



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

An Order for the Installation or Recognition of Church School and/or Christian Education Workers

This order may be included as a Response to the Word or at some other appropriate place in a service of congregational worship.

During the singing of a hymn, the Church School or Christian Education staff/ministry may gather in front of the congregation.

Following the hymn, the Director of Christian Education, Chair of the Board of Christian Education, Church School Superintendent, etc., or the pastor introduces the staff. The pastor then says to the congregation:

Dear friends,

Let us recognize those who have responded to the call of God to become workers in the church school (Christian Education). To teach, to administer the work of teaching are ministries of Christ among us. Those called to these ministries need our loyal support and our prayers.

The pastor prays the following or another prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have entrusted us with the message of your power, grace, justice, and love. Provide for us your guidance, that we may be teachers and learners together. Believing that you are in our midst, we set apart those who would serve in our church school (in the ministry of Christian Education). May they serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are entrusted in their care. Bless each one gathered before us, enabling them to be channels of your grace. We pray through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The pastor says to church school/Christian education staff:

You have recognized God's call in your lives. Will you endeavor to develop your gifts for teaching so as to continue to pass on the Christian faith? Will you be

faithful to the task, taking seriously the commitments of time and talent? Will you take seriously your role as learner, studying diligently the Scriptures and traditions of the faith?

The church school/ Christian education staff responds:

We have heard God's call to teach and have responded to that call. We teach, trusting in God's promises to support, sustain, and encourage us through gifts sufficient for the task. We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit. We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond to God's call in their lives. We teach, depending on this congregation to uphold us in this task.

Congregation:

We pledge ourselves to pray for you and for the educational ministry of this congregation. We pledge ourselves to enable, encourage, and love you in this ministry. We pledge ourselves to be learners with you, diligently studying with you the Scriptures and traditions of the faith.

The pastor may greet the church school/Christian education workers individually. A hymn may be sung (Suggestion: Wonderful Words of Life, AMEC Hymnal, #207) and a blessing given.

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