

Sample Readings/Invitations/Prayers/Welcomes/Charges for Commissioning-Ordination Services

submitted by

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It is important for the congregation to understand that ordination is not necessarily about the candidates. It is the recognition that God is active in our community choosing people for this special ministry. In that sense, ordination is about God who is active in our congregations. Early in the program is an "Invitation to Celebration." It is an acknowledgement that God is clearly involved in our communities. What follows are several statements. Each will be a little different but have the same intent of making God central to the ordination service. Some will be just a statement. Others will lead to introducing a congregation hymn of praise. Pastors' first names are included to make it read better. Feel free to copy/paste and edit to make the material appropriate to your setting.

Invitation to Celebration

Ordination-Commissioning Service

Isaac _____ and Daniel _____

We have gathered on this special occasion to celebrate the goodness and greatness of God.

Our focus is not on Isaac _____ and Daniel _____ though their presence is important to this ordination-commissioning service.

We are here to affirm God

By this service today, we recognize that God acts in our world and in our community by calling people to ministry. We see God's acts in the call of Isaac _____ and Daniel _____ to ministry. Today we set them apart for this work by the prayer of blessing and the laying on of hands.

Come now, O people of this community and of this congregation. Affirm through your worship that God has acted in your midst. Praise him who blesses people for ministry. Let us worship. Let us proclaim God's presence. Let us thank him for the choice of Isaac and Dan and ask his continued direction in their ministry.

Invocation

INVITATION TO CELEBRATION

We have gathered this morning to celebrate.

This is **not** a celebration for **Samuel** _____ ,
through his presence today is significant,
and we affirm his ministry.

Today we have gathered to celebrate the great acts of God.

We celebrate God
who is present in our lives and our churches.

We celebrate God
who directs us in our missions to the world.

We celebrate God
who calls women and men to ministry.

We celebrate God
who allows us to experience
and recognize this special ministry.

Today, we honor God and **God's** choice of **Samuel** _____ for ministry

Come now,
O people of God,
Come, join, sing, and praise our Holy God
who calls women and men to ministry
and who continually acts in behalf of his people

Come now,
sing to your
Holy Lord God Almighty.
May your song of praise rise to Him
who is merciful and mighty
To our God in three persons
blessed trinity.
the King of all creation!

Followed by Hymn 73, *Holy, Holy, Holy*

OR

Come now,
O people of God,
Come, join, sing, and praise our God
who calls women and men to ministry
and who continually acts in behalf of his people

Come now,
sing your **praise to the Lord,**
the Almighty,
the King of creation!

Followed by Hymn 1, *Praise to the Lord*

Invitation to Celebration

Ordination-Commissioning Service Ivan Williams and Dave Gemmell

We have gathered on this special occasion to celebrate the goodness and greatness of God.

Our focus is not on Ivan Williams and Dave Gemmell, though their presence is important to this ordination-commissioning service.

We are here to affirm God

By this service today, we recognize that God acts in our world and in our community by calling people to serve in ministry. We see God's acts in the call of Michael Knecht and Tom Staples to ministry. Today we set them apart for this work by the prayer of blessing and the laying on of hands.

Come now, All people of our God and King. Come let us worship. Let us proclaim God's presence. Lift up your voice as now we sing. Oh praise Him! Oh praise Him! Alleluia. Alleluia.

Hymn *All People of Our God and King*

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Invitation to Celebration

Ordination-Commissioning Service Ivan Williams

We have gathered on this special occasion to celebrate the goodness and greatness of God.

Our focus is not on Ivan, though his presence is important to this ordination-commissioning service.

We are here to affirm God

By this service today, we recognize that God acts in our world and in our community by calling people to serve in ministry. We see God's acts in the call of Ivan Williams to ministry. Today we set him apart for this work by the prayer of blessing and the laying on of hands.

Come now, O people of our God.
Come let us worship.
Come in joy and adoration.
Praise Him, the giver of immortal gladness.
May He fill you with the light of day.

Sing your praise.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of Love

Hymn *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

#12

Ordination Prayers

Almighty God,

In every age
 you have called men and women to lead your people.

We thank you for _____
 whom you have called to serve you and your church.

Fill him/her with your Spirit
 and provide him/her the gifts needed
 so that he/she may **faithfully fulfill**
 the **ministry** to which he/she has been called.

Guide now
 the **thoughts of his/her mind,**
 the **emotions of his/her heart,**
 and the **words of his/her mouth.**

Continually make him/her mindful
 that in his/her ministry ***Christ must always increase.***

And now, as he/she receives our blessing on behalf of your church
 make him/her
 a **faithful pastor,**
 a **patient teacher**
 and a **wise counselor**
 so that as he/she serves
 your people may be strengthened
 and your name glorified.

Grant this we pray through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Ordination Prayer – Paul

We gather as a community of believers in recognition that God has called Paul to the Gospel ministry. Join your prayers and support as we dedicate him to this special work of ministry.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called Paul into this special ministry in your church.

Your Holy Spirit has confirmed his call by gifting him to do ministry.

Paul has clearly proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ, the foundation of our church.

