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Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

Forms & Celebrations

[First Edition: November 1996]

1. Forward

The birth of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada is the occasion to merge the rich traditions of the Evangelical Church and the Missionary Church. This document combines forms and celebrations from both heritages with some revisions, deletions and augmentations.

Some will judge that there is some unevenness in the material. This is intentional inasmuch as the Publications Committee sought to preserve much of the diversity in the two traditions, and unavoidable in that this first edition is transitional. Some attempt has been to update the language and the forms in keeping with the requirements of a living church whose need for contemporary forms and language to touch a changed and changing culture are self-evident. In some cases entirely new forms were added. In virtually every case citations from the NIV have been substituted for the AV. [In the Funeral Section both the AV and NIV are reproduced in most cases.]

Optional forms are characteristic of this document: the emphasis is less on uniformity than on propriety, decorum and meaningfulness. The intent is to provide ministers with a resource of suggested forms that can be adapted to the particular needs of the moment. Some of the forms are long and full; this provides the minister with ample data to forge a meaningful and appropriate service; it is left to the minister to abbreviate these forms in keeping with the exigencies of the occasion.

This first release is on computer diskette. The basic formatting is Word Perfect 5.1 which is judged to be the most universally accessible. By the time of distribution there may actually be documents in Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows and Word 5.1 for Macintosh. Users of Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows or Word for Macintosh, in any case, should be able to use the WP 5.1 documents with minimal loss of formatting. For those who do not have access to a computer your District Office will provide you with a hard copy.

We ask ministers to use these forms and celebrations over the next year. During this interval, the Publications Committee of the National Board will be happy to receive your suggestions and corrections for consideration. Please forward these to the National Office or directly to me, Phil Delsaut, by "snail mail" at Emmanuel Evangelical Missionary Church, PO. Box 161, Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z6, OR by "e-mail" at eemc@sentex.net. We may also have the document available for you to download at the EMCC Website.

Our hope is to release in the Fall of 1997a second edition that incorporates further changes . A printed edition will be released subsequently.

Because neither the Missionary Church Recommended Forms nor the Forms and Rituals of the Evangelical Church were available in electronic form, these source documents were inputted by Joyce Gaessler and Gwelda Ratz of Emmanuel Evangelical Missionary Church, Elmira, Ontario. Their capable and diligent efforts facilitated and advanced of the Committee immeasurably. Our manifold thanks to them! Special thanks to my secretary, Joyce Gaessler, who also proof read and made other suggestions before the release of this first issue.

May this document provide those who lead others in worship and celebration through the passages of life and ministry find in this First Edition of the *Forms and Celebrations of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada* a useful, if imperfect, tool in the service of our Lord and His Church -- all to the Glory of God.

2. Holy Communion or The Lord's Supper

2.1. Preface

The celebration of the Holy Communion is an order which can be traced in practice back to the Church of apostolic times. It is a conserving force that binds the Church together and gives us the consciousness that we are a part of the body of Christ in all ages and in all places.

The service is thoroughly evangelical in theology. It exalts God as the ruler of our hearts and conscience; it exalts Christ as the one, who, both as sacrificing priest and sacrificial lamb offered himself to the Father, without spot or blemish to shed his blood for the remission of the sins of the whole world. It insists that only as the individual in penitence and faith appropriates to himself the sacrifice which Christ made for his salvation, can that salvation be made efficacious for him. It exalts the Holy Spirit who effects the conviction of sin, the offer of God's mercy, the forgiveness of sins, the exaltation of Christ as Lord, and helps through this sacrament to strengthen the memory and the deeper consecration of life.

2.2. Form 1

Following the sermon, and after a suitable communion hymn the service may proceed as follows:

2.2.1. Invocation

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2.2.2. Gospel

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:14-19 NIV)

2.2.3. Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried, and he descended into hell. The third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy universal Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

2.2.4. Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen (Mt. 6: 9-13)

2.2.5. Words of Assurance

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense --Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2 NIV)

The minister bowing or kneeling at the Lord's Table shall offer the following prayer:

2.2.6. Consecration of the Elements

O God, who in great mercy gave your only Son, Jesus, to suffer upon the cross to buy us out of slavery to sin and death, we come to you with humility to celebrate in this memorial of his suffering and death. We believe, our Father, that you hear us and we ask you to bless and set apart by your Word and your Spirit, these your gifts of bread and wine. Amen.

Standing at the Lord's Table the minister may say:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:23-26 NIV) (Other Scripture such as Lk. 22:14-19 or I Cor. 10:16-22 may be used).

Then the minister may distribute the elements to those assisting.

2.2.7. Invitation

All you who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in right fellowship with your neighbours, and intend to live a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith and take part in the Lord's Supper.

2.2.8. Administration of the Elements

The minister when he delivers the bread may say:

The Lord Jesus Christ, who gave his body for you, preserve your soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this bread in remembrance that Christ died for you. Feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

When he delivers the cup he may say:

The Lord Jesus Christ, who shed his blood for you, preserve your soul unto everlasting life. Drink this cup in remembrance that Christ shed his blood for you. Partake of him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

At the conclusion of the communion of the people the minister may return the communion vessels to the Lord's Table and reverently cover them.

2.2.9. Post-Communion Prayer

We praise you, O God of our Fathers, for the gift of your Son, our Mediator, in whose sacrifice you have revealed your redeeming love. How shall we respond to you for all your benefits to us? We will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. We will pay our vows now in the presence of all his people. Let your people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you for your mercy and your truth. We praise you, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, for the atonement which you have made. We praise you, O Holy Spirit, for the holy power you impart to us. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

2.2.10. Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

2.3. Form 2

2.3.1. Invitation

After the sermon and appropriate hymn or gospel song the officiating minister may say:

We invite all who love the Lord and who are in right fellowship with His people to join in celebrating the Lord's Supper.

2.3.2. Scriptures

The apostle Paul said:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and

blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. (1 Cor. 11:23-30 NIV)

2.3.3. Call to Self-examination

Let us examine ourselves and then fellowship around the Lord's table. All who truly and earnestly repent of their sins, and are in right fellowship with their neighbours, and intend to live a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, we invite you to take part in the Lord's Supper.

2.3.4. Administration of the Elements

The pastor(s) and servers shall position themselves to either side of the Communion table and the pastors shall say before he handles the bread and distributes the elements to the servers:

"The Lord Jesus in the night he was betrayed took bread."

After completing the distribution to the servers, the servers shall reverently distribute the element of the bread to the worshippers, while the pastors wait in reverent prayer or a song may be sung during the distribution. The worshippers hold the bread until the distribution is complete so that all can partake together.

The servers shall return the elements to the table or to the hands of the pastor(s) who shall serve the others. Where there are two or more pastors, the officiating pastor shall serve the others.

The officiating pastor shall then lead in prayer or ask another to lead in a prayer of thanks for the body of the Lord.

After the prayer the one officiating shall say,

"And when He had given thanks, He said, 'This is my body which is for you. Take. Eat. This do in remembrance of me.'"

All shall eat the bread in prayerful attitude.

The same procedure shall be followed for the wine. The minister shall say,

"After the same manner He took the cup."

After the distribution of the element [using the communion service with individual glasses] the one officiating shall lead in prayer or ask another to lead in prayer of thanks for the blood of the Lord.

After prayer, the minister shall say,

"And when He had given thanks, He said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Drink you all from it. This do in remembrance of Me.'"

Then all shall imbibe together with prayerful demeanour.

2.3.5. Closing

Following the cup, the minister shall direct in a closing song and may dismiss the meeting with the words,

"And when they had sung a hymn, they went out."

A closing prayer and benediction may be added.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

3. BAPTISM

3.1. Preface

In order that baptism may have its God appointed significance in the experience of the individual in his relationship to the church of God, it is wise and proper that the candidate for baptism be examined by the pastor or other properly recognized authority. Baptism shall be administered, preferably by immersion, of those who profess faith in Christ and give evidence of genuine repentance. The minister shall give an appropriate certificate to those baptized.

The ordinance shall be administered in conjunction with a service in which such Scriptures as the following may be used: Matt 3:13-17; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-42; Rom 6:1-4. Suitable hymns, prayer, and remarks, or an address, may also be incorporated into the service.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matt 3:13-17 NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20 NIV)

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off --for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:38-42 NIV)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:1-4 NIV)

3.2. Address to the Congregation

Baptism is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ and administered by the church from the beginning. It is a symbol of an inner cleansing from sin, a representation of the new birth in Christ Jesus and a mark of Christian discipleship.

It is the privilege and duty of the church to administer the sacrament of baptism to those who, having repented of their sins and having accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, present themselves for such service.

3.3. Invocation

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3.4. Scripture

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off --for all whom the Lord our God will call.' With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:38-42 NIV)

3.5. Address to Candidates

We rejoice with you that, having considered the significance of Christian baptism, you now present yourself in obedience to the example and command of our Lord. Receive this ministry of the church in simple trust toward Christ as your Saviour, and in full obedience to him as your Lord and Master.

In order that this congregation may know that you are prepared to obey the Lord's ordinance of baptism, we ask you to answer the following questions:

If desired, the following questions may be asked the candidate in a group prior to the actual going into the water.

Question: Have you, through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, experienced the

forgiveness of your sins and do you now enjoy peace with God?

Answer: "Yes."

Question: Do you renounce the world with all its sinful pleasures and are you willing to be taught from the Word of God, and obey the Lord and follow all that His Word teaches you?

Answer: "Yes."

Question: Do you renounce the works of the devil and the authority of all spiritual principalities and powers?

Answer: "Yes."

As each of the candidates enters the water, he may be asked to give a personal word of testimony and/or the following may be used:

(Name) _____, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, as given in God's Holy Word, and upon the confession of your faith in Him as your personal Saviour, I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3.6. Act of Baptism

The minister, following the acceptable and pre-arranged mode for baptism shall proceed, using the following formula:

(Name) _____, I baptize you in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3.7. Prayer

4. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

4.1. Preface

Born again believers who have been baptized should be encouraged to formally become members of the local church. Candidates for membership shall be instructed in the principles of the Christian life, in the faith and practice of the Evangelical Missionary Church and in the significance of the vows to be taken in becoming a member of the church. Applicants for church membership shall be examined by the pastor (or elders or deacons or by a committee on church membership), and those approved shall be received into membership in a public service of the church. A suitable certificate of membership shall be issued by the pastor or church.

If the candidate has not been baptized, the minister shall arrange for that baptism to be held immediately before reception into membership in the church and in connection with this reception. However, if time and occasion do not permit an orderly observance of this ordinance in connection with the candidate's reception into membership, the baptism may be held at some other time.

4.2. Form 1

At the appointed time the minister shall call the names of those persons to be received into membership of the church on confession of faith, and have them come forward and stand at the chancel of the church, and then proceed according to the following ceremony.

Candidates for membership to be received by transfer from other Evangelical Missionary Churches, may be called to stand at the chancel of the church, with any other candidates, and their certificates of transfer, may be read aloud and the leaders shall extend to them the welcome into the fellowship of the church.

Candidates for membership received by transfer from other evangelical denominations, shall be called to stand at the chancel of the church, with any other candidates, and may then read aloud their certificates of transfer.

Also he may ask them Questions 4, 5 and 6 of the membership affirmations [see below -- Option 2] ; and, having received satisfactory answers to these questions, he shall extend them, too, the welcome into the fellowship of the church.

The reception of members ordinarily should take place at a public service of the church, but in the

event that persons who have expressed their desire to be received into the fellowship of the church but because of invalidism or other unavoidable circumstances find it impossible to be present at the public reception of members, they may be received in the following manner. The pastor shall visit them in their homes, accompanied by one or more officials of the church, and in their presence shall ask the candidates for church membership the questions prescribed in the following ceremony. Having obtained from them an acceptable response to the questions submitted, the minister shall receive them into the membership of the church, and at the first public meeting thereafter he shall announce to the congregation the names of the persons so received.

4.2.1. Invitation to Candidates

The minister shall invite the candidates to come to the front of the church and stand facing the minister. **4.2.2. Address to Candidates**

"Christian friends: We rejoice with you that through the grace of God you have been brought to a knowledge of Christ our Lord and have been made partaker of this great salvation. We rejoice likewise, that you are seeking formal recognition in the church of Christ, by formally joining the membership of this congregation, which is the organized body of believers in Christ. We trust that through this fellowship you may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord, and that you may become qualified for larger and better service in the interest of this cause and kingdom.:

4.2.2.1. Option 1

He shall then say:

"By your presence here, you are publicly acknowledging your faith in Christ as your personal Saviour and are indicating your desire to be a faithful, loyal and growing member of the Church of Jesus Christ and of the _____ (name of the local church).

(Go to Church Covenant heading)

4.2.2.2. Option 2

"In order that the congregation here assembled may know your purpose and be assured that you are a proper person to be received into the membership of _____ (name of Local Church), we ask you to answer the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God, and that it teaches the only way of salvation, and do you take this Word to be your rule of Faith and conduct?

If so, answer: I do.

2. Have you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord and do you now confess him?

If so, answer: I have received him and do now confess him.

3. Do you promise to renounce all ungodliness, to follow Christ, to make diligent use of the means of grace and sincerely to seek the advancement of the Kingdom of God?

If so, answer: Yes, by the help of God.

4. Will you faithfully endeavour to know your privilege and responsibility as a Christian, and as a member of this congregation? Will you be loyal to the church, and sustain it with your regular attendance and uphold it with your earnest prayer: If so, answer: Yes, I will do so.

5. Will you contribute of your means to the support of the church, as the Lord prospers you, and will you render Christian service according to your ability and opportunity?

If so, answer: I will.

6. Are you acquainted with the doctrines, spiritual culture and moral standards of The Evangelical Missionary Church? Are you in harmony with them and will you adhere to them?

If so, answer: I am and will do so by the help of God.

4.2.3. Covenant Of Membership

I call upon the membership of the church to renew their allegiance to this covenant as we repeat it together. I invite friends and adherents to understand and lend their support to this covenant.

I invite the congregation to stand and to join me in the reading of the covenant.

If it is not possible to have copies of the covenant so that all may participate, the minister shall read the covenant.

The following is an expression of the Commitment to Christ expected of members and encouraged in adherents:

Having been led to repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

1) We covenant, by the aid of the Holy Spirit,

- to walk together in Christian love;
- to join in mutual labours for the kingdom of Christ;
- to strive loyally for the advancement of His church in holiness, knowledge, and love;
- to promote her prosperity and spirituality;
- to maintain her ordinances, worship, discipline and doctrines.

2) We covenant

- to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God prospers us,
- to the support of this church and all her ministries.

3) We covenant

- to maintain private devotions and family devotions where possible;
- to endeavour to bring early to a saving knowledge of Christ all over whom we have care and influence;
- to walk circumspectly in the world;
- to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements.

4) We covenant

- to watch over one another in brotherly love,
- to remember each other in prayer,
- to aid each other in sickness and distress;
- to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
- to be slow to take offense and always ready for reconciliation.

5) We covenant to witness

- faithfully to the saving and keeping power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and
- His promise that all who call on the name of Lord shall be saved.

4.2.4. Prayer

O Lord, we thank you that you are the Head of the Church. Bless your servants and grant that they may ever be faithful to you and to your church. Help them to keep the vows which they have made. Enable them we pray, to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Fill them with the Holy Spirit. Make them fruitful in every good work. Keep them now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4.2.5. Charge to the Congregation

The minister shall address them saying,

Members of _____ (name of Local Church), I commend to your love and care this person whom we have this day received into the fellowship of our church.

