**Partners In Mission**

**A Service of Commissioning**

A Service of Commissioning is conducted by the authority of a presbytery and/or other sending agency of the Church with the moderator or one appointed by the moderator presiding. It normally implies that the person commissioned is being sent from The Presbyterian Church in Canada by one of its courts or agencies to another part of the world to work in partnership with Christian churches there. Commissioned workers usually possess a specific gift or talent that is needed in the situation. Those commissioned may include lay members of the church, members of the Order of Diaconal Ministries, or ministers of Word and Sacraments. They may be teachers, musicians, medical personnel, business administrators, agriculturalists or others with special expertise. They may be sent out for long or short term appointments. The commissioning service is designed to send them out with the assurance that both official courts and members of the Church have covenanted to support them in prayer as well as the necessary costs.

The Service of Commissioning is normally included in a service of public worship at a time when the wider association of Christian friends and congregations can be present. The commissioning follows the sermon and may be in a full service of Word and Holy Communion. The commissioning is a natural part of the offering and dedication of gifts. If the person being sent out is being ordained or designated, the commissioning could be included in that service as a part of the vows and charge.

**A Service of Commissioning**

An Outline

*The commissioning will normally follow the sermon and may proceed as follows:*

Presentation of Candidate

Narration of Steps

Mandate and Preamble

Questions and vows

Prayer

Declaration

Right hand of Fellowship

**Partners in Mission**

**A Service of Commissioning**

**An Order**

*The presbytery having been constituted, the person or persons to be commissioned shall enter with the presbytery accompanied by representatives of the appointing board or agency of the Church.*

*The Moderator leads the people saying:*

There are varieties of gifts,

**but the same Spirit.**

There are varieties of service,

**but the same Lord.**

There are varieties of activity,

**but the same God activates all of them in everyone.**

To each is given a gift by the Spirit,

**to use it for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,

**and individually members of it.** *I Cor. 12:4-7, 27, adapted.*

Though we have different gifts,

together we are called to be the church

with a ministry in the world

which is led by the risen Christ.

**The Presentation And Narration Of Steps**

*The people may be seated. The clerk or one appointed presents the candidate to the moderator, saying:*

Moderator, I present to you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

who has offered to serve the church as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and comes now to be commissioned to this task.

*There may be a brief narration of the steps which brought the candidate and the church to this decision.*

**Mandate And Preamble**

The Moderator shall say one or more of the following Scriptural mandates or similar passages:

Listen to the words of Jesus Christ, who commissions you as he commissioned those who shared his earthly ministry when he said:

Go . . . . and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

Jesus made this promise to them:

Remember,

I am with you always,

to the end of the age. *Based on Matt. 28:19-20.*

Of himself, Jesus said:

I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness

but will have the light of life. *John 8:12.*

To those who followed him, Jesus said:

You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid . . . .

In the same way, let your light shine before others,

so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in

heaven. *Matt. 5:14, 16.*

For the welfare of those who answered his call, Jesus taught a new concept of place and order when he said:

A disciple is not above the teacher,

nor a slave above the master;

it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher,

and the slave like the master. *Matt. 10:24-25.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

as members of the body of Christ, we rejoice today that you have answered the call to engage in this special ministry as an agent of God's reconciling love in the world. We are thankful to God for the gifts of grace and knowledge which have been given to you. We rejoice that Christ has crowned those gifts with a call to a specific ministry in a particular place where you may exercise your skills and express your faith in Christ so that others may be brought closer to the rule of God. As we commission you to this trust and task, we ask you, before God and in the presence of this congregation, to witness to your faith and purpose by answering these questions.

**Questions**

Do you declare anew your faith in one God, made known in Jesus Christ, to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**I do.**

Will you, following the example of Jesus, proclaim the good news of God in Christ in word and action among the people where you serve?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you rely on the resources of God's grace and continually seek God's guidance in fulfilling your mission?

**I will, God being my helper.**

*The Moderator asks the congregation to stand.*

As members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, do you promise to uphold \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in this ministry, remembering them in your prayers and giving your support to Presbyterians Sharing?

**We will, God being our helper.**

**Prayer Of Commissioning**

Let us pray.

We praise and glorify you,

Lord God Almighty,

that you have created us and called us to yourself;

you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ your Son;

you sustain our lives and our works

through the presence and power of your Holy Spirit.

We praise and glorify you,

Lord God Almighty,

that you have formed throughout the world

the church to be your chosen people

to declare the praises of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now we give you thanks for your servant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

who is willing to go forth in the name of Christ

to serve you as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Spirit of God, anoint \_\_\_\_\_\_\_with power

to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ

in word and action.

Give to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we pray

good health of body, mind and spirit.

Be present through the joys and sorrows,

the doubts and the triumphs,

the certainties and uncertainties

of the life and ministry to which you call \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Here prayers may be offered for the particular people and work to which the person is appointed.*

Hear our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Declaration**

*The Moderator continues:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

by appointment of The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and of (*name other appointing agencies*)

I commission you to serve The Presbyterian Church in Canada as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

in the name of Jesus Christ, the only head of the church.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*Here the moderator and other representatives of the church as designated may offer the right hand of fellowship or other sign of peace.*

*The service of worship continues.*