

ORDINATION FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PASTORAL MINISTRY TRACK

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

Bishop:

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord, Jesus Christ. Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go.

Let us pray: Almighty and Everlasting God, we praise Your Name this day that through the power of Your Holy Spirit, You call men and women into various fields of service in Your Kingdom; grant us Your presence in this hour, we pray, as we acknowledge and confirm Your call in the (life/lives) of (this/these) Your servant(s). May we all be encouraged and strengthened through effective service for You, and may You receive much glory through this occasion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7 and 11-16

Bishop:

We rejoice with you that in the good providence of God, a door of opportunity has been opened for you in the service of the Church of Jesus Christ. He has endowed you with the gifts and graces necessary for this service, adding thereto priceless prayers of encouragement and support for His people. Your ministry is one which confers great privilege, but also lays upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have done alone with God, in consecrating your life to this service, we now recognize publicly in the presence of His people.

Bishop:

Do you stand before this Conference bearing witness that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord, that you are a child of God because of your faith in Christ and that you have peace of heart and mind regarding your relationship with Him?

Answer: THAT IS MY WITNESS!

Bishop:

Do you believe that Christ died and rose again for all people and that God, through His Holy Spirit, has called you to be a worker in His fields, bringing the Good News to those to whom you minister?

Answer: I DO SO BELIEVE.

Bishop:

Do you bear conviction that your Lord has called you to the Alternate Pastoral Ministry of _____.

Answer: I BELIEVE MY LORD HAS CALLED ME!

Bishop:

Will you labor faithfully within this specialized field to be a true servant of the One who has called you to represent Him?

Answer: I WILL, THROUGH THE WISDOM AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Bishop:

Will you, as you serve your Lord and His Church be true to the Holy Scriptures, your ministries and the *Discipline* and doctrine of the Evangelical Congregational Church?

Answer: I WILL, WITH THE HELP OF GOD!

Hymn: “Holy Spirit, Light Divine”

The candidate kneels (with spouse, if appropriate)

Participants (Bishop, Conference Minister and Pastor) lay hands on the applicant’s head and say:

On behalf of your Lord, His Church and this Conference we extend to you the authority to serve as _____. Be faithful, be diligent, be loving – thus helping to make disciples as you teach people to obey His commandments – in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer:

Lord God, we ask your guidance, wisdom and blessing upon _____ whom we have set apart to serve you through the ministry of _____. Through his/her spiritual commitment and the power of your Holy Spirit, may their ministry be fruitful, lives changed and enriched and your Kingdom enhanced. Grant _____ the assurance of your presence and the “well done” that comes as the result of faithful service on your behalf, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Hymn: “I Would Be True”

Benediction (*Given by the Bishop*)