

Order for Installation of a Pastor

INTRODUCTION

In this order the association, at the request of a local church, confirms and celebrates the covenant between a local church and a newly called pastor and teacher and reaffirms the covenantal relationship of all the churches in the association. In planning the service, set the time so that people from other churches within the association, representatives of other Christian communions, and guests from synagogues or other communities of faith may participate. Services of installation held on Sunday mornings prohibit the enrichment afforded by this participation.

Representatives of the association committee on the ministry, in full consultation with the pastor to be installed and the local church requesting the service, plan the service of installation. Conference representatives may participate in the planning. Lay and ordained people may share in the leadership of the service.

This order may be incorporated within a Service of Word and Sacrament or a Service of the Word. It is fitting that a sermon be preached concerning the ministry of all the people of God and the particular ministry of a pastor and teacher within the life of the church. The service may be enriched by the generous use of music. Plans should be made in consultation with the music leaders of the local church.

When the order for installation is part of a service of ordination, only the covenant, prayer, and declaration need to be used.

The person to be installed may sit with the congregation until requested to come forward at the presentation.

OUTLINE

This order may be incorporated into a Service of Word and Sacrament or a Service of the Word following the sermon. An affirmation of faith and a hymn may precede this order. When it is used immediately following the Order for Ordination to Ministry, begin with the covenant.

Greeting
Presentation
Exhortation
Covenant
Prayer of Installation
Declaration

A hymn may be sung. A Service of Word and Sacrament or a Service of the Word continues, omitting the affirmation of faith.

Following the sermon, all who are able may stand and unite in an affirmation of faith and a hymn. After the hymn, all may be seated except the representative(s) of the local church, the representative(s) of the association, and the pastor who is to be installed. The pastor to be installed may remain among the congregation.

The greeting may be used at the opening of the service rather than at the opening of this order.

When the Order for Installation of a Pastor is part of a service of ordination, begin with the covenant on page 417.

GREETING

The moderator or another representative of the association may greet the people, and they may respond in these or similar words.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

The _____ Association

association

of the _____ Conference

conference

of the United Church of Christ
greet you in the name of Jesus Christ,
the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

Therefore, since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and sin
which clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race
that is set before us.

PEOPLE

Let us look to Jesus
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was waiting
endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand
of the throne of God.¹³

PRESENTATION

A representative of the local church that is requesting the installation may address a representative of the association in these or similar words. The pastor's full name may be used in the first reference. Thereafter, the first name only may be used.

LOCAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE

addressing the association representative

_____ United Church of Christ,
local church
under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
has called _____ as its pastor and teacher
full name of pastor
and respectfully requests that the

_____ Association install *her/him*
association

in this ministry among us,
according to the faith and order
of the United Church of Christ.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

addressing the congregation

The _____ Association has reviewed
association

the request of _____ United Church of Christ.
local church

We have prayerfully examined _____,
name
and we are pleased to install *him/her*
as your pastor and teacher.

addressing the pastor

_____,
name
servant of God,
we invite you to come forward
as a sign of your acceptance
of the call to this office.

The pastor may leave his or her place in the congregation and may stand, if able, before the representative(s) of the association.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

**Installation is the action
of an association
of the United Church of Christ
in cooperation with a local church.
Installation confirms and celebrates
the covenantal relationship
among a local church,
its pastor and teacher,
and the United Church of Christ.
Installation is a sign
that these covenantal partners are committed
to share mutually in the mission
of the United Church of Christ
and of the ecumenical church.**

 EXHORTATION

*Representative(s) of the association may read these or
other words from scripture.*

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

addressing the congregation

**Hear these words from the apostle Paul:
We beg you, our brothers and sisters,
to pay proper respect
to those who work among you,
who guide and instruct you
in the Christian life.
Treat them with the greatest respect and love
because of the work they do.
Be at peace among yourselves.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

addressing the pastor

**We urge you, our *sister/brother*,
warn the idle,
encourage the timid,
help the weak,
be patient with all.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

addressing all

**See that no one pays back wrong for wrong,
but at all times
make it your aim to do good
to one another and to all people.
Be joyful always,
pray at all times,
be thankful in all circumstances.
This is what God wants of you,
in your life in Christ Jesus.¹⁴
Amen.**

When this order immediately follows the Order for Ordination to Ministry, begin this order with the covenant.

