

DEDICATION OF A PARSONAGE

Minister (or Bishop):

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in.”... The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever, and my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”

The Lesson: Ephesians 2:19-22

Trustee, or other officer of the congregation: In presenting this dwelling to the Lord, we as a part of His Family recognize the high calling of ministry, and the importance of making wise provision for the temporal needs of those who administer its sacred offices.

BISHOP (or other Conference officer): Let us pray: Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we ask You to bless this service to Your glory; to the meeting of the needs of our pastoral families, and to the strengthening and encouragement of Your Church. May love and concern ever be found within these walls, so that joys and sorrows may be shared, and peace abide.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

BISHOP: May this home be used for work and for pleasure; may kindness and friendliness, fellowship and hospitality be always present.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

BISHOP: Grant, O Father, that a spirit of cooperation between pastor and people might prevail. May the people be welcome at the parsonage; yet may they recognize the needs of the pastor’s family for privacy, and altogether may they appreciate all that is good and right and true.

PEOPLE: Loving Father, hear our prayer.

BISHOP: And so, Father, praying to you that the sheltering of the family that has a blessed and unique relationship to you, the Church, and this community; praying that this house will stand for spiritual enrichment to all who cross its threshold; praying that this house may fulfill a vital role in creating and maintaining good fellowship within the parish; praying that it may help to enhance the ability and faithfulness of those who in it reside, that there may be wise conduct of the affairs of the congregation, and seeking the manifest presence of Your Holy Spirit within its walls always, we now dedicate this parsonage, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.