

FORM FOR THE ORDINATION (INSTALLATION) OF MISSIONARIES

Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ,

The consistory has now twice published the name of our brother , to learn if anyone had objections against his ordination (installation) as a missionary. His task will be the ministry of the gospel, which must be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations.

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 those ministers of the Word who are set apart for the preaching of the gospel to those who are outside.

Rev. 5:9 God, our heavenly Father, in His good pleasure, gathers a church from every tribe and tongue and people and nation out of the corrupt race of man unto life eternal.

Jn.3:16,17 For this purpose God sent His only Son into the world, who came as the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for the sheep, that they may have life and have it abundantly. He calls His sheep not only from Israel, but also from all the nations, and leads them to His fold, that there shall be one flock, one shepherd.

Jn.10:10,11, 16;Acts 2:30

Jn.15:26,27 In order to gather His church, Christ has sent the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father and who bears witness to Him.

Jn.20:21,22 The apostles were also witnesses sent by Christ as the Father had sent Him. They have seen and testified that the Father has sent His Son as the Saviour of the world.

1 Jn.4:14

Rm.10:14,15, 17 It is the calling of the church, through this testimony of the apostles to move people to believe in Christ crucified.

Acts 13:2 From the time of the apostles, the Holy Spirit has commanded the congregation to set apart men for this work, to which He has called them.

In order that this command may be fulfilled, the Lord Christ has now given to this congregation a minister of the Word.

Eph.2:12,13 According to the mandate of the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles, he shall first of all preach the Word of God revealed in the Holy Scriptures, to those who are without Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world, so that they who are far off, can come near through the blood of Christ.

2 Cor.5:19, 20 As an ambassador of Christ, he has been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation; for God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Therefore He shall ask in the name of Christ, "be reconciled to God".

Titus 1:9 He must hold firm to the reliable Word of God, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it.

Matt.28:19 Second, he ought to baptize those who through his teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ have become disciples into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that the Lord has commanded His church.

I Cor.11:23,26 And whereas the Lord Jesus has commanded His church to proclaim His death until He comes, he also shall prepare the table of the Lord in the midst of the believers. However the apostle Paul warned, You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. It shall also be his duty to admonish the believers when they sin in doctrine and life and to deny them the use of the sacraments, if they do not heed his admonitions.

Acts 14:23
Titus 1:5,6
I Tim.2:2
Acts 20:28
I Tim.5:22

Third, as soon as this becomes feasible he shall, in good order, ordain overseers and deacons, according to the charge and example of the apostle Paul; so that they, as faithful men, who are able to teach others also, may guide the flock of the Lord, which He obtained with the blood of His Son. He shall, however not be hasty in the laying on of hands, according to the warning of Paul to Timothy.

Matt.28:28
Rev.21:10
Rev.21:23b,
24

In order that they may be able to fulfil this charge, the Lord Christ, to whom has been given all authority in heaven and on earth, comforted and encouraged His apostles, and in them His whole church with this promise, And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. This promise stands until the holy city, the new Jerusalem, has come down out of heaven from God. The glory of God is its light and its lamp is the Lamb. Then the promise will be fulfilled that the nations shall by its light and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.

Rev.22:14

Therefore the Lord Christ calls those blessed, who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

And now, beloved brother, you are about to enter upon your office, as it has been described.

Therefore, you are 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 and do you reject all doctrines conflicting with it?

Third, do you promise faithfully to discharge the duties of your office, in close cooperation with the consistory of this church, 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 of 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 do govern you in your ministry, that you may fulfil it obediently, so that it may bear fruit to the honour of His name and the expansion of the kingdom of His Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Charge to the missionary.

Beloved brother, go then in the power of the Holy Spirit to the work to which God, through His church, has called you as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord and take your share of suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling.

2 Tim.1:8,9

I Pet.5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will obtain the unfading crown of glory.

Charge to the congregation.

Beloved brothers and sisters,
The Lord has granted you this servant, so receive him with all joy. How beautiful are the feet of him who brings good tidings. Beseech the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He may guard him (and his family) in all his ways. Pray for him, that the Word of the Lord may speed on and triumph., as it did among you.

Is.52:7

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

Prayer

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 man and that Thou hast graciously provided this congregation with a faithful servant, to labour in the ministry of Thy Word among the heathen.

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 boldly proclaim Thy gospel, so that through his preaching many may come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grant him wisdom and perseverance in all difficulties and oppression, which may confront him in his ministry. Guard him on all his ways. Grant him Thy grace, that he may remain steadfast to the end, and with all Thy faithful servants may enter into the joy of his lord.

Grant this congregation and the cooperating churches Thy grace, that they may see what Thou art doing in this ministry and continually remember Thy servant in their prayers, in order that they may rejoice in the propagation of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Hear us, o merciful Father, through Thy dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

