

**SERVICE OF ORDINATION, COMMISSIONING
AND CONSECRATION**

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

THE COMMITMENT

The Common Vows of Ordered Ministry

The president will move to the center aisle and face the candidates. The candidates stand and face the president. He addresses all of those being consecrated, commissioned, ordained, or those transferring ordination.

In the presence of God and with this gathering you have declared in the words of the Apostles' Creed those things most surely believed among us from the beginning. This is the faith on which you were examined. Being called to the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church, you will now have that call confirmed by prayer and the laying on of hands according to apostolic tradition, setting you apart as teachers, ministers of the Word and shepherds of the flock. We also invite those whose ordinations are being transferred to declare in the presence of God and with your sisters and brothers your commitment to this trust and responsibility.

Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and confess Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

I do

Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct?

I do

Do you believe that you are truly called by God and his church to serve this pastoral office?

I do

Will you be diligent in your reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and seek the knowledge of those things that make you a stronger and more able minister of Jesus Christ?

I will with the help of God.

Will you seek to live in conformity with Christ and his teachings so that you may be a faithful witness to Christ crucified and risen and a wholesome example for all God's people in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, faith and purity?

I will with the help of God.

Will you submit to the church's discipline, pledging your loyalty to the Evangelical Covenant Church and to its mission, and will you promise to follow the ethical Guidelines for Covenant Ministers in the governance of our common life?

I will with the help of God.

May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them.

The persons then respond: Amen.

The president says:

You may be seated.

The Celebration of Transfers of Ordination

(Transfer Candidates come to the platform.) The executive minister presents the candidates to the congregation. A prayer is offered by a board member, recognizing our unity in Christ.

The President says:

We praise God for the vows you've spoken and the traditions that have nourished and blessed you on the way and for your faithfulness to Christ's church. We now receive your vows and ask God's richest blessing as you serve in Gospel ministry within the Evangelical Covenant Church. Serve with joy and great hope.

The President reads this statement before Bibles and stoles are given:

As we give you Bibles and vest you with stoles, hear these words: Receive this book. Here are the words of eternal life; learn from them, live in them and proclaim Christ, the living Word.

Receive this stole as a sign of the yoke of Christ and your ordination being recognized and received by the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Transfer Candidates are given Bibles and stoles.

The Rite of Consecration to Missionary Service

(Consecrated Missionary candidates come to the platform.)

The executive minister of world mission presents the candidates to the president and to the congregation.

President Walter, on behalf of clergy and laity, I present these persons for consecration as missionaries. They have been examined in accord with the requirements of the church and approved by the church through its Board of

the Ordered Ministry and the Annual Meeting as duly qualified for the exercise of their calling.

The President addresses the candidates:

Dear friends, in response to God's call and after spiritual and educational preparation, you have come to be consecrated to the office of missionary. Having confessed your faith and spoken your vows in matters of faith and holy intent, I now call upon you to make your solemn promise in the presence of God and in this company of witnesses.

Will you undertake to be a faithful missionary using your unique gifts to participate in God's mission in this world, witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ, and working in partnership with your brothers and sisters in Christ's service, that God's love may be known to the ends of the earth?

I will with the help of God

We praise God for your compassion for others and your desire to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all nations, tribes, people, and languages. As you serve others using the unique gifts the Spirit has given, may your life bear witness to the Incarnated One who became like us so that we could know God.

The president gives the invocation:

The Lord God pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work now committed to you through the laying on of

our hands. Kneel before God and lift up your hearts in prayer.

_____ *prays for the candidates.*

DECLARATION OF CONSECRATION

The president delivers the declaration of consecration.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, and by the authority of the Evangelical Covenant Church, I now declare you duly consecrated to your sacred service as missionaries.

The President reads this statement before Bibles and stoles are given:

As we give you Bibles and vest you with stoles, hear these words: Receive this book. Here are the words of eternal life; learn from them, live in them and proclaim Christ, the living Word.

Receive this stole as a sign of the yoke of Christ and your consecration to missionary service on behalf of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Consecrated Missionary Candidates are given Bibles and stoles.

Rite of Commissioning and Ordination to Word and Service

(Commissioning and OWSe candidates come to the platform.)

The director of ministry services presents the candidates to the president:

President Walter, on behalf of clergy and laity I present the following persons for commissioning and ordination to specialized ministry. They have been examined in accord with the requirements of the church and approved by the church through the Board of the Ordered Ministry and the Annual Meeting as duly qualified for the exercise of their ministry.

Vow of Commissioning and Ordination to word and service

The president addresses candidates for COM and OWSe:
Dear friends, in response to God's call and after spiritual and educational preparation, you have come to be commissioned for staff ministries and ordained to the office of word and service. Having confessed your faith and spoken your vows in matters of faith and holy intent, I now call upon you to make your solemn promise in the presence of God and this company of witnesses.