Now we have gathered today to simply recognize what you have done

and to add our support and blessing

through our prayer and the laying on of hands

In this way we ordain Paul to the Gospel ministry.

Grant him wisdom to understand your Gospel.

Give him power to proclaim its Good News.

And may he always lead your people in their worship of you.

Give him grace to be a pastor who share your love.

May he be a teacher who speaks your truth

and a minister who reveals your presence to those in need.

Be with his wife Iris. May she receive your blessing.

Be also with their son Timothy. May he always see Jesus in his home.

And now keep Paul faithful to your calling that in your time he may hear your words,

"Well done, well done."

To this ministry we consecrate Paul and ourselves,

that to you may be given all praise and all glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Ordination Prayer

Almighty God,

We come today in the name of Jesus your Son

We gather as your believers

who recognize and affirm your call to ministry of one of our own.

You have called Ivan.

He has heard your call.

He has dared to offer himself to your service.

We recognize this call for we have seen your ministry expressed in the work he is doing

Today at your bidding, we set Ivan apart for this ministry in your church.

In your name, Lord, we serve as your hands and extend to him your blessing.

It is Your hands that are marked by your gift of salvation

May Ivan always proclaim this good news!

With Your hands your reached out and touched those in need

May Ivan bring your touch of hope and comfort to those he will minister to

With your hands you lifted people up

May the ministry of Ivan lift people to a closer relationship with You

With your hands your brought to all the blessing of God

May Ivan in his ministry be a blessing to all he will serve.

And now through him and his ministry, may

your name be honored

Help us, your people

to accept him gladly

to encourage him always

and respect him and his ministry

Do this for the sake of your precious Son, our Lord in whose name we pray.

Amen

Now rise Ivan, to the ministry which God gives you.

Ordination Prayer

Gracious and loving God.

We have gathered today

because we have seen your presence in this community

through the ministry of (name).

We have come to add our blessing to those gifts you have given him.

You have called him to ministry.

We have seen your hand
in the ministry he has provided.

You have used him to reveal your son
and the gift of salvation.

For your presence in his life
and in the life of this congregation
we give thanks.

And now as your people we join our hands
and our blessings
to those of yours

May he be a student of scripture,
May he always respond to the invitation;
May his faith grow
and his commitment remain firm.

And now

Keep him faithful in difficult times
And humble him in times of success
Give him joy in your service
And at all times may his life
be directed by your spirit
And now strengthen and sustain him
as he ministers to your people.

Grant this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Ordination Prayer

Gracious and loving God.

With the assurance of your presence,

We have gathered to add our blessing to the gift of ministry

You have given your servant Ivan.

You have called him to ministry.

This congregation has seen your hand in the ministry he has provided.

You have used him to reveal your son and the gift of salvation.

For your presence in his life and in this congregation we give thanks.

And now as your servants we join our hands and our blessings to those of yours:

We ask that you would:

Guide Ivan as he seeks to lead your people

Make him an able teacher of your word

Fill him with your love that he may guide your people

Enable him to do the work of the evangelist so that he may save some people

Keep him faithful in difficult times

And humble him in times of success

Give him joy in your service

And at all times may his life be directed by your spirit

And now strengthen and sustain him as he ministers to your people.

Grant this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Ordination Prayer

Most gracious God,

who through your son has proclaimed the meaning of ministry;
who taught us what it means to be a servant to all
and who called us to reach out to those who are separated from your love and salvation

You have commissioned us

to be your hands and your feet and your voice in this world
so we may announce to all people that Jesus is Lord.

Here today,

we are your hands
as we seek to bring your blessing on Ivan and Dave
who have heard your call to ministry
and who have dared to offer themselves to your service

Grant them the aid and counsel of your Spirit

That they may serve you with a pure heart and a holy life.
That they may preach your word with power.
That they may faithfully administer your sacraments.
That they may be your healing voice to a suffering world.
And that in all things they may be your good and faithful steward.

Use them to build your kingdom

and to bring honor and glory to your name.

Grant Dave and Ivan

your blessing and your continued presence
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Ordination Prayer
Ivan Williams

Most gracious God,
through your son Jesus
You proclaimed the meaning of ministry.
He taught us what it means
to be a servant to all
He called us
to reach out to those
who are separated
from your love and salvation

You have commissioned us
to be your hands and your feet
and your voice in this world
so we may announce to all people
that Jesus is Lord.

Here today,
we serve as your hands
as we seek to bring your blessing
on Ivan.
He heard your call to ministry
and who has dared
to offer himself to your service

Give him the aid and counsel of your Spirit

That he may serve you
with a pure heart and a holy life.
That he may preach your word
with power.
That he may faithfully administer
your sacraments.
That he may be your healing voice
to a suffering world.
And that in all things he may be
your good and faithful steward.

Use him to build your kingdom
and to bring honor and glory to your name.

Give Ivan
your blessing and your continued presence
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Ordination Prayer – Ivan Williams

Throughout the centuries, the church has through the symbolic act of the laying on of hands and prayer recognized God's call to ministry and by this act set apart men and women for the special ministries of the church. We invite those present who in the past and currently now serve the church in pastoral ministry to join us here in prayer for a fellow pastor and for the laying on of hands of blessing.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, with joy we give you all thanks and praise.