4.2.6. Welcome

Upon conclusion of the reading of the Covenant of Membership, the members may be seated and the minister shall say to those who are uniting with the church:

In the name of Christ and His church, I welcome you into the fellowship of _____ (name of Local Church). May God enable you to be a faithful and useful member of this church until you are presented without fault before the throne of God.

He shall then shake hands with each candidate.

If desired, the deacons and other officials who represent the congregation may follow the pastor in extending the right hand of fellowship and welcoming the new members.

4.2.7. Hymn

The congregation may then sing a hymn such as "Blest Be the Tie that Binds: or "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord".

4.2.8. Benediction

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. (Phil 4:7, 23 NIV)

4.3. Form 2

4.3.1. Reception of Children and Youth into Church Membership

Following careful instruction in the doctrines, spiritual culture, moral standards of the Evangelical Missionary Church, and upon clear profession by a child or youth of personal acceptance of and commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord), the minister shall call the candidates before the congregation asking their parents and teachers to stand with them. The following service may then be used.

4.3.2. Address to Congregation

Dear friends, we rejoice that God, by the Holy Spirit has caused these children (or youth) to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to seek membership in his church. They have come to a personal experience of salvation and now of their own accord present themselves before this congregation to take upon themselves the vows of the church and to enter upon the privileges and duties of church membership. Let us with one mind and heart invoke upon them the blessings of our God.

The minister shall ask candidates, parents and teachers present at the chancel to stand or kneel, and shall pray as follows:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, giver of every good and perfect gift; accept our hearty thanks for these children whom you have placed in our love and care. Let your blessing continue upon each one who has come to this holy moment. Renew in your servants, their parents, their pastors, and their teachers the wisdom and dedication to train them in the way that they should go. Grant that each of these children may grow in grace and in wisdom, and in favour with God and man, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All will stand; the minister shall say to the parents and teachers:

Dear friends, this is a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving, in that your own special charges are formally entering the spiritual family of God through confession of their faith in Jesus Christ. While the church will continue to share with you the duty and privilege of bringing up these children in the knowledge and counsel of the Lord, it renews its solemn injunction to you, by God's help, to teach faithfully by precept and example these whom God has entrusted to your care. Will you accept this duty, in the fear and favour of God, and will you in the presence of Almighty God and the members of this congregation, renew the vows made by you in the dedication of these children?

If deemed advisable the minister may read these dedication vows.

The parents shall answer:

Yes, by the help of God we will.

As the members of the church stand the minister shall say to them:

Will you, the members of _____ (name of Local Church) enter into a covenant with these children (or youth) who now confess their faith in Christ and take upon themselves the vows of the church; will you watch over them, instruct, counsel and cherish them with love thoughtfulness and patience? If so, answer:

"Yes, by the help of God, we will."

The minister shall address the children or youth:

Dear Christian friends, our Lord Jesus by his Holy Word has expressly given to everyone who

believes in him a place in his church. It is needful now that you should declare your faith and purpose in the presence of this congregation by taking the following vows:

1. Do you, each of you, believe in God as your heavenly Father?

If so, answer: I do.

2. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, and do you promise to love, trust and obey Him all the days of your life?

If so, answer: I do.

3. Do you believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God, and do you promise to read it faithfully and to make it your guide for living?

If so, answer: I do.

4. Will you be loyal to Church of Christ and this congregation and uphold it by your attendance, your prayers, your gifts, and your service?

If so, answer: I will.

5. Are you acquainted with doctrines spiritual culture and moral standards of the Evangelical Missionary Church? Are you in harmony with them and will you adhere to them?

If so, answer: I am and will do so by the help of God.

The minister may then offer a prayer after which those who are to be received shall kneel as the minister, laying his hands upon everyone in turn, shall say:

As a minister of the church of Jesus Christ I welcome you into the fellowship of all true disciples of our Lord and pray that God may establish you in the faith and use you in his service. Amen.

The minister shall ask the children or youth to stand and as he extends to each of them the right hand of Christian fellowship he shall call them by name and then say:

We are pleased to recognize you as members of the church of Jesus Christ and we bid you welcome to its rights and privileges. In token of our mutual love we extend to you the right hand of Christian fellowship, and pray that you may be useful members of the church while you live and that finally you may be numbered with the saints in glory. Amen.

4.3.3. Covenant of Membership

The congregation may also join in reading the Covenant of Membership -- see above.

4.3.4. Closing

This reception into membership may be profitably arranged in conjunction with the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, as the first act of their new relationship with the church.

5. DEDICATION OF CHILDREN

5.1. Preface

At the appropriate place in the service, the minister shall invite the parents who are to dedicate their children to the Lord to take their place before him at the front of the church.

Arrangements for the dedication of an infant of believing parents should be made with the minister prior to the day of dedication, at which time the meaning of dedication should be clearly presented to the parents or guardian together with their responsibility to nurture the child in the Christian faith.

The minister should procure for the official record of the church the name of the child, the place and date of birth and the names of the parents.

The child will then be presented by one or both parents or guardian upon the call of the minister at the place and time of dedication.

One of the following ceremonies may then be used. A certificate of dedication should be given to the parents.

5.2. Form I

5.2.1. Address To The Congregation

Forasmuch as God in His great mercy has entered into covenant relation with man, wherein He has included children as partakers of its gracious benefits, as we publicly present our children to the Lord in

recognition of His goodness and grace.

5.2.2. Scriptures

Hear what the Holy Scriptures say: "People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." (Mark 10:13-16 NIV)

5.2.3. Address To The Parents:

Dear parents, inasmuch as this child (these children) is (are) now presented for dedication to the Lord, and is (are) by you consecrated, or given to God and His service, it becomes your duty to see that he (she or they) is (are) taught as soon as he (she or they) is (are) able to understand, the nature and purpose of this dedication; and that he (she or they) shall be instructed in the Word of God, and encouraged to memorize portions of it, and that he (she or they) shall be taught to reverence and respect the house of God and its worship.

Question: Do you recognize the serious responsibility which comes to you with the gift of this child (these children), and that it is your duty to teach and train him (her or them) from his (her or their) earliest years for the service of God as He instructed His servants of old? (Deut. 6:6 7; 11:18 2).

Do you recognize it as your duty and sacred trust to bring him (her or them) up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord? (Eph. 6:4).

Do you therefore, solemnly engage to fulfill these duties so far as lies in your power, the Lord being your helper?

Answer: "We do."

The minister shall say, laying his hands on the child:

(Full Name of Child) _____, I hereby dedicate you to God and His service in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24 26 NIV).

5.2.4. Prayer

The minister shall then pray.

The minister shall say:

We rejoice today with these parents because this little child has come into their hearts and homes. There is no gift more precious, more laden with blessing, more enriching to the home and family life, than the coming of a little child. However, with this great experience there comes also great responsibility to the parents for into their care is entrusted an immortal soul whose destiny is greatly affected by the character and influence of the home.

The Scriptures have much to say about children and the responsibility of parenthood. Moses enjoined parents to lay up in their own hearts the words of counsel and advice, that they might teach them to their children. Hannah looked to the house of the Lord for instruction and help in bringing up her child Samuel. Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple and there presented him. Timothy's mother and grandmother were zealous from his childhood to teach him the Word of God. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

5.3. Form 2

5.3.1. Invocation

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5.3.2. Address to the Congregation

We rejoice today with these parents because this little child has come into their hearts and homes. There is no gift more precious, more laden with blessing, more enriching to the home and family life, than

the coming of a little child. However, with this great experience there comes also great responsibility to the parents for into their care is entrusted an immortal soul whose destiny is greatly affected by the character and influence of the home.

The Scriptures have much to say about children and the responsibility of parenthood. Moses enjoined parents to lay up in their own hearts the words of counsel and advice, that they might teach them to their children. Hannah looked to the house of the Lord for instruction and help in bringing up her child Samuel. Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple and there presented him. Timothy's mother and grandmother were zealous from his childhood to teach him the Word of God. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." The Scriptures bear witness of the fact that of old, godly parents dedicated their children to the Lord and his service. Hannah brought her child Samuel and dedicated him to God and to the service of his house (1 Sam 1:22).

We also read "When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." (Luke 2:22 NIV) We are confident, therefore, of divine approval today as this child is brought to church to be dedicated to God and his service. It is our duty and to minister to his welfare in every way possible.

5.3.3. Scripture

"People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." (Mark 10:13-16 NIV)

5.3.4. Address to the Parents

The minister shall call the names of the parents or guardian of each child to be dedicated. While the parents are bringing the child to the chancel a suitable hymn may be sung or music played.

You are presenting this child for dedication to God. In so doing you acknowledge this child to be a gift from God for whose nurture and spiritual welfare you are responsible. It is proper that you declare your purpose to lead him in the way of Jesus Christ by answering the following questions before this congregation.

Will you give an example of a Christian life and instruct and guide this child in Christian living? If so, answer: "I will, by the help of God."

Will you seek to lead him to a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and endeavour to bring him into the membership of the church? If so, answer: I will, by the help of God. This dedication of your child today is an expression of your desire that your child shall become a Christian. As parents you are indicating your intent and purpose to surround your child with every influence that will lead him (or her) when he (or she) comes to the age of accountability, to accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord, May this hope of your hearts be realized. Do you parents, in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses, solemnly covenant with God to bring up your child in the fear and admonition of the Lord?

Do you covenant together to strive to bring your child to a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and to lead this child to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour?

Parents will answer here: "We do."

Minister will then say: As you dedicate your child to the Lord today, we trust that as parents you will also dedicate yourselves anew to God, seeking to live exemplary lives before your family so that you will be able to present and commend Christ to them.

Having heard these vows and sacred promises, I, as your minister, do solemnly and joyfully commend these children to the divine care and protection of God.

5.3.5. Dedicatory Prayer

The Minister will place his hand upon the head of each child as he prays:
In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit we dedicate this child to you.

Our Heavenly Father, as our Saviour on that day blessed the little children that were brought to Him, now take this little one into your special care. Direct in his (or her) training, education and preparation for life. Prepare the heart of this child so that at an early age he (or she) will accept Jesus Christ as his (or her) personal Saviour. May your divine blessing also be upon these parents and their home. May they ever keep your will in the days that are ahead. This we pray in the worthy name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

5.3.6. Commitment of the Congregation

The minister shall ask the following question of the congregation:

Do you as a congregation accept the responsibility of assisting these parents in the fulfillment of these dedication vows?

If so, answer: We will, by the help of God.

5.3.7. Act of Dedication

The minister, having taken the child in his arms, or having laid his right hand upon its head, shall say: (Name of the Child) _____, I, as a minister of Jesus Christ, who laid his hands upon the heads of little children in blessing, dedicate you to God and his Church, in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5.3.8. Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank you that children have a special place in your sight. We thank you that under the ministry of your Spirit these parents have been led to dedicate this child to you. May your blessing rest upon this child whom we have dedicated and lead him into faith in Christ. Grant him/her a renewal of life; give him/her victory over evil; make him/her strong to do your will, O God, and at last receive him into your eternal home.

We ask you to bless these parents who have this day dedicated this child to you; anoint them with thy Spirit and enable them to fulfill the promises made before you and this congregation; keep them and their family firmly united in the fellowship of Christ and his Church, and at last bring them with all of us to be a part of that great company of your people in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

5.3.9. Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

5.4 Form 3

A SERVICE OF DEDICATION FOR PARENTS AND LITTLE CHILDREN

The minister shall call the parents and child to come to the chancel. After a few remarks he shall read some Scripture.

5.4.1. Scriptures

Hear what the Holy Scriptures say: "People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." (Mark 10:13-16 NIV)

5.4.2. Address to the Parents

MINISTER: Recognizing the dignity and responsibility of parenthood and of your dependence upon Divine help for strength and wisdom to faithfully discharge the duties of parents, do you

_____ (names of parents) now present your child (children) _____ (name(s) of child(ren)) in dedication to God, seeking Divine blessing and guidance for their/his/her lives/life?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: Having thus purposed in your hearts, do you both in the presence of these witnesses solemnly covenant, through the grace given you and in partnership with the congregation, to teach your children/child the truths and duties of the Christian faith; and by prayer, precept and example, and using the many agencies of the church to train them/him/her in love toward God and in the knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: And now, having presented _____ (*name(s) of child(ren)*) in dedication to God, do you also desire to reconsecrate yourselves to Christ and in the spirit of this covenant to live exemplary lives, relying upon the grace of God to so commend Christ by your example?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: You, as parents, have offered your children/child to the strong and tender providence of God and to the nurture of the church.

5.4.3. Address to the Congregation

MINISTER: (To the Congregation)

Do you, as members of this congregation, acknowledge and accept the responsibility, together with the parents, of teaching and training these children/this child, that they/he/she, being brought up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, may be led in due time to trust Christ as Saviour and Lord, and confessing Him as Saviour and Lord in baptism, be made members (a member) of His church? Will you signify your acceptance of this responsibility by standing?

5.4.4. Congregational Response

CONGREGATION: (to the Parents)

We accept with humility of spirit and seriousness of purpose our responsibility for the spiritual well-being of your children/child. By our example, our words and our prayers, we will support you, in helping them/him/her to respond to the fullness of Christ. We earnestly pray that our life and witness, individually and together, will make your task both joyful and rewarding, and that your children/child may become faithful servants of the Lord, bringing glory to God in the Church and in the world. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5.4.5. Prayer

The minister shall take the child in his arms and pray for the child. After returning the child to the parents, he shall shake hands in blessing and congratulations.

5.4.6. Benediction

MINISTER: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Eph 3: 20, 21 NIV)

6. MARRIAGE

6.1. Preface

Before the ceremony the minister shall provide for appropriate and thorough pre-marital counseling and shall ascertain that there are no moral or legal impediments to the marriage. At the time appointed for the solemnizing of the marriage, the persons to be married shall present themselves at the church, or the other duly appointed place, and stand together facing the minister, the woman to the left of the man.

The actual order of service may vary (for example, the Presentation of the Bride may be placed earlier or later), but the minister must assure that all the elements necessary for legality and decorum are included.

6.2. Form 1: Outline

The following is an outline of how a wedding ceremony may be ordered.

Prelude
Processional
Statement of Purpose
The Presentation of the Bride
The Scriptures
Prayer of Invocation
Exhortation to Bride and Groom
Declaration of Intention
The Marriage Vows
Giving & Receiving of Rings
Prayer for the Bride & Groom
Pronouncement of Marriage
The Nuptial Kiss
Lighting of the Unity Candle -- Special music is appropriate here and/or during the signing of the register
Signing of the Register
Presentation of the Newlyweds
Recessional

6.3. Form 2

6.3.1. Invocation

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.3.2. Address to the Assembly

When the wedding party is in place, the minister will begin.

6.3.2.1. Option 1

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocence, signifying to us the mystical union which is between Christ and His Church, which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence at the first miracle which He wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of the Apostle Paul to be honourable among all men, and is therefore not to be entered into lightly or in advisedly but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined and to unite their hearts and lives blending all interests, sympathies, and hopes. I charge and entreat you, therefore, in entering upon and sustaining this hallowed union to seek the favour and blessing of the Lord whose favour is life, whose blessing makes rich and adds no sorrow. Let us now seek His blessing as we pray.

6.3.2.2. Option 2

We are assembled in the presence of God to unite this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is instituted of God, regulated by his commandment, blessed of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among men. It is becoming that the marriage relationship be entered into thoughtfully, advisedly, discreetly, reverently, and in the fear of God. Into this beautiful and holy relationship these two persons desire now to enter.

