

A Rite of Installation for an Assistant Pastor

Increasingly retired pastors have been appointed to serve part time in an honorary capacity in the congregations of the LCA and to assist the local pastors in their work. Even though they have not been officially called as pastors to that congregation or parish, they serve there as ministers of word and sacrament. This rite is meant to regularize such an arrangement and to ensure that they have congregational support for their work.

1 PRESENTATION

The minister goes to the altar, and the pastor to be installed stands in front of the altar. The appointed representative of the parish/congregation steps forward to the side of the pastor to be installed, and says to the minister.

N, I present to you N, who has been appointed to serve as an assistant pastor of — .

2 WORD OF GOD

The minister says to the assembly.

Friends in Christ: Our Lord says: 'Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, so I send you.' Then he breathed on them, saying, 'Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you pronounce them unforgiven, unforgiven they remain.'

And St Peter says: Each one of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very word of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

3 VOWS

The minister addresses the pastor to be installed.

St Paul says, "All things should be done decently and in order." Some years ago our Lord called you, N, into the office of the public ministry in the LCA, and has brought much blessing to many people through your faithful service. Even though you have retired from full time parish ministry, you have agreed to work part time as a pastor here with us in this parish/congregation. So, today we appoint you as our assistant pastor.

(Your duties are:

- To assist the pastor in leading the divine service.
- To distribute Holy Communion to those who are sick and homebound.
- To provide pastoral care and counsel to the people that are entrusted to you).

Before God and this assembly/congregation, I ask you: Do you promise, with the help of God, to assist the pastor and people of this parish/congregation in the preaching of

God's word and the administration of sacraments, in accordance with the holy Scriptures and the confessions of the Lutheran church?

Yes, I do.

Do you promise to serve the people entrusted to you by speaking God's word and listening to them, and by praying and caring for them?

Yes, I do.

Do you promise to set a good example to all people by your willing service and holy way of life?

Yes, I do.

Do you promise to work under the supervision and direction of the pastor of this parish/congregation and under the authority of the district president in the tasks that are assigned to you?

Yes, I do.

Almighty God graciously give you the wisdom, strength, and compassion to do what you have promised.

Amen.

4 INSTALLATION

The minister continues.

N, I install you as an assistant pastor of —, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

5 RECEPTION

The minister says to the assembly.

Members of this congregation/parish: Receive N as an assistant pastor here in this parish/congregation. Pray for him, honour and support him, and work peacefully together with him.

The congregation/assembly receives the installed pastor with applause.

6 GREETING

The local pastor may welcome and greet his assistant pastor as gesture of collegiality with him. The leaders of the parish/congregation may also greet the installed pastor with a scriptural verse.

7 PRAYER

The minister says the following or another suitable prayer.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for appointing N to assist the pastor of this parish/congregation.

Fill him with your Holy Spirit, so that he may tenderly care for your people and give freely of himself to them. Help him to proclaim the gospel clearly and teach your people to be faithful disciples of Jesus in their daily lives.

Help him to encourage this parish/congregation to hold firmly to the word of life, rejoice in your grace, and shine brightly as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

8 BLESSING

The minister says to the installed pastor.

The Lord bless you so that you may bear much fruit, and that + your fruit may last.
Amen.

The service continues.