

COMMISSIONING OF CAREER MISSIONARIES

(It is suggested that this commissioning be placed at the end of the regular worship service.)

Bishop or Director of Global Ministries:

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus: We greet you in the name of our God who purposed for the whole world to know His saving grace. In obedience to His command, we meet here for this commissioning service.

As an evangelical denomination, we are persuaded that God would have all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. We further hold that Christ's death provides atonement for the sins of the whole world. We believe that this gospel should be proclaimed to every tribe and people. You have responded to God's call upon your life to make this truth known in obedience to the Great Commission. *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."* (Mark 16:15)

We are grateful that your church has a share in this commissioning service with us today. This body of believers will be a means of strengthening you and a source of great inspiration.

Director of Global Ministries:

Yours is a high calling, for it is a solemn responsibility to share the living Christ. The Bible tells us God appointed apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Our exhortation to you is in the words of Scripture where Paul writes, *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"* (Eph. 4:3).

Before the Global Ministries Commission of the Evangelical Congregational Church you have declared your faith in Jesus Christ and expressed your conviction that He has called you to missionary service. This call, we believe, has been confirmed by your talents, by the circumstances of your call, by service in your local church, and by the judgment of the Church as expressed through the Global Ministries Commission. You have given satisfactory answers concerning our Articles of Faith and your loyalty to the government and Discipline of the Evangelical Congregational Church. Now you are asked to declare publicly your convictions by answering the following questions:

1. Has the love of Christ and a sincere desire to promote His glory through His gospel inspired you to seek this appointment of the Evangelical Congregational Church Global Ministries Commission?

If so, answer – I HAVE BEEN INSPIRED TO DO SO.

2. Do you promise to be faithful in guarding yourself against all that is not in harmony with the teaching of God's Word?

If so, answer – I PROMISE TO BE FAITHFUL.

3. Will you strive to maintain a regular devotional life of Scripture reading and prayer believing this to be the most effective way to minister to the name of your Savior?

If so, answer – I WILL BE DEVOTED TO CHRIST IN WORD AND PRAYER.

4. Will you faithfully proclaim to others and practice yourself the truths of the commandments of God in accordance with the faith and doctrines of the Evangelical Congregational Church?

If so, answer – I WILL BY THE HELP OF THE LORD.

5. Will you be faithful and diligent in the exercises of all your duties, both public and private, laboring cheerfully by a Christ-like life. Will you exemplify Christian love among our fellow missionaries wherever you are assigned?

If so, answer – I WILL BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

You are now to be publicly set apart in the presence of this congregation and before the throne of God for this ministry. (The candidates will kneel at the altar.)

Host Pastor:

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off” (Acts 13:2-3).

Director of Global Ministries:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and by the authority vested in the Global Ministries Commission of the Evangelical Congregational Church, we now by the laying on of our hands commission you a missionary of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a fellow worker in His Church, and send you forth as God’s chosen servant. May God, the Father in Heaven, guard and keep you in His love, enrich and strengthen you with His grace, provide and care for you in every trial and need, and permit His presence to be with you as a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.” May the comfort and peace of God uphold you now and forever. Amen.

Local Chairperson:

Prayer for the Missionary while at the altar.

Presentation of the Commissioning Certificate.

The candidate(s) then proceeds to the pulpit area to be presented to the congregation by the Missions Committee Chairperson.

Missions Committee Chairperson:

Charge to the Congregation:

You have witnessed the commissioning of _____ for the purpose of carrying out the divine command to make Christ known around the world. We admonish you to encourage them with fervent prayer and sacrificial giving. As this one (these) has (have) dedicated (herself/himself/themselves) to make disciples, so may you give yourselves to the same task of making Jesus Christ known. The Scriptures admonish us to *“declare His glory among the nations”* (Psalm 96:3).

Missionary’s Testimony

Closing Hymn & Prayer