The minister will here call on all present to bow in prayer.

6.3.3. Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, we pray your blessing to be upon this marriage. We humbly pray that the

Saviour will be present here, even as He was at that marriage at Cana of Galilee where His presence made such a difference at that happy wedding occasion. Give to these who have come to be united in holy wedlock a deep sense of the obligations they are now to assume so that with true intent of spirit and with utter unreserve of love, they may pledge their loyalty and henceforth journey through life dedicated to live for each other and for you. This we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

Scripture may be read at this point if desired.

6.3.4. Presentation of the Bride

In case the woman is given in marriage by her father, guardian, brother or friend, then the minister shall say:

Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

I, her father (her mother and I; her guardian; her brother; her friend, etc.).

6.3.5. Address to the Persons to be Married

I charge you both as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that love and loyalty alone will serve as the foundation of a happy home. If the solemn vows which you are about to make are kept faithfully and steadfastly and you endeavour to do the will of your heavenly Father, your life will be full of joy, and the home you are establishing will abide in peace. No other ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. You are entering into that holy estate which is the deepest mystery of experience and which is the very sacrament of divine love.

I entreat you both to seek the help of God in this sacred moment and to look to him steadfastly for his love and grace which will make your marriage rich in comfort and fruitful in service.

6.3.6. Declaration of Intention

6.3.6.1. Option 1

The minister will say to the man:

_____ (*name of man*), will you have _____ (*name of woman*) to be your wedded wife, to cherish her and live with her according to God's holy ordinance? Will you pledge your loyalty to her, and promise to love, honour, comfort and keep her, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and keep yourself only unto her so long as you both shall live? If so, answer:

I will.

The minister will say to the woman:

_____ (*name of woman*), will you take _____ (*name of man*) to be your wedded husband to cherish him, and live with him according to God's holy ordinance? Will you pledge your loyalty to him, and promise to love, honour, comfort and keep him, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and keep yourself only unto him as long as you both shall live?

If so, answer: I will.

6.3.6.2. Option 2

The minister will address the man:

_____ (*name of man*) will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony; will you love her, comfort her, honour, and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her so long as you both shall live?

The man will answer: "I will."

The minister will address the woman:

_____ (*name of woman*) will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony; will you love him, comfort him, honour him and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him so long as you

both shall live?

The woman will answer: "I will."

6.3.7. Alternative Time for Presentation of the Bride

6.3.8. Prayer

God of all grace and goodness, accept our thanks for the ordinance of marriage which you have instituted. You set the solitary in families, and you have promised to bless all who call upon you. Bless these your servants who are now about to be joined together in this holy relationship. Guide and sanctify them by your Spirit, and fill them with a profound sense of the holy obligation of the vows they are about to make. Help them to look to you for help and to enter into these sacred obligations in humble dependence upon your enabling grace. Grant all of us these mercies, O Father, we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

6.3.9. Exchange of Vows

The minister will quietly suggest that the man and the woman hold right hands, the woman holding her bouquet with her left hand. The man shall repeat after the minister the following:

I, _____ (*name of man*) take you _____ (*name of woman*) to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and hereto I pledge you my promise.

The man and woman continue to hold right hands as the woman now repeats:

I, _____ (*name of woman*), take you _____ (*name of man*), to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and hereto I pledge you my promise.

6.3.10. The Giving and Receiving of Rings

6.3.11. The Rings

6.3.11.1. Option 1

The minister will suggest to the bride that she hand her bouquet to the maid of honour; he will then address the groom: Is there a token to be given in acknowledgment of these vows?

The best man will hand the bride's ring to the groom who in turn will hand it to the minister.

The minister addresses the bride:

Do you accept this ring as a pledge of the sincerity of his vows?

The bride will answer: "I do."

The minister will hand the ring to the groom who places it on the third finger of the left hand of the bride and repeats after the minister the following:

With this ring I thee wed and with all my worldly goods I thee endow; In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister will say:

And may this cirlet of pure gold which has no end, be henceforth the chaste and changeless symbol of your evermore pure and changeless affection.

The minister will address the bride:

What pledge do you give of the sincerity of your vows?

The maid of honour will hand the groom's ring to the bride who will in turn hand it to the minister who then addresses the groom:

Do you accept this ring as a pledge of the sincerity of her vows?

The groom will answer: "I do."

The minister then hands the ring to the bride who places it upon the groom's third finger of the left hand as she repeats after the minister the following:

This ring I give thee in token and pledge of my constant faith and abiding love.

The minister will say:

And may this ring given be the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites your two hearts in love that has no end.

At this point the minister may offer a brief prayer of ring dedication if desired.

The minister shall continue:

Forasmuch as _____ (*Man's First Name*) and _____ (*Woman's First Name*) have consented in holy wedlock and have thereto confirmed the same by giving and receiving each one a ring, by the authority committed unto me as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I now declare you husband and wife according to the ordinance of God and the laws of the Province of _____, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.3.11.2. Option 2: Single Ring Ceremony

The man and woman shall unclasp their hands and the minister shall say to the man:

What token do you offer that you will fulfill these vows faithfully?

The man shall lay the ring in the palm of the minister's hand, and the minister shall say to the woman:

Do you, _____ (*name of woman*), accept this ring in token that you will fulfill these vows faithfully?

I do.

Then the minister shall say:

This ring is a sacred token of your marriage. Its precious material is a type of the pure affection which should mark the relations of holy wedlock. It is worn as a band of ornament and grace. may it henceforth be the chaste and changeless symbol of your constant faith and abiding love.

Bless, O Lord, this ring, that he who gives it and she who wears it may abide in your peace and continue in your favour until their life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thereupon the woman shall take the ring from the palm of the minister's hand and give it to the man, who shall place it upon the third finger of the woman's left hand. The man shall repeat the words after the minister:

With this ring I thee wed;... and pledge to thee my love and loyalty... until death us do part;... in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.3.11.3. Option 3: Double Ring Ceremony

The man and woman shall unclasp their hands, and the minister shall say to the man:

What token do you offer that you will fulfill these vows faithfully?

The man shall lay the ring in the palm of the minister's hand and say:

This ring.

The minister shall say to the woman:

What token do you offer that you will fulfill these vows faithfully?

The woman shall lay the ring in the palm of the minister's hand and say:

This ring.

Then the minister, holding both rings in his open hand shall say:

These rings are sacred tokens of your marriage. Their precious material is a type of the pure affection which should mark the relations of holy matrimony. their endless circle is a symbol of your faith and abiding love.

Bless, O Lord, these rings, that they who wear them may abide in thy peace and continue in thy favour unto their life's end. Amen.

Then the minister shall say to the woman:

Do you, _____ (*name of woman*), accept this ring in token that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?

I do.

Thereupon the woman shall take the ring from the palm of the minister's hand and give it to the man who shall place it upon the third finger of the woman's left hand. The man shall repeat after the minister:

With this ring I thee wed.... and pledge to thee my love and loyalty... until death us do part;... in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister shall say to the man:

Do you, _____ (*name of man*), accept this ring in token that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?

I do.

Thereupon the man shall take the ring from the palm of the minister's hand and give it to the woman who shall place it upon the third finger of the man's left hand. The woman shall repeat after the minister:

With this ring I thee wed;... and pledge to thee my love and loyalty... until death us do part;... in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.3.12. Pronouncement of Union

The minister shall again direct the couple to join their right hands. Within his right hand resting on theirs he shall say:

Whom God has joined together let no man put asunder. Forasmuch as you, _____ (*name of man*), and you, _____ (*name of woman*) have covenanted together in holy wedlock before God, and have pledged your love and loyalty to each other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving rings and by joining hand, I now pronounce you husband and wife in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.3.13. Final Admonition

The minister here addresses the couple:

Dearly beloved ones, (or use first name of bride and groom) this day marks a new era in your lives. From henceforth you travel life's pathway not alone but together. Let love be forever enthroned in your united hearts. As followers of Jesus Christ (use if both are Christians), we earnestly commend you to our Heavenly Father asking Him that according to His abundant grace He may bestow upon you both the Spirit of Grace, enabling you to establish a Christian home where the voice of prayer and praise shall as sweet incense continually ascend unto Him who hath purchased you with His own precious blood.

May your experience as you travel down life's pathway together be like unto the experience of the two disciples who journeyed together from Jerusalem to Emmaus, of whom we read that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

And may heaven's constant benediction crown your union with the ever increasing joy and blessedness and true affection of a happy marriage.

6.3.14. Prayer of Dedication

The minister will then address the couple and the congregation:

Let us pray.

The couple may kneel for the Prayer of Dedication.

O God, our Heavenly Father, you alone are the Source and Author of all life. You are the Protector and Guide on life's pathway. You alone are the Builder and Maker of homes. We ask you to grant the blessings of your promises and the help of your Holy Spirit to these dear ones, enabling them to honour you and to be ever true to the pledges that they have made to each other. May your grace be theirs in an abundant measure helping them to walk in your truth, to abide in your fellowship, and to live in perfect

peace and love with each other until their earthly life shall end in your glorious presence.

This we ask in the blessed Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And now, may the LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

6.3.15. Prayer

Eternal God, our Father, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, author of everlasting life, send your blessing upon your servants, this man and this woman whom we bless in your holy name. Help them to live faithfully together, earnestly performing and sincerely keeping the vows and the covenant made between them. Keep them in perfect love and peace together, and enable them to live according to thine abiding laws. Let your blessing be upon their home and all our homes. Enable them and all of us to do your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

6.3.16. Benediction

God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favour look upon you and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

Where the bridal kiss is included it should follow the benediction

When the couple desires to partake together of the Holy Communion, it is suggested that this be done between the final prayer and the benediction.

6.3.17. Kiss of the Bride

At this point, while the couple is still kneeling, the soloist may sing an appropriate prayer hymn or song of consecration. The minister will indicate to the couple that they may rise. He will suggest that the groom gently lift the bride's veil and kiss his bride if he desires to do so in the ceremony. He will indicate to the maid of honor to return the bride's bouquet and that the couple turn inward, the bride taking the groom's arm and facing the congregation.

6.3.18. Signing of the Register

This may be done in public or the wedding party may withdraw to the pastor's study for the signing and then return for the Pronouncement.

6.3.19. Pronouncement

The minister will say:

And now it is my happy privilege to congratulate and present to you Mr. and Mrs. _____

The organist will immediately play the recessional with the entire wedding party marching in their places briskly down the aisle to the rear of the church.

6.4. Form 3

6.4.1. Introduction

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and the presence of these witnesses to join this man and this woman in sacred marriage which is instituted of God, regulated by His commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among all men. Let us remember that God has instituted and established the marriage relationship. Our Savior has declared that a man shall forsake his father and mother and be united to his wife. The apostles in their epistles instructed those who enter into this relationship to cherish a mutual esteem and love, to comfort each other in sickness, trouble, and sorrow, and to remember that this union typifies the great and blessed union of Christ and His bride, the Church.

We have many promises in the Word of God which tell of the blessings that accrue to an individual or family who exalt righteousness and despise evil. We covet for this new home that is established the full measure of God's blessing in so far as they determine to follow the faith of righteousness for their lives. God in His Word encourages us to turn to Him for guidance and help, and we are assured that the one

who comes to Him in sincerity He will in no wise cast out.

The following may be added when the couple are Christians:

It is the duty of both a husband and wife to pray for and encourage each other in spiritual things, to maintain a spiritual atmosphere in the home, and to put God first in family and personal life.

6.4.2. The Presentation of the Bride

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

The person who gives bride away shall answer:

"I do." *Or* "I, the father, brother, or uncle, etc.) do"; *or* "Her mother and I do."

6.4.3. Scriptures

Forasmuch as marriage is ordained of God, it is fitting that we remind ourselves of the teaching of God's Word concerning marriage:

"The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen 2:18 NIV). Jesus Christ said, "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female,' and said, `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' ? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Mat 19:4-6 NIV).

The Apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit said, "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ... Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband" (Eph 5:22, 24, 33 NIV). This is the marriage bond we find ordained in God's Holy Word.

6.4.4. Declaration of Intention

It being your intention to give yourselves one to the other, please join right hands.

Addressing the groom, the minister shall say:

_____ (*name of man*), do you take _____ (*name of woman*) whose hand you now hold, to be your lawful wedded wife. Do you solemnly promise before God and these witnesses that you will love, honor, and cherish her; and that, forsaking all others for her alone, you will faithfully perform to her all the duties which a husband owes to a wife as long as both shall live?

If so, answer I do.

The minister shall then address the bride and say:

_____ (*name of woman*) do you take _____ (*name of man*) whose hand you now hold, to be your lawful wedded husband? Do you solemnly promise before God and these witnesses that you will love, honor, and cherish him; and that, forsaking all others for him alone, you will faithfully perform to him all the duties which a wife owes to a husband as long as you both shall live?

If so, answer I do.

6.4.5. Exchange of Vows

The minister shall then address the groom, to repeat after him:

I, _____ (*name of man*) , take you, _____ (*name of woman*) , to be my lawful wedded wife, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part.

The minister shall then address the bride, to repeat after him:

I, _____ (*name of woman*) , take you, _____ (*name of man*), to be my lawful wedded husband, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part.

6.4.6. Giving and Receiving of Rings

As a token and pledge of the vows which you have made, you will now give and receive the wedding ring(s).

The minister shall continue and say:

These rings are a token of your devotion one to the other. Endless circles, they symbolize the never ending quality of the pledge which you have made and show to the world that a bond of union has been established in your hearts which cannot be severed by an outside affection. *[Revise in the singular if only one ring is used.]*

6.4.7. Pronouncement of Union

Forasmuch as you have consented together to the vows of holy matrimony and have made known the same before God and these witnesses, by the authority vested in me by the laws of this Province, I now pronounce you husband and wife in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. May God bless this union and sanctify it for His glory.

6.4.8. Prayer

Couple may kneel.

Sometimes a song is sung at this time.

6.4.9. Final Admonition

And now, _____ (*name of man*) and _____ (*name of woman*), God has ordained that your lives henceforth should be lived as one, united, devoted, unending in love, forbearing in failure, and rejoicing together in victory.

Let love be the charmed word in the dialect of your home and hearts. May God's will be sought in every decision you will face together.

The minister may add the following if the couple are Christians:

As God's children by faith in Jesus Christ, you have the right and the responsibility to be ambassadors for Christ every day of your lives. May your mutual prayer support one for the other serve to strengthen in times of stress, solace in times of sorrow, shelter in times of storm, and make steadfast in times of uncertainty. Let your deepest bond of union be that which comes from a righteous determination to perform the will of God. A daily prayer time together will prove most helpful in welding your lives together in closer unity. Keep your Heavenly Father always in Holy remembrance. Then His protecting hand will guide you, and by his eternal love the love you hold for each other will be ever strengthened and enriched.

I am sure His heart is now speaking through my words as I say, God bless you both, God guide you both, God keep you always in His care. Amen.

6.4.10. Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace both now and evermore. Amen.

6.4.11. Signing of the Register

This may be done in public or the wedding party may withdraw to the pastor's study for the signing and then return for the Pronouncement.

