



Introduction

M: There are diverse gifts:

P: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

M: There are different ways of serving God:

P: but it is the same Lord who is served.

M: God works through people in different ways:

P: but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

M: Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:

P: and there is no gift without its corresponding service.

M: There is one ministry of Christ:

P: and in this one ministry we all share.

M: Together we are the body of Christ:

P: and individually members of it.

Coming Forward for Commissioning

The Uniting Church affirms the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them for the building up of the kingdom of God. Believing God calls people to this service in their paid employment, we are now to commission those who have been called to this ministry in their work.

Please come forward if you seek commissioning to ministry in your work.

(Those to be commissioned come forward.)

Sisters and brothers, this congregation affirms your call to ministry in your work. We believe it is Jesus Christ who calls us to God's purposes. Therefore let me ask you:

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you believe that God calls you to ministry in your work?

I do.

Responsibilities of Ministry

We believe the responsibilities of this ministry include:

- To perform your work to the best of your God-given abilities.
- To provide pastoral care for those with whom you work.
- To uphold a Christian ethic in work decisions.
- To work for the common good.
- To offer the hospitality of acceptance to all people.
- To struggle for justice and healing in work relationships, and in the goals of your work organisation.
- To pray for those with whom you work.
- To ensure your worship of God maintains your balance between work, rest, and recreation.

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to carry out the responsibilities of ministry in your work?

I do.

Congregation Commitment

(The congregation stands)

Will you, the members of this congregation, accept these brothers and sisters as our representatives in the workplace and as ministers at work?

We will.

Will you encourage them in love and support them in their ministry, serving with them the one Lord Jesus Christ?

We will.

May God give you strength to fulfil these vows.

Amen.

(The minister invites those to be commissioned who are able, to kneel.)

Prayer of Commissioning

Let us pray in silence for our friends before we commission them.

Lord God, you have called these members of our congregation to your service in the places of their paid employment. Grant them the strength to be your living presence in their being and their doing.

Sisters and brothers, receive the Holy Spirit for ministry and mission where you work, and in your work.

Amen.

The Blessing and Welcome to Ministry

Aaronic blessing (sung)

(The commissioned members stand and face the congregation.)

Declaration

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare you to be representatives of Christ in ministry and mission where you work, and in your work.

(The congregation may applaud.)

Sisters and brothers, we welcome you to the mission and ministry of our congregation in your working lives. We offer you our friendship and support as we join together in this work to which God has called us, and as we share with people in paid employment in Christ's mission of justice, compassion and new life.