

FORM FOR THE ORDLINATION (INSTALLATION) OF
MINISTERS IN THE WORD

Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ,
The consistory has now twice published the name of our
brother ...N... , to learn if anyone had objections against
his ordination to the ministry of the Word (installation
as minister in this church).

Whereas no one has brought forward anything lawful against
his doctrine and life, we will now in the name of the Lord
proceed to his ordination (installation).

Let us first hear what Holy Scripture teaches about the
office of ministers *of* the Word.

Institution by Christ

The exalted Christ gathers His church through His Word
and Spirit, and in His grace uses the ministry of man.

Eph. 4:11,12 The apostle Paul indicates this when he says, And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. As the Chief Shepherd, *in who* unceasing/care for His flock, He appoints shepherds to take heed to the flock in His Name. They/take care of the sheep of Christ by means of the proclamation of the Word, by the administration of the sacraments, by prayers and pastoral supervision. In this way the flock is tended and led in the paths of righteousness.

IPet. 5:4

*Lly
& are to*

~~In the beginning this task~~ *this task* In the/christian church was fulfilled by the apostles. In turn they, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, appointed elders in every church. According to I Timothy 5: 17 there were elders who ruled the congregation. Some of them were also called to labour in preaching and teaching. The latter are now called the ministers of the Word. They have received the ministry of

Acts 6:4

Early

II Cor 5:18,
20

reconciliation of which Paul speaks, All this is from God who through Christ reconciles us to Himself and gave the ministry of reconciliation; that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespas-

ses against them, and entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, 'be reconciled to God'.

Duties of the minister

The task of the minister of the Word can be described as follows.

First, he must proclaim the Word to his congregation, pure and unabridged, according to the command of the apostle Paul,

IITim.4:1,2 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the Word, be urgent in season and out of season; convince, rebuke and exhort; be unfailing in patience and in teaching.

Acts 20:20

After the example of the apostle he performs this duty in public and from house to house. He shall expose all errors and heresies as unfruitful works of darkness, and exhort the membership to walk as children of the light. ^PIt is also his duty to visit the members of the congregation ^{and} to comfort the sick and sorrowing ^{He shall} ~~and to~~ teach the youth of the church in the holy Scriptures which are able to instruct them for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

IITim.3:15

Thus, comforting and admonishing, he calls the whole congregation to the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Second, he is called to administer the sacraments, because Christ has joined this administration to the preaching of the Gospel. It is, therefore, the duty of the minister of the Word to administer holy baptism according to the command of Christ, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He also administers the holy supper, instituted by Christ when He said, Do this in remembrance of Me.

Mat.28:19

ICor.11:24

Third, it is his duty as pastor of the congregation, to call upon the Name of the Lord in public worship, with supplications, prayers, intercessions and thankgivings.

ITim.2:1,2

Fourth, it is the duty of the minister of the Word, with the elders as stewards of the house of God, to see to it that in the congregation all things are done in peace and good order.

ICor.14:33,

ITim.3:1⁴⁰

Together they shall supervise doctrine and life of the membership and tend the flock of God, not as domineering over those

IPet.5:2,3

in their charge but being examples to the flock. In so doing they are to open and shut the kingdom of God by christian discipline, according to the charge given them by Christ. From all this we see what glorious work the ministers of the Word may perform. They are called stars in the right hand of the exalted Christ. When the Chief Shepherd is manifested, faithful servants will obtain the unfading crown of glory.

Ordination(Installation)

Beloved brother...N.... , you are now about to enter upon your office. We ask you to answer the following questions before God and His holy church.

First, are you convinced in your heart that God Himself, through His congregation, has called you to this holy ministry?

Second, do you receive the Old and the New Testament as the only Word of God and the complete doctrine of salvation? Do you reject all doctrines that conflict with it?

Third, do you promise faithfully to discharge the duties of your office and to adorn the doctrine of God with a godly life? Do you also promise to submit yourself to the discipline of the church in case you should become delinquent in doctrine and life?

What is your answer?

← I do.

Laying on of hands*

God, our heavenly Father, who has called you to this holy office, enlighten you with His Spirit and so govern you in your ministry, that you may fulfil it obediently, so that it may bear fruits to the honour of His Name and the expansion of the kingdom of His Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

Charge to the minister

Beloved brother in Christ,

God our Father has obtained this church for Himself with the blood of His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit has made you pastor of this congregation.

Love Christ, feed His lambs and tend His sheep, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly. Take heed to yourself, be an example to God's people

† Acts 20:28

John 21:16

IPet.5:2

ITim.4:12-16

in word and conversation; in love, in faith and in purity.

I Tim. 5:17 Preach the pure doctrine, so that by your preaching and teaching the congregation may be kept in obedience _____

II Tim. 2:3 _____ to the Word of God. Take your share of suffering as

ITim. 4:14-
16 a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Do not neglect the gift with which the Lord has endowed you for this ministry. Devote yourself to your duties with all your strength and with perseverance, for by so doing you shall save both yourself and those who hear you.

Charge to the congregation

Beloved brothers and sisters, _____

Phil. 2:29 The Lord has granted you this servant. So receive him with all joy. How beautiful are the feet of him who brings good tidings!

Is. 52:7 Take heed to receive the Word of God which you hear from him,

IThess. 2:13 and accept his words, spoken according to the Holy Scriptures, not as the word of man, but as what it really is, the Word of God.

Heb. 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Mat. 10:12,
13 If you thus receive this servant from the Lord, the peace of God will come upon you, and you will inherit eternal life through Christ.

Prayer

Since we of ourselves are not capable of all this, we will call upon Almighty God.

Merciful Father, Thou art pleased to gather out of the whole human race a church to Thyself unto life eternal. We thank Thee that Thou wilt gather this church by the ministry of men, and that Thou givest this minister of the Word to this congregation. We beseech Thee, wilt Thou by Thy Spirit equip him to the ministry to which Thou hast called him. Enlighten his mind that he may understand the Scriptures, and open his mouth that he may proclaim the mysteries of the Gospel with boldness. Grant him wisdom and faithfulness to guide the flock in the right path and to keep them in christian peace,

~~so~~ that by his ministry and under his good leadership Thy church may be preserved and increased.

Encourage and comfort him by Thy Spirit, so that he may remain steadfast in troubles and temptation during his ministry, and finally with all Thy faithful servants may enter into the joy of his Lord.

Grant to those entrusted to his pastoral care, that they acknowledge this servant as sent by Thee. Give that they receive the instruction and admonition of Christ, which this shepherd brings to them, and that they submit themselves joyfully to his direction.

Grant that through his ministry all may believe in Christ and thus inherit eternal life.

Hear us, o Father, through Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one only God, lives and reigns forever, Amen.

* The laying on of hands shall not take place in the case of those who are already in the ministry.