6.4.12. Pronouncement

Now, may I present Mr. and Mrs. _____

6.5. Form 4

6.5.1. Introduction

At the day and the time appointed for the solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married having been qualified according to the law, standing together, man on the minister's left hand and the woman on the right, the minister shall say:

"There was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: and both Jesus was called, and His disciples, to the marriage." (John 2:1, 2 NIV)

Dearly beloved: We are gathered together in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses to join together this man and this woman in the bonds of holy matrimony; signifying unto us the mystical union that exists between Christ and His Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence and His first miracle. It is commended by the apostle Paul to be honourable among all, and therefore, is not by any to be entered into inadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly and in the fear of God. Be assured that if any persons are joined together otherwise than God's Word allows, their marriage is not blessed of God. Into this holy estate, these two persons come now to be joined.

6.5.2. Scripture and Prayer

Here suitable Scriptures can be read and prayer offered, if desired.

6.5.3. Presentation of the Bride

Then shall the minister say:

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

The one who presents the bride in marriage shall make appropriate reply such as:

"I do" or "Her mother and I."

6.5.4. Declaration of Intent

Then they shall give their pledge to each other in this manner:

The minister receiving the woman at her father's, or friend's hand, shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and shall say:

TO THE GROOM:

Do you _____ (*name of man*), take this woman, whose hand you now hold, to be your true and wedded wife, and do you solemnly promise before God and these witnesses to love, cherish, honour, and protect her, and her only, as long as ye both shall live?

If so, answer "I do."

Then shall the minister say:

Do you _____ (*name of woman*), take this man, who now holds your hand, to be your true and wedded husband, and do you solemnly promise before God and these witnesses to love, honour, cherish, obey and protect him; to forsake all others for his sake; and to united unto him and him only, so long as ye both shall live?

If so, answer "I do."

6.5.5. Exchange of Vows

The minister shall then ask the groom to repeat after him the following:

I, _____ (*name of man*), take you, _____ (*name of woman*), to be my wedded wife; to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better for worse, for richer for poorer; in sickness and in health, till death do us part, and thereto I pledge you my love and loyalty.

The minister shall then ask the bride to repeat after him the following:

I, _____ (*name of woman*), take you, _____ (*name of man*), to be my wedded husband; to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better for worse, for richer for poorer; in sickness and in health, till death do us part, and thereto I pledge my love and loyalty.

6.5.6. Pronouncement of Union

Then shall the minister say:

Forasmuch as _____ (*name of man*) and _____ (*name of woman*) have consented to live together in holy wedlock and have pledged their love and loyalty to each other in the presence of God and this company and have confirmed the same by the joining of hands, now therefore by the authority conferred upon me by the laws of the Province of _____, and by the Church of Jesus Christ, I pronounce you husband and wife, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.5.7. Signing of the Register

6.5.8. Final Admonition

In this new relationship let me remind you that henceforth you are one in interests, one in reputation, and above all, one in affection. These, therefore, whom God has joined together let not man separate.

6.5.9. Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.
Prayer can again be offered, if desired.

6.6. Form 5

6.6.1. Prelude

6.6.2. Processional

6.6.3. The Giving of the Bride

TO THE BRIDE'S FATHER: Who is giving this woman to be married to this man? The bride father answers, "I do," or "Her mother and I do." He then takes the bride's right hand and places it in the groom's left hand, and retires to his place and is seated.

6.6.4. Statement of Purpose

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the joining together of this man and this woman in holy matrimony. The sacred relationship of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned marriage by His presence and first miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The apostle Paul chose marriage to symbolize the union between Christ and His church, and holy Scripture commends marriage to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given to one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but soberly, deliberately, and in reverent fear before God.

Into this holy union, _____ (name of man)
and _____ (name of woman) now come to be joined.

6.6.5. Musical Offering

A solo or other special music may be introduced here.

6.6.6. The Scriptures

The Word of God describes the kind of love we are to have, each for the other: *"Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

"Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV)

The apostle Paul aware that society then as now needed clear and radical instructions wrote to the Ephesians:

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour.

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no

one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:21-33 NIV)

6.6.7. Prayer of Invocation

6.6.8. Exhortation to Bride & Groom

GIVE BOUQUET TO MAID OF HONOUR

6.6.9. Declaration Of Intent

TO GROOM: _____ (name of man), will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live?

If so, answer, "I will."

TO BRIDE: _____ (name of woman), will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live?

If so, answer, "I will."

TO CONGREGATION: Will all of you witnessing these promise to do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

If so, please answer, "We will."

6.6.10. The Marriage Vows

The minister will invite the bride and groom and their attendants to come forward before the altar. Then the minister shall say:

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us that at the beginning of creation God "made them male and female.' 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.' Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh."

You have come to be made husband and wife. Will you join hands, and repeat these vows after me?

The groom repeats these vows as the minister instructs:

I, _____ (name of man) , take you, _____ (name of woman) to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you my promise (or, I pledge you my love and loyalty).

I, _____ (name of woman), take you, _____ (name of man), to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you my promise (or, I pledge you my love and loyalty).

6.6.11. Giving & Receiving of Rings

You have chosen to seal your vows by the giving and receiving of rings (a ring).

The minister receives the rings.

Bless, O Lord, these rings as a sign of the vows by which this man and woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and repeats as the minister instructs:

I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.6.12. Prayer for the Bride & Groom

Eternal God, creator and preserver of life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace, look with favor upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in holy matrimony.

Grant that their wills be so knit together in Your will, and that their spirits be so knit with Your Spirit, that they each may grow in love and peace with You and with one another all the days of their lives.

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and Yours. Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world. Give them such fulfillment and mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others.

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. (Through Christ our Lord, Amen.)

In place of the sentence in brackets, "The Lord's Prayer" may be spoken or sung.

6.6.13. Pronouncement of Marriage

Then the minister joins the right hands of husband and wife and says:

Now that _____ (*name of man*) and _____ (*name of woman*) have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, before us and before God as witness, and have shown their affection and trust by the giving and receiving of a ring (rings) and by joining hands, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate. Amen.

6.6.14. The Nuptial Kiss

Then the minister shall say to the bridegroom:

You may kiss your bride.

6.6.15. The Benediction

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord look upon you with His favor, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you will have life everlasting through Jesus Christ, Amen.

6.6.16. Signing of the Register

6.6.17. Presentation of the Newlyweds

6.6.18. Recessional

7. Burial of the Dead

7.1. A Christian Funeral

The Christian minister shall ensure that the Scriptures read and the words spoken are appropriate to the circumstance. The words of comfort ought to give assurance that someone who has died in the faith are at rest with the Lord. Where there is doubt about the faith of the deceased the selection of Scripture and the words ought to comfort the living but not at the expense of obscuring the necessity of making one's peace with God through the Saviour, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

7.2. Form 1

7.2.1. Invocation

In the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God our eternal refuge and strength, grant unto us your blessing in this hour. Lift our vision beyond the shadows of this world and help us to see the light of eternity that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7.2.2. Scripture

Then the minister shall read one or more of the following Scripture passages:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psa 23 AV)

[The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psa 23 NIV)]

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (Psa 46:1-10 AV)

[God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psa 46:1-10 NIV)]

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also...If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him, not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but you see me: because I love, ye shall live also. (John 14:1-3, 15-19 AV)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

["If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not

leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. (John 14:1-3, 15-19 NIV)]

(Other passages which may be used are Matt 5: 3-11; 1 Cor 15:12-26, 35-38; 2 Cor 4:6, 13-17; 5:1; Rev 22:1-5; Psa 27, 39, 48, 90, 103: 13-17, 121, 130 and for a child, 2 Sam. 12: 16-23).

At the funeral of a child the following Scripture may be used:

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, except you be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. (Matt 18:1-5 AV)

[At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. (Matt 18:1-5 NIV)]

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven, for the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have a hundred sheep and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. (Matt 18: 10-14 AV)

["See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matt 18:10-14 NIV)]

7.2.3. Prayer

These formal prayers are intended to serve as the basis for fashioning prayers appropriate to the circumstance. A number of traditional prayers are included as resource material.

Eternal God, you are the hope and strength of all who trust in you; have mercy upon us and bless us. You have brought life and immortality to light through Jesus Christ your son; give us grace to believe in him as the resurrection and the life. Grant us faith that to consider the peace and joy of that eternal home which you have prepared for all those who love and serve you. Let the peace of God abide in our hearts now and for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Additional Prayers

O Eternal God, the Father of our spirits, in whose presence there is no darkness and no death; we worship and adore you as the ever-living God. O Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who has tasted death for every man and who has brought life and immortality to light, we praise your name for your victory over death and the grave. O Holy Spirit, Author and giver of life, the comfort of those who sorrow, we place our sure confidence and our everlasting hope. We worship and adore you alone, saying Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might be unto our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Eternal God, in whose sight a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night, we confess that our life here is as the grass which is renewed in the morning and flourishes; and which in the evening fades and withers. Here in the presence of death we confess our mortality. So teach us to number our days that we may have a heart of wisdom. Hear our prayer and grant us your peace and your life, for we are but pilgrims and sojourners in this life, as all our fathers were. But , O God, you are the same, and your years shall have no end. Amen.

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be numbered, make us deeply sensible

of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and let your Holy Spirit lead us through this present world in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; that when we shall have served you in our generation we too may be gathered unto our forebearers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of your people; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope; in favour with you our God, and at peace with the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord and Master, who wept beside the grave and has been touched with the feeling of our sorrows; keep your promise that you will not leave your people comfortless but will come to them. Reveal yourself to your grieving children and cause them to hear you say, "I am the resurrection and the life." Help them, O Lord, to turn to you with true discernment and to abide in you through living faith; that, finding now the comfort of your presence, they may have also a sure confidence in you for all that is to come; until the day break and these shadows flee away. Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublesome life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the funeral of a child the following prayer may be used:

Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us, and calm our troubled hearts with the quieting ministry of the Holy Spirit. Accept our thanks for little children, for the joy they bring and the graces they teach. Enable us to live in the consciousness that our lives are rich and our love deeper because of our association with this child whom you have received unto yourself. Help us to find our comfort in him who took little children into his arms and blessed them. In the name of him who lives to make intercession for us, grant us strength for all of life here, so that finally, when we come to the end of our earthly way, it may be in the triumphant faith that we shall be united again with our loved ones in the Father's house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7.2.4. At the Grave

At the grave when the remains are laid in the earth, the minister shall say:

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live." "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not." John 11:25, 26; 5:24, 25, 28, 29; Job 14:1, 2 AV)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26 NIV) John 5: "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ... "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out --those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. (John 5:24, 25, 28, 29 NIV)

"Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure. (Job 14:1, 2 NIV)]

7.2.5. Committal

7.2.5.1. Option 1

Inasmuch as it pleased the Lord, in whose power are life and death, to remove our departed (brother, sister, friend, etc.) from our midst, we therefore commit the body to the earth: Earth to earth! Ashes to ashes! Dust to dust! awaiting the resurrection through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom each must come forth in his own order when this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, and all shall appear in His presence, according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto himself. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me..... Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13).

7.2.5.2. Option 2

Forasmuch as it pleased Almighty God in His wise providence to take out of this world the soul of our deceased (brother, sister, friend) we therefore commit his (her) body to the ground; and the spirit to God who gave it; waiting for the resurrection and the life to come. I have brought with me these flowers to lay over the silent form of our dear (brother, sister, friend, etc.) : one is for faith, one is for hope, one is for love.

One is for faith, that God's promises are true, and through the death of His dear Son, there is no death to those who die trusting in Him.

One is for hope, that some day we shall be re united with our loved ones in the blessed tomorrow. And one is for love, that even death cannot sever, but is still ours and will be ours, until we meet around God's Throne, where we shall know as we are known.

In this faith we live, and in this faith we lay away our loved ones, awaiting the Resurrection morning.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (1 Thess. 4:13-14 AV)

[Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. (1 Thess 4:13-14 NIV)]

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:1-3 AV)

["Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:1-3 NIV)]

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. (Psa 90:1-2 AV)

[Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psa 90:1-2 NIV)]

7.2.5.3. Option 3

Forasmuch as there has passed out of this life the soul of (brother, sister, our friend), we therefore commit (his, her) body to its resting place, looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ at whose coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed and made like unto his own glorious body according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Rev 14:13 AV)

[Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." . (Rev 14:13 NIV)]

7.2.5.4. Option 4

(For the funeral of a child the following committal may be used):

In infinite wisdom and love our heavenly Father has received unto himself the innocent spirit of this little child. We therefore tenderly commit the body to its resting place in the sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection unto eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7.2.6. The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

7.2.7. Prayer

O heavenly Father, whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ, did weep at the grave, look with compassion upon these who are now in sorrow and affliction. Comfort them, O Lord, with your abiding presence and cause them to hear thee saying, "I am the resurrection and the life." Help them, O Lord, to turn to you in simple trust and to abide in you through a living faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7.2.8. Benediction

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, to whom be glory forever, and ever. Amen. (Heb 13:20-21 NIV)

7.2.9. Other Funeral Scriptures

The following Scriptures are suggested for cases only where the deceased has not been known as a professing Christian.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deut 33:27 AV)

[The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deut 33:27 NIV)]

In quietness and confidence shall be your strength. (Isa 30: 15 AV)

[In quietness and trust is your strength. (Isa 30:15 (NIV))]

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (2 Cor 1:3, 4 AV)

[Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 2 Cor 1:3, 4 NIV)]

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble, He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. (Job 14:1, 2)

[Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure. (Job 14:1, 2 NIV)]

Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. (Prov 27:1 AV)

[Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. (Prov 27:1 NIV)]

And David sware moreover, and said, "Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes;" and he saith, "Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death." (1 Sam 20:3 AV)

[David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death." (1 Sam 20:3 NIV)]

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore

years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. (Psa 90:10 AV)
[The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. (Psa 90:10 NIV)]

LORD , make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. (Ps. 39:4)

["Show me, O LORD , my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. (Psa 39:4 NIV)]

And as it is appointed unto men one to die, but after this the judgment. (Heb 9:27 AV)
[Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Heb 9:27 NIV)]

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Psa 90:12 AV)
[Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psa 90:12 NIV)]

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (1 Tim. 6:7 AV)
[For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. (1 Tim 6:7 NIV)]

Hear my prayer, O LORD , and let my cry come unto thee. (Psa 102:1 AV)
[Hear my prayer, O LORD ; let my cry for help come to you. (Psa 102:1 NIV)]

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor 4: 18 AV)
[So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Cor 4:18 NIV)]

7.3. Form 2

7.3.1. Prelude

7.3.2. Processional

7.3.3. Words of Comfort & Scripture

The minister shall give to the congregation such information as is necessary for the progress of the service, such as an invitation to lunch, the particulars about the committal, and such other communications as the minister or the bereaved family may deem necessary.

The minister shall extend introductory words of comfort to the bereaved.

7.3.4. Scriptures

We have come to be instructed by the Word of God. Let us hear God speak to us in His Word

I lift up my eyes to the hills -- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD , the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip -- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you -- the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm -- he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Psa 121 NIV)

Ecclesiastes reminds us that in this life.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ... a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. ... It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart.” (Eccl 3:1-2, 4, 7-8; 7:2 NIV)

The Psalmist reminds us of the transience of this life.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born

or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men." For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning-- though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered. We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psa 90:1-12 NIV)

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that,

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Heb 9:27 NIV)

And wise are the words of the apostle Paul in his instructions to the living,

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Cor 5:9, 10 NIV)

7.3.5. Prayer of Comfort

Prayers listed elsewhere in this volume may be used as the basis for comforting the bereaved.

7.3.6. Hymn

7.3.7. Sermon

7.3.8. Prayer of Commendation

Prayers listed elsewhere in this volume may be used as the basis for commending the saving and keeping grace of God to the bereaved.