 COVENANT

*The pastor may remain before the representative(s) of the
association.*

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

addressing the congregation

Dear friends,

_____ local church United Church of Christ has declared that,
having gathered
under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
it has called _____ name

to minister in this place
as pastor and teacher
and that it now receives *him/her*
as appointed by God
for this ministry.

The _____ association Association

of the United Church of Christ has declared
that *she/he* has met all the necessary conditions
for installation to this office.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

*addressing the pastor*_____,
name

seeing that you are called to ordained ministry
by the grace of God
and that _____ United Church of Christ

has been led to call you as pastor and teacher,
are you willing to enter this covenant
with its members who are one in Christ
with us in the _____ Association?

local church
association

PASTOR

I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully,
preaching and teaching the word of God,
administering the sacraments,
and fulfilling the pastoral office,
according to the faith and order
of the United Church of Christ.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

addressing the congregation

Members of _____ United Church of Christ,
local church
will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant
with your pastor and teacher?

*Members of the church who are able stand for the
remainder of the covenant.*

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERS

We, the members

of _____ United Church of Christ,
local churchreceive _____ as our pastor and teacher,
name

promising to labor with *him/her* in the ministry of the gospel
and to give *him/her* due honor and support.

We gather with *her/him*

and with the United Church of Christ
as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

*addressing the association members*Members of _____ Association,
association

will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant
with _____ United Church of Christ
local church
and its pastor and teacher?

*Members of the association who are able stand for the
remainder of the covenant.*

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

We, the members of the _____ Association
association

of the United Church of Christ,
gather with you,

the people and the pastor and teacher
of _____ United Church of Christ,
local church

as a sign of our covenant
and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

*All who are able may stand as a representative of the asso-
ciation prays in these or similar words.*

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have called your servants
to make promises before you;
now enable us to keep our vows
that we may remain steadfast in faith
and fruitful in every good work.

Bless, we pray, your servant _____
name
to whom the care of your people
in this church is now committed.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on *him/her* ,
on the people of _____ United Church of Christ,
local church

and on all the churches of the _____ Association
association
 that our mutual ministry may be served
 with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage.
 Grant us the spirit of power and of love
 and of a sound mind.
 Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless,
 strengthening the faithful,
 comforting the afflicted,
 building up your church,
 and converting sinners to you.
 Guard us against the snares of temptation
 that we may be kept pure in heart,
 fervent in spirit,
 and valiant against evil.
 And at the last, by your grace,
 receive us in your eternal home,
 where, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 Christ reigns in glory,
 one God, for ever and ever.

ALL

Amen.

 DECLARATION

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

In the name of Jesus Christ,
 and on behalf of the _____ Association
association
 of the _____ Conference
conference
 of the United Church of Christ,
 I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher
 of _____ United Church of Christ.
local church

ALL

Thanks be to God.

*The people may show their approval and support by
 applause, a hymn, or some other means. The association*

*representative(s) may make a gesture of Christian love to
 the newly installed person, such as a handshake with
 appropriate words. The congregation and newly installed
 person may be seated.*

*Separate charges or one common charge may be given the
 pastor and congregation. The charge to the pastor and
 teacher may be presented dramatically by symbolically
 illustrating diverse pastoral functions. At the font and
 table, the sacramental ministries may be reviewed; at the
 pulpit, the preaching of the word. A key to the church
 building, a copy of the church constitution, a stole, a
 Bible, or other symbols may be used in a similar way.*

*If representatives from other Christian communions or
 from synagogues or other communities of faith have been
 invited and are present, a representative from among them
 may be given an opportunity to bring greetings to the local
 church and the newly installed pastor and teacher follow-
 ing the charge. The same courtesy may be extended to a
 representative of the civic community.*

*At the conclusion of this order, a hymn may be sung. A
 Service of Word and Sacrament or a Service of the Word
 continues, omitting the affirmation of faith. It is appro-
 priate that the newly installed pastor serve communion
 and give the benediction.*