

A Commissioning Service for the Certification
of Christian Educator/Youth Minister

*HYMN SELECTIONS ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS.
OTHER HYMNS WITH THE THEMES OF COMMISSIONING MAY BE USED.
USE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR OR YOUTH MINISTER AS APPROPRIATE.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: We are here to certify that (name) has been set aside by God
and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church
to be commissioned as a Christian Educator/Youth Minister!

People: But what qualifications does (he/she) have for this area of ministry?

Leader: (She/he) has studied and been found to have the wisdom and knowledge
(he/she) needs to be set apart as a Certified Christian Educator/Youth
Minister:

one who knows the importance of nurturing others in the faith,
one who creatively plans to teach and lead,
one who knows the Bible and its teachings,
one who can show others how to be a disciple of Christ.

People: But why are we commissioning this person?

Leader: Because the Cumberland Presbyterian Church has recognized
that people are called every day,
not to the ordained ministry of word and sacrament,
but to the ministry of Christian Education and Youth Ministry,
whether that is full-time or part-time,
whether they are young or old,
whether they have been serving churches for years
or are new to the ministry.

**People: It is indeed right to do this: to recognize these gifts
of leadership, to set this one apart for God's service,
and to bless their ministry now and into the future.**

Leader: Let us then worship God!

Hymn of Gathering *Come Christians, Join to Sing*

Call to Confession

How can we lead when we know that our relationship with God is lacking: it is
broken and dusty from neglect. Let us go to God in prayer asking that our relationship
be renewed and promising that we will turn back to the right path. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy One, before your awesomeness we fall silent, aware of our humanity and sin. Who
are we to teach about your love, or speak the good news of truth when we know we
don't love others and don't follow in the way that Jesus Christ showed us? How can we
nurture others in the faith when we don't take the time to immerse ourselves in your

word and meditate on its meaning? How can we care for your people, when we don't give our neighbors the time of day? Like Paul, we do the things we don't want to do and leave the things we need to do undone. Forgive us o God, for our hypocrisy and our apathy. Refresh us with your word and your mission. Renew our hearts so they burn with the fire that they had when we first learned about you. Forgive us all our sins and wash us clean with your pure water, so we can again feel your love envelop us. We ask these things through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

We are so blessed because the Word tells us that if we let go of our sins and turn back to God, that God is faithful and just and full of grace towards us. Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

The Peace

You are invited to share peace with the words, "May the peace of Christ be with you."

Hymn of Assurance *Lord, When I Came Into This Life*

Anthem/Solo

Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Illumine our paths with the words that are read and the message that is spoken that we might hear the good news and put it into action in our lives.

Scripture Possibilities

- **1 Timothy 4:11-16**

It is our tasks as Christians whether we are young or old to keep learning and keep teaching. Through these things, people will experience salvation.

- **Matthew 28:16-20**

Jesus' last instruction to his disciples in Matthew was to go into the world to train others, to baptize them and then teach them all that you have learned from Jesus. We are to do this to the end of our lives.

Sermon

Hymn of Good News *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

A Statement of Discipleship (responsively)

Leader: Christian Discipleship is the life and practice of following Jesus Christ.

People: **One may know about Jesus and even believe in Jesus as an important historical and spiritual figure. But one becomes a disciple of Jesus by entering into a personal relationship with him and**

making him the guiding force of one's life. A disciple is not a "Jesus admirer" but a servant who follows faithfully and willingly.

Men: A disciple is a student—a life-long learner. Christian disciples devote their lives to the reading and studying of God's inspired word as found in the Old and New Testaments, and come to know the teachings of Jesus through them and through interaction with others who share this identity.

Women: Prayer, worship, life experiences and God's grace enable disciples to develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. By being totally committed to Christ, disciples find their primary identity in him. Their faith is nurtured, shaped, and then expressed in and through the faith community called the "church."

People: **Disciples exhibit joy, peace, humility, self-control, and are guided in all things by love, God's greatest command. Through love, disciples are peacemakers and seek to relate to others with kindness, integrity, generosity, and patience.**

Leader: Disciples follow the example of Jesus, and give themselves—their time, energy, and money—to furthering God's kingdom by witnessing to the Good News, ministering to and with persons who are poor and those who are marginalized.

