

THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK of WORSHIP



AN ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF AN APPOINTMENT

This order is intended to be used within a service of worship by a congregation whose pastor has been appointed or reappointed by the bishop according to the polity of The United Methodist Church. The leader may be the chairperson of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee or another designated leader in the congregation. The service may be adapted as needed where ordained or diaconal ministers other than the pastor are also appointed, reappointed, or assigned to a ministry in a particular congregation.

Before the reading of the scripture lessons, the pastor and any other staff under appointment come before the Lord's table, and the person officiating says to the congregation:

Dear friends, today we welcome *Name(s)*, who has been (re)appointed to serve as our pastor(s). We believe that *he / she is (they are)* well qualified and *has (have)* prayerfully appointed by our bishop, *Name*.

Leader to pastor (and other ordained staff):

Name(s), you have been sent to live among us as *a bearer* of the Word of God; *a minister* of the Sacraments; and *a sustainer* of the love, order, and discipleship of the people of God.

Leader to diaconal minister:

Name, you are to represent the ministry of servanthood and to equip all Christians to be in ministry and serve to the community.

Pastor (and other staff):

Today *I (we)* reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

Leader to congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you celebrate this new beginning support and uphold *Name(s)* in these ministries?

Congregation:

We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

Leader:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger

Congregation:

Who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH 94-95), Glory Be to the Father (UMH 70-71), or another doxology may be sung. See list of doxologies in UMH 951. See also Doxology (182), Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (180 and 185)

The leader continues with one of the following prayers or one of the prayers "For the Church" on 501-06.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together, with *Name (s)* as our pastor (s) [and *Name* as our diaconal minister]. Give *him, (her, them)* and us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for one another and challenge one another that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love, and offering our gifts and talents in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you still call us to go into your service and spread the message of the salvation of your Son. Bless richly, we pray, your servant (s) *Name(s)* entrance into our fellowship. Fill *him (her, them)* with the power of your Holy Spirit and let *him (her, them)* find with us an open door for the Word. We also pray for your Church on earth. Equip us all with a spirit of willingness, that we with courage can witness about you by the profession of our mouths and through our way of living. Grant us all to partake in your strength and joy, so that we can enter into the anxiety and suffering of the world, to be radiating and make alive that hope which Christ gives. All this we dare to pray of you; for you are to us the Father of mercy and the God of all grace; you are the Son, the Savior and the Redeemer; you are the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Helper and the Giver of Life. Blessed be you. **Amen.**

Jesus, We Are Here (187) or another suitable hymn may be sung.

When a reappointment is being celebrated, the service continues with the congregational prayer below.

*When a pastor, associate pastor, or diaconal minister is being appointed to a congregation for the first time, representatives of the congregation may make any or all of the following presentations, or others as may be deemed appropriate. After each presentation, the newly appointed person responds. **Amen** and places it on a table.*

Presenter to pastor:

*Name, accept this Bible, and be among us as one who proclaims the Word. **Amen.***

*Name, take this water, and baptize new Christians in this place. **Amen.***

*Name, take this bread and cup, and keep us in communion with Christ and his Church. **Amen.***

Presenter to diaconal minister:

*Name, take this towel and basin, and lead us to be servants of all. **Amen.***

*Name, use this hymnal and book of worship to guide us in our prayer and praise. **Amen.***

*Name, receive this *Book of Discipline*, and help us keep the covenant that strengthens our connections as United Methodists. **Amen.***

*Name, receive this globe, and lead us in our mission to this community and all of the world. **Amen.***

Presenter to pastor:

*Name, receive this stole, signifying your ordination, and shepherd us as our pastor. **Amen.***

Presenter to diaconal minister:

*Name, receive this stole signifying your consecration, and equip us for our ministries in the world. **Amen.***

Then the pastor or diaconal minister may take from the Lord's table the stole left by the previous pastor (see 598), put it on, and say:

This yoke has been laid upon me, and I willingly take it upon myself.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Congregation:

Lord, God, bless the ministries of your Church. We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us. Draw us together in one Spirit, that each of us may use our differing gifts as members of one body. May your Word be proclaimed with faithfulness, and may we be doers of your Word and not hearers only. As we who have died and risen with Christ in baptism gather at his table and then scatter into the world, may we be one in service to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The pastor or diaconal minister may kneel, and the leader and others may lay hands on his/her head. The congregation may join hands and unite in this blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Congregation: **An also with you.**

A hymn or chorus may be sung. Tino tenda Jesu (203); Jesus, We Are Here (187) and the following hymns from UMH are suggested:

939 Hymns listed under Commitment
545 The Church's One Foundation
546 The Church's One Foundation
383 This Is a Day of New Beginnings
558 We Are the Church