7.3.9. Recessional

7.3.10. Graveside Committal

7.3.10.1. Graveside Scripture

In the midst of life we are in death:

What man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave? (Psalm 89:48 NIV).

"Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath. (Psalm 39:4, 5 NIV)

Yet,

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

7.3.10.2. Words of Committal

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to receive unto himself the soul of (name of deceased), here departed: we therefore commit her body to the ground [to its resting place]; that ashes may return to ashes, and dust to dust, and the spirit, released from this body... mindful of what our Saviour declared.

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out -- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. (John 5:24-9 NIV)

7.3.11. Prayer

O Heavenly Father, whose Blessed Son Jesus Christ did weep at the grave of Lazarus, his friend: Look,

we ask you, with compassion upon those who are now in sorrow and affliction; comfort them, O Lord, with your gracious consolations; make them to know that all things work together for good to them that love you; and grant them evermore sure trust and confidence in your fatherly care; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

7.3.12. Benediction

The Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his face upon you, and give you peace, both now and evermore.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

8. SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUND BREAKING SERVICE

It is appropriate that when building sites are secured for the erection of churches, parsonages, schools, etc., a special service be held on the site itself. Arrangements for these services should be made in cooperation with the District Conference officials. It is highly desirable that denominational as well as local church officers be present. A ground breaking service also provides a splendid opportunity to interest the community in the project to be undertaken. Such local officials as the mayor, council or town board members, school officials, chamber of commerce representatives, etc., should be informed and invited. Generally newspapers are happy to send reporters and photographers to give proper publicity to such to such significant events.

Ground breaking services should be brief inasmuch as those present generally must remain standing. The officer in charge, after the singing of a hymn such as "The Church's One Foundation," should read an appropriate Scripture lesson, after which there should be a season of prayer asking God's blessing upon the project.

It is appropriate to briefly outline to those present the building program envisioned both with respect to the size and design of the building and the financial program. All officials from the denomination and community should be introduced.

At the close of the service a shovel especially provided for the occasion will be used by the presiding officer who will formally break ground. He may be followed in turn by the other officers and officials from the church and community, or as many others present as may be desired. The service should close with the benediction.

8.1. Outline of a Service

8.1.1. Invocation and Ascription of Praise

In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." (Psa 90:1, 2 NIV)

8.1.2. Hymn

Suggestions: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" or "The Church's One Foundation"

8.1.3. Scripture

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." (Mat 7:24-27 NIV)

8.1.4. Prayer

O God, who dwells in the high and holy place of eternity and who does not need the work of men's hands: heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, yet you have seen fit to meet with your people when they build a sanctuary to your glory. This day we propose to break the ground that a solid foundation may be laid so that the house we build may stand. But before we can break this ground we

need the assurance of your divine blessing. We ask you, O Lord, to accept the purposes of our hearts and bless the work of our hands. As we build a sanctuary to your name, O God, protect it in the process of its construction, and the workmen who shall labour here. And grant, O merciful Father, that this house which we build may ever speak to the passers-by of your Name and your Gospel; that it may be a light to all who walk in darkness, that it may be a place of comfort and refuge for the sorrowful; that it may encourage all who are depressed in heart and mind; that it may cause to lift our hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyfulness; that it may help us through your grace in all the days of our life, that when we shall have come to the close of our earthly pilgrimage, we may meet together with all those whom we have loved and with whom we have laboured, in that better sanctuary where we shall praise and glorify your holy name, world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

8.1.5. Offering: optional

Here an offering may be received and special music enjoyed.

8.1.6. Responsive Reading: optional

Copies need to be distributed to the congregation.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;

lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

How awesome is this place!

This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,

according to his power that is at work within us,

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen.

(Psa 24:1-9; Gen 28:17; Ephes 3:20-21 NIV)

8.1.7. Address

Here the address or sermon may be delivered.

8.1.8. Ground Breaking

As the first shovelful of earth is turned the minister and the people shall say:

In the name of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We break this ground. Amen.

Following this, officials and selected persons may turn over one or more shovelfuls of earth as a part of the ceremony without repeating the above words. A hymn may be sung, such as "Lead on, O King Eternal".

8.1.9. Benediction

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without

fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 24, 25 NIV)

9. CORNERSTONE LAYING

9.1. Form 1

9.1.1. Introduction

The minister, standing near the place where the stone is to be laid, shall say unto the congregation: Dear friends, we are taught in the Word of God, that, although the heaven of heavens cannot contain the Eternal One, much less the walls of temples made with hands, yet His delight is in His people, and that wherever two or three are gathered in His name the Lord is in the midst of them. And in all ages His servants have separated certain places for His worship: as Jacob erected a stone in Bethel for God's house; as Moses made a tabernacle in the desert; as Solomon builded a temple for the Lord, which He filled with the glory of His presence before all the people. We are now assembled to lay the Corner Stone of a new house for the worship of our God. Let us be assured that He will favourably approve our godly purpose, and let us sing His praise and pray for His blessing on this undertaking.

9.1.2. Hymn

A suitable hymn may be sung.

9.1.3. Prayer

Then shall the minister offer the following prayer or a similar prayer:

Let us pray. Most glorious God, heaven is your throne and the earth is your footstool; and the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this house we have built! Yet, O Lord God, it has pleased you to live among your people, and to dwell in the assembly of the saints upon the earth. And this building is not a substitute for your dwelling place in the living temple of your people. But we dedicate the work of our hands to you and to your service.

And we especially give you thanks for putting it into the hearts of your servants to erect this house for your worship. We thank your motivating many to contribute to this effort in every way for the glory of your name. Amen.

May many unite with us in this holy work, until this dwelling of your house shall be completed, and is ready for dedication to your service. Amen.

May peace and harmony prevail in the counsels of your servants, and may no selfish or divided aims find place among them. May the work of this building be completed without hurt or accident to any persons.

And when you have prospered the work of our hands, and this house is ready and finished for your service, grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this good work may show their thankfulness by making a right use of it, to the glory of Your blessed name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant that all who will hereafter worship You in this place may do so in worship and in truth, and in the end may they may come to that heavenly temple made without hands, whose builder and maker is God. Amen.

9.1.4. Scripture

The minister may read such appropriate Scriptures as Psalm 132 or 1 Corinthians 3:9-17.

"O LORD, remember David and all the hardships he endured. He swore an oath to the LORD and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob: 'I will not enter my house or go to my bed-- I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.' We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar: "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool-- arise, O LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy." (Psalm 132 NIV)

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful

how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. (1 Cor 3:9-17 NIV)

9.1.5. Address

If desired a brief address suitable to the occasion may be given.

9.1.6. Offering

It is proper for an offering to be used in the building project to be received.

9.1.7. Cornerstone Placed

Then the minister, standing by the stone, will exhibit to the congregation a box to be placed within the stone. It may contain a copy of the Bible, the Hymn Book, the Church Year Book for the year, church periodicals of recent date, the name of the Pastor, Trustees, and Building Committee of the Church, with such other documents as may be desired. A list of these may be read, after which the minister may deposit the box in the stone and cover it: and the stone shall be laid and adjusted by the minister, assisted by the builder.

9.1.8. Benediction

Then shall the minister say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we lay this Corner Stone for the foundation of a house to be built and consecrated to the service of Almighty God, according to the Order and Usages of the His Word. Amen.

9.1.9. Prayer

9.2. Form 2

9.2.1. Invocation

In the name of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

9.2.2. Hymn

Here may be sung a hymn such as "The Church's One Foundation."

9.2.3. Minister's Statement

God in ancient times commanded his servant Moses to set up the tabernacle in the camp of Israel in the Wilderness, and afterward bestowed his blessing upon Solomon, the king, in erecting the temple in Jerusalem where Israel worshipped. He in like manner has moved your hearts to erect at this place a sanctuary where in years to come his people may assemble for scriptural instruction, prayer and praise. We are assembled at this time to lay the cornerstone of this building, and devoutly to ask God to give his blessing to this under taking.

9.2.4. Scripture

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. (Psa 127:1 NIV)

David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished. David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. (1 Chron 28:20; 29:16 NIV)

9.2.5. Prayer

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth; you have made human beings and ordained them for the praise and glory of your great name in time and eternity. We have wandered from you by sin and transgression, but you have so loved us that you sent into the world your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ,

who is our Saviour and Lord and the foundation and cornerstone of the church. We have assembled, O Lord, to lay the cornerstone of a house in which your honour shall dwell, your glorious name be invoked, the ordinances administered, and your holy Word proclaimed for the salvation of all peoples.

We pray that the building to be erected here may be truly our Father's house, our children's home, a resting place for the stranger on his way, a temple of prayer and praise, a center of thought and song, a sanctuary of peace, a place of loving human fellowship and noble Christian service. May it stand for the advance of our faith, for the preservation of the spirit of devotion, and for the education of the common conscience.

Let your eye be continually upon this place, so that your gospel may be fruitful in the awakening and salvation of sinners, in the instruction of youth in the knowledge of the Lord, and in the growth in grace of your people.

O Lord, grant success and prosperity to the enterprise. Let peace, unity, and your favour rest upon all who have a part in the erection of this house. Amen.

9.2.6. Address

Here a sermon may be preached or an address given.

9.2.7. Litany

Other foundation can no man lay, O Lord, than that which is laid by You.

YOU, O Lord, ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER.

Be the master builder, O Christ.

YOU HAVE LAID IN ZION A TRIED STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE OF SURE FOUNDATION.

You have built a Living house of living stones.

WE YOUR LIVING TEMPLE AND YOUR BODY

Do dedicate this structure of wood and brick to your service and glory. In your name, O Lord,

WE LAY THIS CORNERSTONE.

That this house may be a place of refuge for all:

WE LAY THIS CORNERSTONE.

That this may be a holy place where peace, joy, wisdom and power abound:

WE LAY THIS CORNERSTONE.

That this may be a place where the eternal wisdom and truth of the Holy Scriptures are imparted:

WE LAY THIS CORNERSTONE.

That this may be a place where the ordinances of Christ are practised with grace and love:

WE LAY THIS CORNERSTONE.

For the building of a house whose gates shall symbolize the portals of heaven:

WE LAY THIS CORNERSTONE.

For the building of a holy place where the call of the Master to little children may ever be heard; where his invitation to come unto him may be extended to the weary, the burdened and brokenhearted; yes, where whosoever will may come for blessing and salvation.;

WE LAY THIS CORNERSTONE IN THE NAME OF GOD: THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN.

9.2.8. Laying of the Cornerstone

The chairman shall exhibit the box to be deposited and announce its contents. This box may contain such articles as a Bible, a church hymnal, copies of church periodicals, names of the minister, members of the local Church officials and building committee of the church, with such other documents and articles as may be desired. The chairman, assisted by the builder, shall deposit the box, and have the stone set in place. Then the chairman, striking the stone three times with a trowel or hammer, shall say:

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we lay this cornerstone of a house to be dedicated to the worship and service of God, according to the order and usages of the Word of God.
Amen.

9.2.9. Scripture

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 3:10, 11 NIV)

9.2.10. Doxology

Here may be sung the Doxology.

9.2.11. Benediction

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24, 25 AV)

[To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy -- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 24, 25 NIV)]

10.DEDICATION OF CHURCHES

10.1. Form 1

10.1.1. Preface

At the time of dedication the minister in charge of the service, or some other minister appointed to officiate, shall read an appropriate Scripture passage. Then a dedicatory hymn shall be sung, followed by prayer; then a sermon.

10.1.2. Declaration

Then the congregation shall rise before the Lord and the following declaration be made by the District Superintendent, or his appointee.

Dear Friends:

The time has come to acknowledge the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, the Source and Giver of all good, who has given us the intention and the ability to build this house, and now that it is finished by His help, we therefore dedicate it to His service.

Our Divine Redeemer gives us the precious assurance that He will meet with His people where they assemble themselves.

We believe that God who inhabits eternity will also dwell in those who are of a contrite and humble spirit to comfort them and that He will accept this house which we have built to His glory.

We now declare, designate and consecrate this house as the (name of church) of (name of place), unto the Triune God. We dedicate this house to the singing of His praise, the offering of thanksgiving, prayer, the reading, expounding and preaching of His Word, the administration of the Ordinances, and the Standards adopted and practiced in public worship by the Evangelical Missionary Church agreeable with His Word. May His Name here be magnified, and His kingdom be built up to the salvation of men.

It is right that we should consecrate ourselves, and all that we are and possess, without reservation or condition, to Him as His people, for His service, in accordance with His rightful claim through the covenant of grace by Jesus Christ, our Lord.

10.1.3. Litany 1

Minister: We set apart this house to the worship of the living and true God and to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: We devote it to the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God for the conversion of sinners and to the education of Christians in the knowledge of spiritual truth in all the activities of Christian life.

Minister: Here shall the incense of prayer and praise ascend to God. Here shall the ordinances of the Lord's house be sacredly observed.

Congregation: Here shall the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever, be sounded out for the salvation of the perishing and shine as a perpetual light to guide God's pilgrims through the night of time to the land of everlasting light.

Minister: Here may the children of sin and sorrow find a refuge from despair and ruin and Christians a harbour to which they can resort when the tempest is high, and be safe.

Congregation: May no discordant note of strife ever be heard within these walls, no unholy spirit of pride or worldliness find entrance here.

Minister: And may God graciously accept this offering of a house in His name an offering made by grateful hearts and willing hands and bless every heart that shares in this gift.

Congregation: May multitudes here be born to God so that when all these here today shall have gone to their eternal home, others will take up the service until Jesus comes and all His are gathered home.

Minister: To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favour we have builded; to the honour of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God and our Saviour; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, source of life and light.

Congregation: We reverently dedicate this house.

Minister: We worship in prayer and song; for the ministry of the Word; for the observance of the holy ordinances.

10.1.4. Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that the congregation which worships here may be kept in the unity of the Spirit and in the bonds of peace, that they may serve you in the faith of the Gospel, in a blameless life, and that they may continually prosper by your favour and grow in grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And now, O Lord, bless this house as the place where the living temple of your people gather. Always hear the prayers and supplications of your servants, and all who seek you in this place. Let your eyes be open day and night to protect and show mercy to all who appear before you, and magnify your grace to all generations. Grant that your servants may go before you, clothed with salvation, and rejoicing in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that we your people, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone, may grow into a holy temple in the Lord, built together for the indwelling of God in the spirit. Grant that we all may be brought at last into the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, to the honour, praise, and glory of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The additional resources may be used additionally or substitutionally to fashion the dedication service.

10.2. Additional Resources

10.2.1. Dedication

We, the leaders and people of this congregation, compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, with gratitude for our heritage and appreciation of the sacrifice of our fathers, do now consecrate ourselves to the building up of God's cause at this place, and do at this moment dedicate this building unto God Almighty, and declare it to be the _____ (name of local church) of _____ District in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

10.2.2. Address to the Board of Trustees

The chairman shall request the members of the Board of Trustees to present themselves at the chancel of the church. The chairman shall have in his hand the key to the church house, and shall say:

You have been selected by the church to the responsible position of Trustees of this house of worship, which has now been dedicated to God. Let it be a place of worship where people seek after God in spirit and in truth; let it be a mission station where the lost find a ready welcome in the name of Jesus; let it ever

be remembered that all works of justice, of mercy, of love, of helpfulness of whatsoever kind, are proper in the house of God. Protect this house of God at all times; preserve it for constant service; improve it as need arises. Help keep this a holy place, and with the other officers assist the minister in winning men to God and his church through the Lord Jesus Christ. In the name of the Holy Trinity, and his church through the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the name of the Holy Trinity, I now give to the Chair of the Board of Trustees this key as the symbol of your authority in trust for God and _____ (*name of the church*). May faith, hope and love always guide you in your task remembering that except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

10.2.3. Litany 2

Congregation: We prayerfully dedicate this house.