You have called Ivan to this special ministry of your church.

You have confirmed that call by your Holy Spirit

Now with prayer we acknowledge this gift
and with the laying on of hands we ordain him
to the office and work of ministry.

Grant him wisdom to understand.
Give him power to proclaim the Good News
Guide him as he leads your people in worthy worship.
Give him the grace to be a pastor,
so his love is like your own.

May he be a teacher whose presentation of Truth
brings light and understanding.

Through his ministry may he reveal your presence
to every brother or sister in need.
Keep him faithful to your high calling
so that in your time he may hear your words,
"Well done, good and faithful servant."

To this ministry we consecrate Ivan and ourselves,
so that you may be given all praise and glory,
now and forever more.

Amen.

Welcome to Ministry

The intent here is to be truly a welcome to ministry. Consideration was given as to who were the various welcoming groups and then write the material as a welcome in behalf of each of these groups. The third line, "Be loyal to its leadership" could be rewritten in response to current potential leadership abuses. Perhaps "Minister together with its leadership" might be a good alternative. Never be afraid to take this as a model and adapt it for your present needs.

WELCOME

Elder Ivan Williams it is my privilege to welcome you into the ranks of the gospel ministry.

I welcome you on behalf of the Southeastern California Conference.

Be loyal to its leadership.

Make use of its services and resources to assist you in your work.

I welcome you on behalf of the world church.

Never lose sight of its mission of having "*an everlasting gospel to preach to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.*"

I welcome you on behalf of all ministers who are your partners in ministry.

They indeed understand the issues and joys that come to you in the worked you face
Choose one as your pastor.
Allow them to minister to you.

Now hear all the ministers present as they voice their support for you and your ministry with a strong AMEN!

I welcome you on behalf of the congregations you will serve.

Much is expected of you.

Remember, they are partners with you in prayer. They are co-workers in soul-winning.

Hear from all those who are present as they voice their support of you and your ministry with a strong AMEN!

I welcome you on behalf of Jesus Christ who set apart people for service in his church.

You are his hands, his feet, and his voice. In all your ministry, clearly proclaim, "**Jesus is Lord**"

For you are called to serve him until you hear his invitation, "enter into the joy of your Lord."

This welcome can be adapted for two readers. In this program, Furness was the conference ministerial director and Penick was the conference president.

WELCOME

Furness: Elder Ivan Williams, it is our privilege to welcome you into the ranks of the gospel ministry.

Penick: I welcome you on behalf of the Southeastern California Conference.

Be loyal to its leadership.

Make use of its services and resources to assist you in your work.

Furness: I welcome you on behalf of the world church.

Never lose sight of its mission of having “*an everlasting gospel to preach to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.*”

Penick: I welcome you on behalf of all ministers who are your partners in ministry.

They indeed understand the issues and joys that come to you in the work you face.

Choose one as your pastor.

Allow them to minister to you.

Now hear all the ministers present as they voice their support for you and your ministry with strong AMEN!

Furness: I welcome you on behalf of the congregations you will serve.

Much is expected of you.

Remember, they are partners with you in prayer. They are co-workers in soul-winning.

Hear from all those who are present as they voice their support of you and your ministry with a strong AMEN!

Penick: I welcome you on behalf of Jesus Christ who set apart people for service in his church.

You are his hands, his feet, and his voice. In all your ministry, clearly proclaim, “**Jesus is Lord**”

For you are called to serve him until you hear his invitation, “enter into the joy of your Lord.”

Ordination-Commissioning Charge

The Charge

Ivan, God has called you to the work of ministry. People have affirmed your call by acknowledging that ministry has happened in their midst. Today the church has recognized your call and has set you aside by the laying on of hands.

With this call comes a great responsibility. My part today is to remind you of this responsibility.

I commend to you scripture; especially the words of Jesus. Allow these words to be your charge to ministry. Sit often with the disciples on that ancient mountain as Jesus instructs them on what it means to minister. Allow that instruction to be your charge to ministry.

You are salt that can bring out the flavor of Christ's redemptive work. You are God's light to a darkened world. You are to be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect by mirroring His perfect love for all people. For God provides His good gifts for everyone. Follow Jesus' instructions on how to pray. Be willing and ready to forgive. Then receive the forgiveness of God. Trust in heavenly things and not the things of this life. Strive for the kingdom of God and all your true needs will be provided. Ask and it will be given, search and you will find. All who hears and acts on Jesus' words are like those who built their house on a rock. Let these words Jesus spoke to the first young Christian ministers be your charge as you continue your ministry.

Pattern your ministry after Jesus for you are asked to serve as His hands, His feet and His voice. Like Him, you are called to be a servant. Like Him, you are to be a teacher proclaiming God's love. Follow His example as a shepherd. Feed His sheep.

Know that among those you are called to serve is your own family. Make your family a priority.

So now

Go to all the places you are called

Go and make disciples.

Go and baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Go and teach the observance of all things.

And as you go remember Jesus' promise, I am with you always!

Amen.