

## THE COMMISSIONING OF A PIONEER

### NOTES

A pioneer is someone who can imagine new possibilities and has the ability to bring them into being, seeking to connect with those who are not engaged in the life of the Church to help them encounter God and explore what it might mean for them to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. They are creative and resourceful, community oriented and kingdom focused. Pioneers may work to build Christian communities which in time become churches in their own right.

It will be appropriate that relevant ecumenical, inter-faith, community and civic representatives are invited to attend this service.

This service is for commissioning a lay person appointed to a pioneering appointment.

### THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

1. Hymn or a time of praise
2. This collect, which may be preceded or followed by the collect of the day:

Eternal God, in your love  
you pour out upon us gifts of your Spirit  
that we may share your Gospel in every place and with all people:  
look now on your *servant, N*,  
whom we are to commission in your Name,  
that *she/he* may make your grace and glory known  
among those people to whom *she/he* is called and sent;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

3. The Old Testament reading for the day or one of the following:

Isaiah 55:6-13  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Joshua 1:6-9

4. A Psalm or portion of a Psalm may be said or sung.
5. The Epistle for the day or one of the following:

Ephesians 4:7-16  
Colossians 4:2-6

6. Hymn or song

7. A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

Hear the Gospel of Christ.  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

The Gospel for the day is read, or one of the following:

Luke 6:20-26  
Luke 10:1-2  
Luke 10:38-42

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

8. Sermon

9. Hymn or song

THE COMMISSIONING

10. All stand.

The presiding minister says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, who *is* to serve as a *pioneer* in this *Circuit/District/other context*.

The work to which *N is* appointed is particularly concerned with . . .

Or, for the commissioning of a pioneer already engaged in the work:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, who *is* already engaged in a pioneering ministry. We are now to commission *her/him* as a *pioneer* in this *Circuit/District/other context*.

The work to which *N is* appointed is particularly concerned with . . .

Here those involved in creating the project/appointment should share with the congregation the vision and aims. For an already existing ministry, testimony could be included. It may be appropriate to use videos, images and multimedia presentations as part of this.

*N*, we rejoice that you are now to exercise *this ministry* as part of the wider life and mission of the Church. This ministry will make great demands upon you and upon those close to you, yet in all this, the Holy Spirit will sustain you by his grace.

Or, where the pioneer is already engaged in the work:

*N*, we rejoice that you exercise *this ministry* as part of the wider life and mission of the Church. As you know, the demands of this ministry upon you and those close to you are great, yet in it all, the Holy Spirit sustains you by his grace.

Do you believe that you are called by God to share in mission as *a pioneer*?

**Answer:** I do.

Will you be a sign of God's call to holy living, seeking new ways to relate to the people of the community you serve?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you be rooted in the Gospel and faithful in prayer?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you attend to the rhythms of grace, taking time to listen, to reflect and to retreat as well as to speak and to act?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you work to build Christian community with others, so that together you may grow as disciples of Jesus Christ?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

**11. The presiding minister says:**

Let us pray.

Faithful God, we thank you  
that *N* has offered *herself/himself*  
as *a pioneer* for your Church.

Uphold *her/him* with your grace  
and enable *her/him* by your Spirit,  
that through *her/his* ministry  
your love may be shared  
and your name may be glorified;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**12. A Circuit Steward or a member of the District Policy Committee or another suitable person says to the people:**

Sisters and brothers,  
will you welcome *N*,  
and will you offer *her/him*  
your friendship, encouragement and prayers  
in the work to which God has called *him/her*?  
**With God's help, we will.**

**13. A representative of the local church/circuit/district/project with which the pioneer will be mainly involved may say:**

I welcome you in the name of . . .

**14. Welcomes may then be given by circuit and ecumenical representatives, community leaders and other appropriate persons. The right hand of fellowship may be offered.**

**15. Each newly-appointed pioneer may reply briefly in her/his own words and/or as follows:**

I thank you for your welcome.  
I will work with you and pray for you.

16. Prayers of intercession. It may be particularly appropriate that the newly appointed pioneer leads the people in prayer for the particular pioneering project and for the mission of the whole church.

17. The Lord's Prayer

**EITHER**

We say together the prayer  
that Jesus gave us:  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who  
sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**OR**

As our Saviour taught his  
disciples, we pray:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**

18. The Peace

**All stand.**

We are the Body of Christ.

**In the one Spirit  
we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

19. The service continues from the Preparation of the Gifts. Any appropriate order may be used, but that for The Day of Pentecost and Times of Renewal in the life of the Church (page 174 MWB) is especially suitable.

If the Lord's Supper is not celebrated, the service concludes as follows:

20. Hymn or song

21. Offering and prayer of dedication

22. This or some other prayer of thanksgiving:

Let us pray.

Generous God,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift,  
we thank you for your mercies:  
for your goodness that has created us,  
your grace that has sustained us,  
your patience that has borne with us,  
and your love that has redeemed us.  
We thank you for Jesus Christ your Son:  
for his humble birth and his holy life,  
his ministry of love and care,  
his suffering and death,  
his resurrection, and his eternal reign.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit:  
for the gifts of the Spirit poured out on all flesh,  
for our life together of worship and service,  
and our calling to make disciples  
and to serve Christ in our neighbours.

**In the power of the Spirit,  
we offer ourselves again to you  
as a living sacrifice to your praise and glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

23. Hymn or a time of praise

24. The presiding minister says:

May the God of love  
stir up in us the gifts of his grace  
and sustain each of us  
in our discipleship and service;  
and the blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with *you/us* forever. **Amen.**