Minister: To the sanctification of the family; to the training and nurture of childhood; to the inspiration of youth and the salvation of all.

Congregation: We worshipfully dedicate this house.

Minister: To the help of the needy; to the promotion of Christian fellowship; to the extension of the kingdom through the whole wide world.

Congregation: We joyfully dedicate this house to God.

Minister: And now, in acknowledgment of the sovereign grace and will of our wonderful Lord, and in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: We, the people of this church and congregation, dedicate ourselves anew. We pray and trust that this new church building shall be used of God, in His own will and way, for salvation and blessing in our beloved community and unto the ends of the earth. Amen.

10.2.4. Litany 3

Minister: To the glory of God, by whose favour all blessings abound; to Jesus Christ, God's living Son and Man's Redeemer; to the Holy Spirit who constantly infills our lives for good.

People: We dedicate this church

Minister: That the faith of our fathers may live always in us and our children; and that spiritual values of the past may be conserved, enriched, and employed for the benefit of all men in the future;

People: We dedicate this church.

Minister: To provide a temple for worship, a school for instruction in eternal values, a retreat for prayer, a doorway to world wide evangelism, a haven of Christian fellowship, and a bulwark against all unrighteousness;

People: We dedicate this church.

Minister: For comfort to the mourning and strength for the weak; for guidance to the perplexed and encouragement for those in despair;

People: We dedicate this church.

Minister: To the loving memory of all those before us, who lent their hearts and hands to the service of this church; to the living who still labour, love, and sacrifice for its continued progress; and to all those who shall yet walk these paths in days to come;

People: We dedicate this church.

Minister: For the stabilization of homes, the guidance of children to a personal knowledge of God's love, and the building of character.

People: We dedicate this church.

Minister: That men's lives may be transformed by the power of God; that today's world may be ruled as

the kingdom of God; and that on earth, as in heaven, may be done the will of God;

People: We dedicate this church.

Minister: As a tribute of gratitude and love, a freewill offering of thanksgiving and praise from those who have tasted the cup of salvation, and experienced the riches of Your grace;

People: We, the people of this church and congregation, dedicate this entire building in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Minister: Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place; You, and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness; and let Your saints shout for joy.

10.2.5. The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Here may be sung the Doxology.

10.2.6. Benediction

Now to him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Eph. 3: 20, 21 NIV)

11. Dedication of an Educational Building

To be used for an educational unit of the local church, or for a college or seminary building.

11.1. Invocation

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

11.1.1. Declaration

By the grace of God and labour of His people, we are privileged to see the building complete, a token of the wisdom and goodness of God and of the obligation of each generation to pass on its treasures of wisdom and knowledge to the generations following. It is fitting the best of our gifts and abilities, the best of our goods and of our resources be dedicated to the sacred responsibility of transmitting and interpreting truth for each generation, advancing knowledge and enriching Christian culture and nurturing spiritual formation.

In this hour we praise our God, and give thanks unto our holy and sovereign Father for his guiding wisdom, abounding strength, and divine aid in this enterprise. We thank him for those who by their gifts and service unite and shall unite in fulfilling the purpose for which this building is prepared. Let us all with one voice sing our praises to God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

11.1.2. Hymn

The congregation will sing: "The Church's One Foundation," or "Christ is made the Sure Foundation," or another appropriate hymn.

11.1.3. Scripture

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. (Prov 3:13-18 NIV)

My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. (Prov 3:21-23 NIV)

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways. You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. (Psa 119:1-4 NIV)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matt 7:24-27 NIV)

If desired a second hymn may be sung; and a brief address may be delivered; an offering may be taken.

11.1.4. Responsive reading

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she cries aloud:

To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.

You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.

Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right.

My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.

All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.

Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,

For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.

She calls from the highest point of the city.

"Let all who are simple come in here!"

Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still;

teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

To fear the LORD is to hate evil;

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

(Based on Proverbs 8 and 9 NIV)

11.1.5. Dedication

The Trustees, or another proper committee, shall stand before the people and one of them shall say to the minister:

This building is presented to you to be dedicated to the service of Almighty God in the enlightenment of his children.

11.1.6. Declaration

The people shall stand while the minister pronounces the following declaration:

Buildings erected for service in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, rightly and properly should be formally and devoutly set apart for their special uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. The dedication of this building is useless unless God's people reconsecrate themselves to His service. We, therefore, give ourselves anew to the service of God; we give our labour, that it may be according to God's holy will, and that its fruit may tend to the glory of his Name and the advancement of his kingdom; we give our bodies, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; we give our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ.

11.1.7. Option 1: local church educational building

The following shall be used for the dedication of a local church educational building:

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building to the holy ministry of Christian education.

Let all the people say: Amen.

We dedicate this building to the growth in Christ likeness and in spiritual power of all those who shall seek Christian guidance in this place.

Let all the people say: Amen.

We dedicate this building to the faithful, self-denying service of those who shall be called to lead others into the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Let all the people say: Amen.

We dedicate this building to enriching and empowering the abundant life that is in Christ, both for the individual and for the world. May all that is done within these walls redound to the honour and glory of God in unfolding human life.

Let all the people say: Amen.

11.1.8. Option 2: Institution of Higher Education

The following may be used for the dedication of a building at an institution of higher education:

In the name of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building to the holy ministry of Christian education.

Let all the people say: Amen.

We dedicate this building to the spiritual enrichment of all those who shall come here in the pursuit of knowledge.

Let all the people say: Amen.

We dedicate this building to the loyal service of those whose training and devotion have prepared them to lead students toward the truth.

Let all the people say: Amen.

We dedicate this building to the ministry of administration upon whose ability and faithfulness depends the wise conduct of its affairs.

Let all the people say: Amen

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing.

Let all the people say: Amen.

11.1.9. Prayer

The minister may offer one of these prayers

Holy and Eternal Father, who rules the universe and dwellest in all parts of the earth in wisdom, majesty and strength, who observant the ways of all creatures and bestows compassion upon high and low alike, we humbly worship you and give thanks to you for your great goodness. Yours eyes are ever open to the works of men, and yours ears are never shut to their cries. We thank you, we praise you, we glorify you in this hour of achievement, wherein you have given us a triumph in the completion of this building which we have just dedicated in your name and to your service. Make love and wisdom here unite to make plain the path of knowledge to those who give and those who receive instruction in this place. Make your Word a flame to kindle the hearts and purify the lives of administrators, teachers, and pupils who shall minister in this place. Grant to each of those who come here pure minds, upright purpose, and steadfast endeavour to learn and to do your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God of Love, we thank you for all your faithful ones, for parents, teachers, benefactors and servants, by whose love and devotion we have come into our great inheritance of health, truth and piety. Help us hold these in sacred trust and pass them on to succeeding generations unsullied and undiminished; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Merciful Father, always guide the thoughts and the labours of your people, to the end that your purposes shall ever be fulfilled in their lives. Grant them all to know that which is worth knowing, to love that which is worth loving, to praise that which pleases you most. Grant them true judgment to distinguish truth from error, courage to disdain all that is evil, and strength to do all those things which we know to be right in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And now, Lord God of Abraham, we give this house to you. You, O God, are our Creator, our Redeemer, our Preserver, our Counselor and Guide. You have taught us the way of life. In you we live and move and have our being. Accept this building as a place where your name shall be honoured and where your holy will shall be made known. May many precious souls be brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ within these walls. And may the teaching ministry of this church be always loyal and true to you and to your holy Word. To this end we dedicate ourselves anew as we set apart this building for the furtherance of Christian education. And to your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we will ascribe endless praise. Amen

11.1.10. Benediction

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour by glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24, 25).

12. DEDICATION OF PARSONAGES

It is appropriate that a special service be arranged to formally dedicate our parsonages.

12.1. Form 1

This dedication ceremony may be observed in connection with a regular service, or a special service for this purpose may be arranged. The speaker for this occasion may expound the biblical teaching on the importance and ministry of the Christian home and give appropriate exhortations.

The minister may read appropriate Scriptures such as for the dedication of a home.

Then shall the minister say: Dear Friends: it is right for us to acknowledge, the God of heaven and earth, the source and giver of all good, who has given us the intention and ability to build such dwellings and to dedicate this parsonage to the service of God and the use of His servants. It is our desire that it shall be a refuge, and a source of counsel, hope, and rest to many. May no discordant note of strife ever be heard within these walls, and may faith and hope, comfort and love touch the hearts and lives of those who cross its threshold. We invoke God's blessing on ourselves, and we commit to His holy care and keeping everything connected with the enterprise of serving God and rescuing the lost. May the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and may He establish the work of our hands.

We therefore solemnly declare, designate, and consecrate this dwelling as the parsonage of the (name of church) for the comfort and assistance of the men of God and their families who may from time to time be called to minister here.

Let us also consecrate ourselves, and all that we are and possess, without reservation or condition, to Him as His people, and for His service, in accordance with His rightful claim through the covenant of grace by Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The minister may then read the hymn, Happy the Home:

Happy the home when God is there
And love fills everyone;
When with united work and prayer
The Master's will is done.

Happy the home where God's strong love Is starting to appear
Where all the children hear His fame And parents hold Him dear.
Happy the home where prayer is heard And praise is everywhere,
Where parents love the sacred Word And its true wisdom share.
Lord, let us in our homes agree This blessed peace to gain,
Unite our hearts in love to Thee, And love to all will reign.

(by Henry Ware, Jr.; altered by Bryan Jeffrey Leech)

12.2. Form 2

The introduction and Scripture readings with prayer as prescribed for the Dedication of a Home become the first part of this ceremony. The service may be opened with a instrumental prelude and a suitable hymn. The service may then be continued by the following declaration by the minister:

12.2.1. Invocation and Declaration

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace be to this house. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Home was the first institution created by God for his children. Before the state, the school, or the church was established, the home had come into being. It is the cradle of religion, of education, of government and of civilization. We have come to invoke the divine blessing upon this home, so that its ties of love may be strong and beautiful through the blessing and inspiration of the heavenly Father.

The people shall stand and sing the Doxology.

12.2.2. Prayer

(The minister shall offer a prayer, closing with the following verse):

O Thou whose gracious presence blessed
The home at Bethany,
This shelter from the world's unrest,
This home made ready for its Guest,
We dedicate to you.
We build an altar here, and pray
That Thou wilt show Your face.
Dear Lord, if Thou wilt come to stay,
This home we consecrate today!
Will be a holy place. Amen.

The minister may read the following: Deut. 6:4-9.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut 6:40 NIV)

Minister: Who presents this parsonage to be dedicated?

(The Trustees or another appropriate committee shall stand before the assembled people and a representative of the Board of Trustees or the other committee shall respond):

Trustee: We present unto you this building to be dedicated to the service of Almighty God through its use as a dwelling place for the minister of our church and his family. Herewith we present to you this key (offering the key to the pastor who shall take it) which locks and unlocks the doors of this house. With it we pledge our willingness to keep this house for its intended use.

12.2.3. Charge by the Minister to the Trustees

Member of the Board of Trustees: In the presentation of this key you have shown your willingness to have this house dedicated. By the generous gifts which have made this possible, you have hereby given

recognition to the high place of the ministry, and the importance of making wise provision for the temporal needs of those who administer its sacred offices.

You who have been chosen to serve as trustees are required to act on behalf of the church in exercising careful oversight of this property. It is important that it shall be kept in good repair and present an attractive and inviting appearance so that its silent influence in the community may contribute to the glory of God.

Therefore, brothers, in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, I charge you to administer faithfully the duties incumbent upon you as trustees of this parsonage.

With the giving of ourselves and our gifts we dedicate this building to the holy ministry of sheltering the family that has a peculiar relationship to this congregation and community. We are concerned that it stand for spiritual enrichment of all who shall step across its threshold. Let it fulfill a vital role in creating good fellowship among members of this parish; let it help to enhance the ability and faithfulness of those who reside here that there may be wise conduct of the affairs of this congregation.

For this purpose, in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building as the parsonage of the _____ (Church of Charge) of The Evangelical Missionary Church.

The minister may then read the hymn, Happy the Home:

Happy the home when God is there And love fills everyone;
When with united work and prayer The Master's will is done.
Happy the home where God's strong love Is starting to appear
Where all the children hear His fame And parents hold Him dear.
Happy the home where prayer is heard And praise is everywhere,
Where parents love the sacred Word And its true wisdom share.
Lord, let us in our homes agree This blessed peace to gain,
Unite our hearts in love to Thee, And love to all will reign.

(by Henry Ware, Jr.; altered by Bryan Jeffrey Leech)

12.2.4. Prayer

O God, our heavenly Father, giver of life, we pray you make this home an abode of light and love. Grant that all that is pure, tender, and true, may grow up under its shelter. Let all that hinders godly union and concord be driven far from it. make it the center of refreshing and holy influence. Give wisdom for life and discretion in the guidance of activities in this home.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou your work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Amen.

If time and circumstances permit, someone may sing "Bless This House"

12.2.5. Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

13.DEDICATION OF HOMES

13.1. Form 1

13.1.1. Preface

Since the home is of vital importance in the welfare of the nation and in making effective the work of the church, it is very fitting that our people dedicate their homes to the glory of God.

13.1.2. Declaration

In the presence of the family and their friends who may be assembled in their home, the minister shall say:

Peace be to this house. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.

One or more of the following Scripture passages may here be read: Genesis 18:18 19; Deuteronomy 6:4 9; Psalm 127; Acts 16:31 34; Ephesians 5:22 -6:4. Here a suitable hymn may be sung such as: "Bless This House" or "Love at Home" or "Home Sweet Home" or "Faith of our Fathers," etc.

Gen. 18:19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

Josh. 24:15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut 6:4-9 NIV)

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat-- for he grants sleep to those he loves. (Psalm 127:1, 2 NIV)

Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 5:33-6:4 NIV)

13.1.3. Dedication

Then shall the minister say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this home to the glory of God, committing to His loving care this house and all who dwell in it.

We dedicate this home to the deep affections of the family circle and to all friendly hospitalities.

We dedicate this home to the courage, patience, and self control which make life cheerful and serene.

We dedicate this home to all beautiful things of heart and mind that lead the soul to wider vision and to higher aims.

We dedicate this home to happiness, to hopefulness, and to health, that it may ever be, to those whose home it is, a dear haven of peace and joy.

13.1.4. Prayer

A suitable prayer of dedication shall then be offered.

13.2. Form 2

13.2.1. Preface

(This form may be used also for the dedication of a parsonage.)

In the dedication of a home, wood is often provided ready for kindling in the fireplace. An unlighted candle is placed on a table near the fireplace. A plate of bread and a pitcher of water are placed beside the candle. The minister who conducts the service will be seated at the left of the table facing the fireplace. The family and guests may stand or be seated, facing the same direction. Copies of the responsive service should be placed in the hands of the family members in order that all family members may participate in the responsive reading.)

13.2.2. Scripture

The minister shall read Deut 6:4-9; Luke 10:38-42.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut 6:4-9 NIV)

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42 NIV)

13.2.3. Declaration by the Minister

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace be to this house. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Home was the first institution created by God for His children. Before the state, the school, or the church was established, the home had come into being. It was the cradle of religion, of education, of government and of civilization. We have come to invoke the divine blessing upon this home, that its ties of love may be strong and beautiful through the blessing and inspiration of the heavenly Father.

