

Commissioning for Lay Ministries in the Church

The Ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons. Lay persons are commissioned for their ministry by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and no form of commission for special functions is necessary. The form which follows is intended for use when a public recognition of a special function is desired. It may be adapted for the admission of persons of ministries not provided for in the text (i.e., Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers Eucharistic Visitors and Preachers). For the complete service, please see "The Book of Occasional Services" pgs. 179-195.

The Examination

The congregation is seated, and the celebrant stands in full view of the people. The sponsors and candidates stand facing the celebrant.

Celebrant Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission *these persons* in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which *they are* called.

The celebrant addresses the sponsors.

Celebrant Are *these persons* you are to present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of *their* duties, to exercise *their* ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of his Church?

Sponsor **I believe *they are* and I present to you (state full name here) licensed by the Bishop for the ministry of Worship Leader (Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor or Preacher) in the Diocese of Maine.**

The celebrant addresses the candidate(s).

Celebrant You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidate **I will.**

Celebrant Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidate **I will.**

The Commissioning

The celebrant address the congregation.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together There are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same LORD; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone.

Celebrant Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
People Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Celebrant Look with favor upon those whom you have called, O Lord, to be Worship Leader (Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor or Preacher) in your Church; and grant that they may be so filled with your Holy Spirit that, seeking your glory and the salvation of souls, they may minister your Word with steadfast devotion, and by the constancy of their faith and the innocency of their lives may adorn in all things the doctrine of Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People Amen.

Celebrant In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you (N.) as Licensed Worship Leader (Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor or Preacher) and give you this (certificate, prayer book, bible, cross, other) as a token of your ministry.