To Commissioning Candidates:

Will you who are being commissioned to staff ministries use your unique gifts to build up the Church of Jesus Christ by serving collegially with your ordained sisters and brothers, participating in the spiritual leadership of your call?

I will with the help of God.

To OWSe Candidates:

Will you who are being ordained to word and service undertake to be a faithful pastor to those whom you are called to serve, teaching in accord with the Holy Scriptures,

caring for God's people whatever their needs, and working in partnership with your sisters and brothers in Christ's service, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

I will with the help of God.

Address and Charge (President)

The president of the church gives the charge:

We praise God for your commitment to serve Christ and his church in the order of word and service and commissioning. Serve patiently, cheerfully and with compassion, remembering that the work you are called to is God's work and that it is done in God's name to God's glory.

Follow Christ whose servant you are. Remember you are marked as persons who proclaim Christ crucified and risen, and you must be prepared to be what you proclaim. Serve Christ simply and willingly, and let your joy in Christ overcome all discouragement. Have no fear; be humble yet bold and full of hope.

The president gives the invocation:

The Lord God pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work now committed to you through the laying on of our hands. Kneel before God and lift up your hearts in prayer.

COM and OWSe candidates kneel.

The Laying on of Hands and Prayer

This prayer shall be offered by a member of the Board of the Ordered Ministry. The members of the Board shall stand

behind the kneeling persons and place their hands upon the heads of those kneeling while the prayer is offered.

Declaration of Commissioning and Ordination

The president delivers the declaration...

To those of you taking the vows of commissioning:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Evangelical Covenant Church, I now declare you duly commissioned to your office of ministry. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

To those of you taking the vows of word and service:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Evangelical Covenant Church, I now declare you duly ordained to the office of word and service, committing to you to share in ministry of Word and sacraments, and taking up the yoke of service, leading within your specialization. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Giving of the Bibles and Vesting of Stoles

The president reads this statement before Bibles and stoles are given.

As we give you Bibles and vest you with stoles, hear these words: Receive this book. Here are the words of eternal life: Learn from them, live in them, and proclaim Christ, the living Word.

Receive this stole as a sign of the yoke of Christ and of your ordination and commissioning to serve him.

Rite of Ordination to Word and Sacrament

(OWSa candidates come to the platform.)

The executive minister of ordered ministry shall say to the president:

President Walter, on behalf of clergy and laity, I present the following persons for ordination to the office of Word and Sacrament. They have been examined in accord with the requirements of the church and approved by the church through its Board of the Ordered Ministry and the Annual Meeting as duly qualified for the exercise of their calling.

Vow of Ordination to Word and Sacrament

The President shall say:

Dear friends, in response to God's call and after spiritual and educational preparation, you have come to be ordained to the office of Word and Sacrament. Having confessed your faith and spoken your vows in matters of faith and holy intent, I now call upon you to make your solemn promise in the presence of God and in this company of witnesses.

Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor, caring for God's people whatever their needs, nourishing them in the preaching and teaching of the Word, administering the holy sacraments, bearing rule in the church, and in serving with

the love and authority of Christ in bringing redemption and reconciliation?

I will with the help of God.

Address to all Ordinands

The President addresses all the ordinands:

We praise God for your commitment to serve Christ and his church in the order of Word and Sacrament. Serve patiently, cheerfully and with compassion, remembering that the work you are called to is God's work and that it is done in God's name to God's glory. Follow Christ whose servant you are. Remember you are marked as persons who proclaim Christ crucified and risen, and you must be prepared to be what you proclaim. Serve Christ simply and willingly, and let your joy in Christ overcome all discouragement. Have no fear; be humble yet bold and full of hope.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Then the president shall say:

The Lord God pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of the ministry now committed to you through the laying on of our hands. Kneel before God and lift up your hearts in prayer:

The ordinands will kneel. (The board members will join the ordinands at this time.)

The Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Ordination

This prayer shall be offered by a member of the Board of the Ordered Ministry. The ordaining ministers shall stand

behind the kneeling ordinands and place their hands upon the heads of the ordinands while the prayer is offered.

Declaration of Ordination

Then the President says:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Evangelical Covenant Church, I now declare you duly ordained to the office of word and sacrament, committing to you to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, share the yoke of service, and bear rule in the church. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Giving of Bibles and Vesting of Stoles

The President reads this statement before Bibles and stoles are given.

As we give you Bibles and vest you with stoles, hear these words: Receive this book. Here are the words of eternal life; learn from them, live in them and proclaim Christ, the living Word.

Receive this stole as a sign of the yoke of Christ and your ordination.

Benediction

Missionaries, Ordinands, those Commissioned and those who have Transferred Ordination shall raise their right arm in benediction and say to the congregation:

“The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.”

People: And also with you. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Postlude