Let all present join in singing the doxology .

13.2.4. Prayer

The minister shall offer a prayer, closing with the following verse:

O Thou whose gracious presence blessed

The home at Bethany,

This shelter from the world's unrest,

This home made ready for its Guest,

We dedicate to you.

We build an altar here, and pray

That Thou wilt show Your face.

Dear Lord, if Thou wilt come to stay,

This home we consecrate today!

Will be a holy place. Amen.

13.2.5. Responsive Service By the Family

Let the husband and wife and children who are to occupy this home stand and read these dedicatory lines as indicated, lighting a candle just before the reading begins.

Husband: To You, O God, who dwells with the humble, shields them with the wings of your protection, guides them with your Spirit, and maintains their lot;

Family: We dedicate this home and light the candle of devotion.

Wife: As a house of friendship where others may come for fellowship, neighbourliness, and sociability, and to share their thought, needs, burdens, and aspirations, and be enable to go forth strengthened, in body, mind and spirit;

Family: We dedicate this home and light the candle of friendship.

Husband: To beauty in art and literature, where pictures and books shall be friends, and music and song the language of comfort and inspiration;

Family: We dedicate this home and light the candle of beauty.

Wife: To the Great Guest, Jesus Christ our Lord, who broke bread with those who loved him and who brought the light of heaven and the peace of God to people like ourselves;

Family: We dedicate this home and light the candle of service and hospitality.

13.2.6. Prayer

O God, our heavenly Father, giver of life, we pray you make this home an abode of light and love. Grant that all that is pure, tender, and true, may grow up under its shelter. Let all that hinders godly union and concord be driven far from it. Make it the center of refreshing and holy influence. Give wisdom for life and discretion in the guidance of activities in this home. Let your work be seen by your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands. Amen.

If time and circumstances permit, someone may sing "Bless This House" or some other appropriate song.

13.2.7. Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

13.2.8. Additional Scripture Resources for Dedication of a House

In the words of David's greeting long ago `Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours! (1 Sam 25:6 NIV)

1Chr. 17:27 Now you have been pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O LORD, have blessed it, and it will be blessed forever." (1 Chron 17:27 NIV)

I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing praise. ... I will walk in my house with blameless heart. (Psa 101:1, 2 NIV)

A home must be build up with righteousness and wisdom:

Prov. 12:7 Wicked men are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous stands firm. and

Prov. 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down. For,

Prov. 24:3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;

May the sole foundation be of your home be the Rock Jesus:

Matt. 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matt. 7:25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Mark 3:25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Luke 10:5 "When you enter a house, first say, `Peace to this house.'

May your home be know for hospitality

Luke 10:38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

Luke 19:9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved --you and your household."

2Tim. 1:16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.

Hebr. 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

1Pet. 2:5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2Pet. 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

14.SUGGESTIONS FOR DEDICATION OF PEWS, ORGANS, ETC.

14.1. Preface

The following is offered as a suggestion for the dedication of equipment such as pews, organs, etc. It is fitting to set aside some time on a Sunday morning worship service and to previously announce it. If equipment to be dedicated represents a memorial gift, the members of the family making such contribution should be notified well in advance and invited to be present. Special recognition shall be given the memorial at this time.

The pastor or officer in charge may use other dedication forms in this manual as a guide to prepare his own appropriate form for such special dedications.

The ceremony could take the form of a responsive reading to be printed in the regular Sunday bulletin of the church.

In the course of the dedication or in the dedicatory prayer some mention should be made of the specific use and value of the equipment and its contribution to the chief end of the church; winning men to Christ and building up the church.

14.2. DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN

Minister:

We learn from the Holy Scriptures that devout men set apart temples for the worship of God and used musical instruments therein for His praise and adoration. We have assembled here to enjoy and be blessed by these songs of praise and to formally dedicate this organ for service in the worship of Almighty God.

The Christian way of life is a way of hope and love and joy. So dominant are these three elements that men have always been seeking more fitting ways to express their feeling in song and word on these subjects. By uniting desire to genius, this beautiful organ before us has been invented, and we deem it worthy to be used in our services of worship. Since all through the ages Christians have made use of music in worship, we desire by the use of this instrument to make our worship richer and more beautiful. May its music bring notes of cheer in our times of joy, and melodies of comfort in time of sorrow, and ever lead us into closer fellowship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit we dedicate this organ to the praise and worship of God. We dedicate this organ to an appreciation of the great hymns of the church and to the development of the language of praise which belongs both to the earth and to heaven.

We dedicate this organ to the wedding march, to thanksgiving on festal occasions, and to such inspiration in the service of song that all people may praise the Lord.

We dedicate this organ to the healing of life's discords and the revealing of hidden soul of harmony; to the lifting of the depressed and the comforting of the sorrowing; to the humbling of the heart before eternal mysteries and the lifting of the soul to abiding beauty and joy by the gospel of infinite love and good will. May God be pleased to accept this gift of love and make it to be a blessing to all who will enjoy its music in the days that are ahead.

15.ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

15.1. Form 1

On the day appointed, there shall be a suitable sermon or exhortation delivered. After the names of those to be ordained have been read aloud, the District Superintendent shall read the following articles to all who may be chosen for ordination:

Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless --not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:7-9 NIV)

Question: Do you feel inwardly persuaded that you are moved upon by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the office of the ministry of the Gospel, to serve God in the Church of Christ, to the honour and glory of His Holy Name?

Answer: "Of this I am persuaded."

Question: Do you believe in the Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testament?

Answer: "I do believe them."

Question Will you apply due diligence to frame and fashion your life according to the doctrines of Christ; and to make yourself as much as in you lies, a worthy example of the flock of Christ? Answer: "I will, the Lord being my helper."

Question: Will you obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed and follow their godly admonitions with a willing and ready mind?

Answer: "I will by the grace of God."

15.1.1. Prayer

Kneeling

15.1.2. Laying on of Hands

After prayer, the District Superintendent and assisting ministers shall lay their hands upon the head of each one of them and say:

Take authority to execute the office of a minister in the Church of God in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Take the authority to read and preach the Word of God, and to administer the ordinances of the Church of Christ. Amen.

15.1.3. Prayer

Kneeling

After prayer read Luke 12:35-38.

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. 38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. (Luke 12:35-38 NIV)

15.1.4. Benediction

After this, the following benediction is to be pronounced:

The peace of God keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

15.2. Form 2

15.2.1. Introductory Remarks

The District Superintendent [or officiating minister] shall make appropriate introductory remarks.

15.2.2. Scripture.

"Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to much wine, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it." (Titus 1:7-9 NIV)

15.2.3. Address to the Congregation

To the MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF _____ (name of local church)

Having heard from scripture the qualifications of a pastor, do you recommend your pastor for ordination?

Congregation: *Yes, we do.*

Does he, with the help of the Holy Spirit, diligently attend to his responsibilities?

Congregation: *We believe that he does.*

Do you promise to support him in his ministry among you, upholding him and his family in prayer, and labouring with him in the work of the Kingdom of God?

Congregation: *We do so promise.*

15.2.4. Address To the Candidate

(Name of the Candidate) _____, do you feel inwardly persuaded that you are moved upon by the Holy Spirit to take the office of the ministry of the Gospel, to serve God in the Church of Christ, to the honour and glory of His Holy Name?

Answer: *I am fully persuaded.*

Do you believe in the Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testament?

Answer: *I do believe them.*

Will you be diligent to grow in Christ and live according to the doctrines of Christ; and to become a worthy example to the flock of Christ?

Answer: *I will, the Lord being my helper.*

Will you obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed and follow their godly admonitions with a willing and ready mind?

Answer: *I will by the grace of God.*

15.2.5. Laying on of Hands

The ordinant shall kneel before the District Superintendent.

The District Superintendent and those assisting shall lay their hands upon the ordinant's head.

"As a minister of the Gospel and a servant of our omnipotent God, and by the power and authority vested in me by the Evangelical Missionary Church, I charge you to...

Take authority to execute the office of a minister in the Church of God in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Take authority to read and preach the Word of God, and to administer the ordinances of the Church of Christ."

15.2.6. Prayer

The District Superintendent [of officiating minister] shall pray or direct someone else to pray.

15.2.7. Challenge

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. (Luke 12:35-38 NIV)

15.2.8. Benediction

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20,21, NIV)

15.2.9. Additional Resources

15.2.9.1. Veni Creator Spiritus

After a period of silent prayer the "Veni Creator Spiritus" may be alternately spoken by the officiating minister and those assisting him, together with the candidate (s) being ordained.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.

**Thou the anointing Spirit art
Who dost your sevenfold gifts impart.**

Your blessed unction from above
is comfort, life and fire of love.

**Enable with perpetual light,
The dullness of our blinded sight.**

Anoint and cheer our soled face
With the abundance of your grace.

**Keep far our foes; give peace at home,
Where thou art Guide no ill can come.**

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And you, of both to be but One.

**That through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:**

PRAISE TO YOUR ETERNAL MERIT,
FATHER, Son AND HOLY SPIRIT.

The last couplet to be said in unison by the candidate (s) and those assisting

15.2.9.2. Hymn

The following hymn may be used at some point during the service.

A Charge to Keep I Have

A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,
a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;
O may it all my pow'rs engage to do my Master's will.

Arm me with watchful care as in Your sight to live,
And now Your servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray, and on Thyself rely,
And let me ne'er my trust betray, but press to realms on high.

16. Installation of a District Superintendent

The one elected shall be presented to the Conference, by the one officiating, saying:

We present to you this brother, chosen to be installed as superintendent of the _____ District of The Evangelical Missionary Church.

16.1. Address by the Officiating Minister

Dear brother in Christ: By his Holy Spirit God calls men to serve him according to the gifts bestowed upon them.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Eph 4:11, 12)

To the office of District Superintendent we have committed the supervision of the churches and the administration of the work of the District Conference. To this office you have been called of the Spirit of God and the voice of His people.

16.1.1. Scripture

The one officiating may use a selection from of the following Scriptures or the like.

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed --not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence --continue to work out your

salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life ... (Philippians 2:1-16 NIV)

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Cor 4:1-7 NIV)

16.1.2. Examination

The officiating minister shall ask the following:

Will you faithfully give yourself to the study of the Holy Scriptures, to the ministry of intercession, and to the exercise of the means of grace for the edifying of your soul?

If so, answer: I will.

Will you seek to pattern your life according to the will of God, and show yourself in all things an example of good works unto others, to the honour and glory of your soul?

If so, answer: I will.

Will you seek to pattern your life according to the will of God, and show yourself in all things an example of good works unto others, to the honour and glory of God?

If so, answer: I will by the grace of God.

In accepting the office of District Superintendent, do you promise to perform all your duties faithfully ?

If so, answer: I do, the Lord being my helper.

In the exercise of your office and in the promotion of the work of the church, will you deal justly and kindly with your fellow ministers and all the saints, and will you be diligent in fostering the unity, peace, purity and program of the church?

If so, answer: I do so affirm, the Lord helping me.

Do you, the members of this District Conference, acknowledge and receive this Brother as District Superintendent, and do you promise to encourage and support him in the work of his office, according to the Word of God?

If so, let the Conference answer: We do.

16.1.3. Prayer

Set apart, we pray, O Lord, this your servant to the work you have called him by the voice of this people. Endue him with heavenly wisdom. Grant him your grace that he may be a good minister, full of the Holy Spirit; and of faith, administering the work in the fear of God. Give him that favour and influence with the people which come from following you. So fill him with your Spirit that he may lead this District Conference in a greater service in the building of the church, and the salvation of men, to your glory. Enable him to be faithful in all things, so that when the Chief Shepherd shall come, he may receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Amen.

16.1.4. Installation

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the church, and in the name of the Conference I hereby install you as the Superintendent of _____ (*name of the District*). Amen.

17. INSTALLATION OF A MINISTER

When ministers enter new fields of service, an installation service is a fitting introduction to their ministry. It is desirable, when possible, to invite other ministers of the same district and ministers of neighbouring churches to participate. A neighbouring pastor or representative of the ministerial association could express a word of welcome on behalf of the community and its churches. The District Superintendent or an official of the denomination may deliver the sermon, directing his remarks to the new pastor and to the congregation.

17.1. A suggested order of service

Hymn

Invocation

Hymn

Scripture Reading

Prayer

Sermon

Charge to the incoming pastor 1 Tim 6:11-21.

Welcome

Charge to the church 1 Thess. 5:12, 13; Heb. 13:7; Gal. 6:6; I Tim. 2:1-4.

Brief remarks by the new pastor and a representative of the congregation

Hymn

Benediction.

17.2. Form 1

17.2.1. Invocation and Scripture

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The District Superintendent or someone designated by him shall read 1 Peter 5:1-4 and John 21:15-17).

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers --not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:1-4 NIV)

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17 NIV)

Beloved in the Lord, in the name of God and in the presence of this congregation we shall now install as pastor of this church, our brother in Christ, _____ (*name of installlee*).

17.2.2. The Charge to the Pastor

Beloved brother in Christ: the Great Shepherd of the church has called you to the office of pastor and this congregation has called you to serve as their leader. I therefore ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you willing and ready to serve as pastor of this church? Will you, furthermore, faithfully discharge the duties of a pastor in accordance with the Word of God?

Answer: I am willing and ready, with the help of God.

Will you, to the best of your ability, to preach the Word of God, to administer the holy ordinances, to visit the sick, to counsel the troubled, to comfort the sorrowing, to administer the program of the church, to promote the bonds of unity in the District, and to teach the gospel both by precept and word?

Answer: I do, the Lord being my helper.

17.2.3. The Charge to the Congregation

Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the solemn promises made by him who has been appointed your pastor. Do you now, on your part, receive him in this character and office? Do you further promise, according to the grace that is given to you, to uphold him and your church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service that his ministry among you might be fruitful to the glory of God?

Answer: We do, the Lord being our helper.

17.2.4. The Installation

Upon this mutual assurance and pledge, we do now install you, _____ as the pastor of the _____ (name of local church), in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord, who hath called you into his service enlighten, strengthen and guide you through his Holy Spirit, that you may serve this congregation as a faithful labourer bringing forth fruit unto life eternal.

17.2.5. The Prayer

Blessed be your name, O God, for the church of Jesus Christ and the ministry of reconciliation. We pray you, bless this congregation and pastor, and seal the union into which they have entered, that in all things they may faithfully work together in the building of your kingdom.

Fill your servant with the gifts of your Holy Spirit, enrich his ministry with your love and peace, strengthen his messages with your power and truth, and preserve his life in purity to be an example unto many. Grant, O Lord, that he may be truly an ambassador of yours, to proclaim the gospel of redemption. Visit this congregation with your love and favour. Prepare the hearts of the old and young to receive and obey your word. Enlighten the minds of all with the light of your Gospel. Quicken all members of this church to faithful service, willing sacrifice and fervent zeal for your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be prayed, or the one officiating may pray a Benediction.

17.3. Form 2

The District Superintendent presiding [or substitute] shall call the Pastor and his wife to the chancel of the church for the service of installation.

17.3.1. Invocation and Scripture

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The District Superintendent or someone designated by him shall read I Peter 4: 1-4 and John 21: 15-17).

17.3.2. The Charge to the Pastor

(Name of Pastor) _____, the Great Shepherd of the church has called you to pastoral ministry. Your called has been demonstrated in service, and affirmed by God's people and accredited by the leadership of the District.