People: **Above all, disciples share the love and grace of Jesus Christ with others, inviting them to a new life in Christ.**

(A Statement from the Discipleship Ministry Team)

THEN THE APPROPRIATE SET OF QUESTIONS WILL BE USED:

Commissioning/Installation of Certified Christian Educators

A brief explanation of the nature of the Christian education minister relation, and the asking of the following questions:

To the Christian educator:

- I. Are you willing to assume the responsibilities as Christian educator of this church, according to the agreements made in your acceptance of the call?
- II. Do you believe that in taking upon you these responsibilities you are influenced by a sincere desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the church?
- III. Do you solemnly covenant that, in reliance upon the grace of God, you will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the responsibilities of a certified Christian educator to this church, to teach and preach the Word of God to all people, to be an advocate for all people, and to lead this church in its witness and ministry to those individuals, as God gives you wisdom and strength?

When these questions have been answered in the affirmative, the following questions shall be asked:

To the congregation:

- I. Are you willing to enter into the relation with this person whom you have called to be a Christian educator?

II. Do you covenant to encourage and assist him or her in the ministry which you share with him or her in this congregation (or presbytery if done at presbytery meeting)?

III. Do you covenant that through your stewardship and prayers you will continue that material and spiritual support by which he or she will be sustained in his or her ministry with you?

When these questions have been answered in the affirmative, the presiding minister shall say:

I now declare that _____ has been called and certified as Christian educator of this congregation (presbytery), agreeable to the Word of God and according to the government of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Therefore, _____ is entitled to all support, encouragement, and honor in the Lord. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The presiding minister, or one appointed for the purpose, shall then deliver an appropriate charge to the Christian educator and to the congregation or presbytery to fulfill the covenant made between them.

Then, by prayer, the minister shall commend them to the grace of God and to God's holy keeping.

OR

Commissioning of Certified Youth Ministers

*A brief explanation of the nature of the youth minister relation,
and the asking of the following questions:*

To the youth minister:

I. Are you willing to assume the responsibilities as youth minister of this church, according to the agreements made in your acceptance of the call?

II. Do you believe that in taking upon you these pastoral responsibilities you are influenced by a sincere desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the church?

III. Do you solemnly covenant that, in reliance upon the grace of God, you will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the responsibilities of a certified youth minister to this church, to teach and proclaim the Word of God to young people, to be an advocate for young people, and to lead this church in its witness and ministry to young people, as God gives you wisdom and strength?

*When these questions have been answered in the affirmative,
the following questions shall be asked:*

To the congregation:

I. Are you willing to enter into the relation with this person whom you have called to be your minister to young people?

II. Do you covenant to encourage and assist him or her in the ministry which you share with him or her in this congregation (or presbytery if done at presbytery meeting)?

III. Do you covenant that through your stewardship and prayers you will continue that material and spiritual support by which he or she will be sustained in his or her ministry with you?

When these questions have been answered in the affirmative, the presiding minister shall say:

I now declare that _____ has been called and certified as youth minister of this congregation (presbytery), agreeable to the Word of God and according to the government of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Therefore, _____ is entitled to all support, encouragement, and honor in the Lord. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The presiding minister, or one appointed for the purpose, shall then deliver an appropriate charge to the youth minister and to the congregation to fulfill the covenant made between them.

Then, by prayer, the minister shall commend them to the grace of God and to God's holy keeping.

Presentation by Discipleship Ministry Team

Hymn of Sending *Here I am, Lord*

Benediction

God has truly been in this place. We have seen one who has been called and commissioned by God to be set apart for a particular ministry to all Christians (especially youth if youth minister). Our pray for them and for all of us is to go with God. Serve God and as you do, know that God the Creator is the giver of all good things and will keep you in enveloped in love. Learn from Christ and as you do, know that God the Son is the perfect example of teaching and being in relationship with others and will continue to teach your how to live. Receive from God the Holy Spirit and as you do, know that the Holy Spirit is always with you giving you the gifts you need for your ministry every day of your lives. So go in love and peace to serve the Triune God. Amen.

Doxology