May God look you full in the face pour his blessing out upon you.

God will give you His peace in all you do.

In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we declare you to be Minister at (name of church) Congregational Church.

Prayer

The Right Hand of Fellowship