Today you officially begin a great walk together with the people of God in this congregation. You will celebrate together...sorrow together... laugh together... weep together... pray together... play together... dream together... and achieve together.

I therefore charge you before God and this congregation: Be honest with the use of your time and work as a pastor; Faithfully give yourself to the study of the Holy Scriptures, the ministry of prayer and the exercise of the means of grace for building yourself in God's love and power; Pattern your life according to the will of God and show yourself in all things an example of good works to others for the glory of God; Be fair with your family in giving to them the time and consideration they need and deserve; Keep all confidences shared with you as a sacred trust; Use your gifts and training to develop and equip the saints for the work of ministry; Remain open to constructive criticism and receptive to suggestions intended to strengthen your ministry and the life of your people; Exercise the necessary discipline to stay mentally, spiritually and physically alert and fit for effective service; Be careful and honest in the stewardship of money, endeavouring to live within your income and pay your just bills on time;

Guard your integrity with your fellow ministers, your people, your family, your community and your District Superintendent at all times; If openly rebuked or rebuffed by others, return only genuine love, kindness and consideration; If praised by others, accept it humbly and give the glory to God. In all aspects of your pastoral and personal ministry be diligent to abide by your commitments, maintain the dignity of the high and holy office of a Christian minister and give careful attention to all the details of your responsibilities.

17.3.3. Vows of Installation

And now that your people may hear of your commitment to the pastoral office in the Evangelical Missionary Church, I ask you these questions:

1. Are you ready and willing to take upon yourself the holy office of pastor of this congregation?

If so, answer: I am, by the grace and help of God.

2. To the best of your ability will you faithfully preach the Word of God, visit the sick, counsel the troubled, comfort the sorrowing according to the Holy Scriptures ?

If so, answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

3. To the best of your ability will you give leadership to this congregation not as lording over them, but as a gentle shepherd, guarding them against all enemies of the soul and guiding them in building up the body of Christ and in new conquests of kingdom building?

If so, answer: As God is my helper, I will do so.

4. Will you be diligent in performing the ministerial responsibilities attendant to the office of a pastor?

If so, answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

17.3.4. The Charge to the Congregation

Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the solemn promises made by him to whom the pastorate of this church has been assigned. Do you now receive him in this high and holy office of dignity and divine calling? Do you promise according to the grace of God given to you to uphold him, his family and your church with your prayer, your presence, your tithes and offerings, and your service that this ministry might be fruitful to the glory of God?

If so, answer: We do, the Lord being our helper.

17.3.5. The Installation

The District Superintendent shall ask the pastor and his wife to kneel at the altar of the church. He may invite other leaders of the congregation to come to the chancel and kneel behind the pastor and his wife. When all are kneeling the District Superintendent shall lay his hands on the heads of the pastor and his wife, saying the following:

Upon this mutual assurance and commitment, as the Superintendent of the _____ District of The Evangelical Missionary Church, I do now install you, _____, as the pastor of the _____ Evangelical Missionary Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord, who has called you into His service, enlighten, strengthen and guide you through His Holy Spirit, that you may serve this congregation as a faithful pastor.

The congregation may stand together and sing the hymn "Lead On, O King Eternal" or another appropriate hymn.

17.3.6. Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

18. Commissioning of a Missionary

This Recognition shall be given in the missionary's home church whenever feasible.

The minister of the church or another officiating minister shall call the missionary (and family if appropriate) to the chancel of the church.

18.1. The Call to Service

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isa 52:7 NIV)

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:16 NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matt 28:19, 20 NIV)

18.1.1. A Litany of Gratitude

Leader: Thanks to you, O God and Father of us all, for the revelation of yourself, and for the commission of your church to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to a needy world.

People: For the early disciples of Christ whom he sent forth to proclaim the coming of the kingdom.

Leader: For the missionaries, known and unknown, who first brought the Gospel to our forebearers.

People: For the faithful who, in ages of darkness, kept their lamps burning and watched for the coming of the Lord.

Leader: For all who have laboured to keep the church devoted to her great task of evangelizing the world.

People: For those who have gone to the ends of the earth with the joyful news, and have sought out the dark places to bring light to them that dwell in darkness.

Leader: For the innumerable company who now praise your name, out of every kindred, tongue and nation.

People: For this your servant (these your servants) who is (are) willing to go forth in obedience to your call to follow you wherever you lead; to face the world's greatest need.

ALL: THANKS AND PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD. AMEN.

18.1.2. Recognition of Commitment

To the Missionary

We rejoice with you that in the good providence of God, a door of usefulness has been opened for you in the service of the church of Christ. You are accorded unusual privileges and priceless opportunities for service. Like our Master, you have been set apart for the ministry of (teaching) (preaching) (healing). Such service is one which confers a 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 this congregation.

18.1.3. Invitation to Share

To the Congregation

Now, I admonish you who have witnessed this solemn service to remember this missionary in your prayers as he/her goes forth to his/her labours; that he/she may reach his/her field of service in safety and as God's messenger and our representative he/her may experience in his/her life the rich blessings of God. I charge you to do your part in giving your resources of talent and means to promote the cause of missions, that the earth may be filled with the knowledge of God and that the kingdom of the world may become the kingdom of our Lord and of his/her Christ. Amen.

18.1.4. Benedictory Prayer

Spirit of the living God, descend upon this missionary of the Cross. Impart to him/her grace for every trial and strength for every service. Be to him/her a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night. And let your blessing, O Eternal God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with him/her now and evermore. Amen. *If this Recognition comes at the close of a service of worship the service may be closed with an appropriate hymn and the benediction.*

19. Commissioning to Special Ministries

The use of Commissioning of a Missionary is recommended for adaptation and use in commissioning persons to special ministries who have been approved.

20. Retirement of a Minister

This service should be conducted as a part of the District Conference session under the leadership of the District Superintendent.

20.1. Call to Worship

In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us enter into this service of the retirement of an Elder from active work in the ministry of the church.

20.1.1. Prayer of Invocation:

Almighty, God, giver of all good things who by your Holy Spirit has appointed ministers in your church, graciously be near us in this service and bless us. Unite us in one holy communion with your prophets and saints of old who trusted in you and were not ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

20.1.2. Presentation of the Minister

The officiating minister will present the minister who is retiring from active service to the Conference, using the following words:

We want to formally recognize the completion of the active service of this Minister. I therefore present him for this service of recognition in appreciation of his ministry in the church.

The officiating minister will then call the name of the one to be retired, who shall rise and present himself before the chairman. It may be advisable to have the retiring Minister seated near the chancel or pulpit as the service continues.

20.1.3. Scripture

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father --to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (Rev 1:4-6 NIV)

20.1.4. Statement of Achievement

The District Superintendent, or someone appointed by the chairman, shall prepare and present a brief statement of the ministry of the retiring minister. This statement shall include an account of the significant milestones in his ministry. The statement may end with the following Scripture:

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:1-3 NIV)

20.1.5. Address by the Officiating Minister

The Officiating Minister may make some additional appropriate remarks at this point.

20.1.6. Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, our heavenly Father, we thank you that in your infinite love, you have given your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour and Lord. We thank you that having made perfect our salvation by his death, resurrection and ascension into heaven, he gave gifts to His people; that He sent forth into all the world apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, by whose labour and ministry a great multitude have been mobilized to do works of service.. We thank you, O God, for this your servant who years ago answered your call and was ordained to the foundational ministry of the Word of God....

The prayer leader shall compose a prayer appropriate to the ministry of the retiring minister. ...

We ask you, grant this your servant your peace in abiding love. We thank you for the assurance given, that when at last the days of this life are done, this your servant, ultimately with us all, will be received into the fullness of life evermore in your presence, and hear the glad affirmation, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into your Master's joy"; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

20.1.7. Benediction

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 24-25 NIV)

21. FORM FOR COMMISSIONING OR INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, ETC.

21.1. Form 1

At the beginning of the church year or at the time when new officers assume their responsibilities a special period may be set apart in the morning worship service for the recognition and commissioning of those to whom special responsibilities have been committed.

The minister will then read as follows:

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe --as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his

work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. (1 Cor 3:5-17 NIV)

The minister shall then state to the group as follows:

The church has elected you to serve in a position of leadership. It is imperative that each of you recognize this responsibility as God given and that in the performance of your duty you will need daily God's grace and the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In this position of leadership your life will be constantly observed. We therefore lay upon you the necessity of living always as becomes a true Christian profession and life of holiness. It is imperative that you are in regular attendance of all the services of the church such as the Sunday morning worship service, the Sunday evening evangelistic service, the midweek prayer meeting, special revival services and such other meetings of the congregation which are held in the interest of the spiritual nurture of the church and the salvation of men and women.

You share with the pastor the responsibility for winning men to Christ, enlisting new members, visiting absentees, calling on the sick, the sorrowing and strangers. You should also be an example in reverence, punctuality, dependability, and stewardship.

It is especially important that at all times you exhibit loyalty to Christ and the church. We appreciate your willingness to accept this responsibility and wish to assure you of the prayers of the entire church.

Will you now covenant to give your best to this ministry and to be regularly present at all the services of the church unless physically hindered?

Do you accept as the chief aim of this office the winning of souls to Christ and the nurture of those already enjoying Christian life.

If so, will you answer, We do.

As a further token of your covenant with Christ and the church will you now reverently kneel in prayer and ask God to give you the same compassion and devotion to duty as exemplified by our Lord.

The minister will then lead in a prayer of dedication after which an appropriate hymn such as "A Charge to Keep I Have" may be sung.

21.2. Form 2

The minister shall announce the names of offices of those who are to be installed. The officers-elect shall present themselves at the chancel as their names are called.

21.2.1. Address by the Minister

Christian friends, it has pleased this congregation (or other body or group) to elect you to important positions of leadership for the coming year. We have confidence that you will prove yourselves to be workmen that need not to be ashamed. It is a great honour to be chosen to administer and supervise the work of the church. It is also a grave responsibility. We trust that you will not only appreciate the honour, but that you will so faithfully meet the duties and responsibilities of your offices that the work of the church may greatly prosper under your administration and supervision.

21.2.2. Scripture

Hear the Word of God:

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42-45 NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God --this is your spiritual act of worship. (Rom 12:1 NIV)

21.2.3. Litany

Officials: O God, receive our prayers as we present ourselves unto you.

Minister: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is --his good, pleasing and perfect will. [Rom 12:2 NIV]

Officials: O Holy Spirit, transform us by the renewing of our mind.

Minister: For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. [Rom 12:3 NIV]

Officials: O Christ, teach us to walk in true humility of mind and so that we may more fully experience that measure of faith which God hath granted to each of us.

21.2.4. Vows

The minister shall lead the officers-elect in the following vows: In order that those who have chosen you may know your mind in this matter it is proper that you avow your faith and purpose by answering the following:

1. Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God?

If so, answer: I do.

2. Do you believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, and do you accept his as the Lord of your life, the final authority in all matters of faith and practice?

If so, answer: I do.

3. Will you endeavour through the grace of God to frame and fashion your life so that your daily walk and conversation shall be such as are worthy of the place you occupy?

If so, answer: I will.

4. Will you faithfully execute the office to which you have been called, in accordance with the Word of God?

If so, answer: I will.

5. Will you be faithful to attend the services of the church and thereby set an example to promote growth and Christian unity?

If so, answer: I will.

21.2.5. Responsive Reading of Scripture

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

If it is serving, let him serve;

If it is teaching, let him teach;

If it is encouraging, let him encourage;

If it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously;

if it is leadership, let him govern diligently;

If it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere.

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

For we are God's fellow workers;

But each one should be careful how he builds.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord

But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

Who has saved us and called us to a holy life

Not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

(Rom 12:3-13; 1 Cor 3:7- 11; 2 Tim 1:8-9 NIV)

21.2.6. Charge to Officers and Congregation by the Minister

I hereby charge you to enter your duties of office with sincere supplication for strength that you fail not; with supreme devotion that you may be true to that end.

I charge this congregation, that as Aaron and Hur upheld the hands of Moses, so you support and strengthen these officers with your cooperation and earnest prayer.

21.2.7. Installation of Local Church Officers

As your pastor I do now install you each in his office, according to the Word of God and the Standards of this church (Or organization) and in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

21.2.8. Prayer

O Lord Jesus, you are the great head of the church. We commend these your servants to you and to your direction. Endue them, we ask, with a devout, faithful and willing spirit, with humility, with zeal, and with perseverance; with longsuffering and patience; that they through your grace may be enabled to point sinners to saving faith in Christ, and to the build up believers in their faith. Amen.

21.2.9. Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

22.THE BURNING OF THE CHURCH MORTGAGE

22.1. Form 1

Minister: Blessed be the Lord God who does wondrous things.

People: Blessed be his glorious name forever and ever. Amen.

All: Being graciously prospered by the hand of our God in lifting the burden of debt from this church of Jesus Christ, we now, with joy in our hearts, are about to transform this canceled mortgage, the symbol of our completed task, into the incense of prayer and thanksgiving.

Minister: In love for our church and in reverent memory of all those who by their services and sacrifices down through the years have bequeathed to us such valuable and beautiful property.

People: We enter into this service.

Minister: With grateful appreciation of the generosity of members and friends, of the earnest and fruitful labours of organizations, and of the untiring services and prayers of the officers of this church.

People: We gratefully share in this experience.

Minister: With a prayer that God shall continue to guide us with wisdom, bless us with a spirit of loyal unity, and inspire us to use our precious heritage to draw men unto Himself.

People: We acknowledge that apart from Him we can do nothing.

Minister: Dedicating ourselves anew to the work and support of this our beloved church, and through it to the extension of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, throughout this our community, our nation, our world.

People: We now burn this mortgage in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

While the photostat of the canceled mortgage burns, the congregation rises to join in the Doxology.

22.2. Form 2

A mortgage burning service may very properly be a part of the Sunday morning worship service. The pastor, District Superintendent or other guest speaker should preach an appropriate sermon. At the place in the service when the mortgage or note is to be burned, the Trustees should be invited to stand at the chancel. Since a legal paper should not be destroyed but preserved in the church's historical records, in lieu of the canceled mortgage let a facsimile be used in this ceremony.

22.2.1. Ritual of Mortgage Burning

The Chair of the Board of Trustees shall say:

The membership of this church and its friends have manifested a keen interest in this house of worship by contributing of their money for the liquidation of the debt. The last dollar of indebtedness has now been paid. The mortgage has been canceled and lifted. We now present it to you to be burned with appropriate ceremony. We feel that this is a day of victory and achievement and we rejoice in it.

The officiating minister shall say:

From time immemorial the children of God have found it desirable to build houses of worship, some more costly and some more humble than others, but all humble places where God and man may meet, and where brethren can meet in Christian fellowship. We rejoice with you that through your liberality the debt on this church has been paid. We believe your faithfulness, loyalty and generosity are well pleasing to our heavenly Father. We believe this church is a simple expression of your love to God. With gratitude and thankfulness in our hearts, we give God the praise. This should mark the beginning of larger service for this church in kingdom work. (The minister shall light the candle and give it to the President of the Board of Trustees or another designated person who shall ignite the facsimile of the mortgage/note).

The minister shall say: Jesus is the light of the world and in his light we see light.

(While the mortgage/note is being consumed the congregation should stand and sing the Doxology. When the fire has died out the minister shall pronounce the benediction).

22.2.2. Benediction

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Eph 3:20, 21 NIV)