

ALTERNATIVE FORM FOR THE ORDINATION OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Church Council has twice published the name of our fellow-brother N.N. thereby enquiring before he was to be ordained as minister of the Word in this congregation, whether anyone has any lawful objection against his doctrine or his way of life. No one, however has raised any lawful objection to his doctrine or his way of life; and we therefore now proceed to his ordination in this office. To this end we shall now: attend to the teaching of the Word of the Lord on the office itself, and the purpose of its institution.

Eph 4 : 11,12 Jesus Christ uses the ministry of human beings in order through His Word and Holy Spirit to gather, to govern, and to build His church. Christ, has given some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for their ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ. The minister of the Word is therefore appointed by the Lord Himself for this responsible task.

2 Tim. 4 : 2 The discharge of his office requires first that he should lead in the meetings of the congregation, where he should thoroughly and sincerely expound and apply the Word of the Lord, to equip the hearers in faith. The Apostle Paul admonishes the minister of the Word: "...to preach the messages, to insist upon proclaiming it (whether the time is right or not), to convince, reproach, and encourage, as you teach with all patience". In addition he should administer the holy sacraments
Matt. 28 : 19 baptism according to the command of Christ, "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit", and Holy
Luke 22 : 19 Communion in obedience to the command of Christ, "Do this in memory of me."

1 Tim. 2 : 1 The office of pastor and teacher further includes the ministry of prayer. The Name of the Lord should be called upon on behalf of the whole congregation, both in public and in the inner sanctuary. The apostle explains to Timothy, "I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people..." It is also his task as pastor to take care of the lambs of the flock. Those who have not yet been confirmed, he must instruct in Scripture: and in the
Acts 20 : 20 teaching of the church In the spirit of the love of Christ: he must visit the members of the church at
2 Tim. 3 : 15 their homes and teach, admonish, comfort, strengthen and build them from the Word of God.

Matt. 16: 19 It is further the task of the minister of the Word to maintain, together with the elders, proper
John 20 : 23 supervision over the congregation. They are the overseers and watchmen of the House of the Lord, who hold the keys of they Kingdom of Heaven in order to unlock and to lock in accordance with the right given them.

Matt. 28 : 19 Finally; he is called to preach the gospel to them who are in the world outside of the church, and to encourage the congregation to bring the gospel to the heathen, in obedience to Christ, who commanded, "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:" .

Acts 20 : 28 As far as he personally is concerned, he should take heed to his own life and truly love the Lord
1 Tim. 4 : 16 and serve Him. Before he teaches others, he should himself examine the Word of God and give heed to it. From the foregoing it is clear that the office of the minister of the Word is a glorious work whereby God accomplished great things, yes, that it is indispensable, because hereby people are brought to salvation.

Now that you, N.N.; are prepared to accept the office of pastor and teacher of this congregation, you shall reply honestly to the questions which shall be put to you, to the end that everyone may hear that you are willing to accept the above-mentioned service:

Firstly, are you satisfied that God Himself, through His congregation, has called you to this service?

Secondly; do you accept the writings of the Old and the New Testament to be the only. Word of God and the complete doctrine of salvation, and do you reject all doctrines that are contrary thereto?
Thirdly, do you promise to discharge your office faithfully and with the necessary confidentiality.

Fourthly, do you promise to submit yourself to the supervision and discipline of the church?
Answer: I do with all my heart.

All ministers of the Divine Word present are now invited to come forward and extend their welcome and blessing to the pastor who is installed. In the case of ordination the ceremony of the laying on of hands takes place here.

The officiating minister shall then say:

1 Tim. 4 : 12, 14 Beloved brother, accept now as your responsibility the congregation which is entrusted to, your spiritual care. Set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. Continue in reading, exhortation, and teaching, and do not neglect the gift of grace you have. Then you will, when the Chief Shepherd appears, receive the unfading crown of glory. And, now, 1 Pet. 5 : 4 beloved congregation, receive this servant of the Lord with all joy and show him the necessary reverence. Receive his message, which he shall preach to you according to Holy Scripture, not as 1 Thess. 2 : 1 3 the word of man, but as the Word of God which it truly is. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Head of the church and by authority, of the, presbytery of I now, pronounce and declare that is duly constituted pastor of this congregation.

Prayer:

Merciful God and Heavenly Father, we thank You that it pleases You through Your Word and Spirit to gather a church unto eternal life. We rejoice in that You have called and installed again a minister of the Word to serve this particular" group of Your people. Graciously endow him with the full armour of God. We pray that through Your Holy Spirit You will equip him evermore for his work; give unto him boldness in the preaching of Your Word; support him to comfort and help the sick and the needy with the gospel. Grant unto this congregation grace to acknowledge him as messenger, to support him and pray for him. This we ask in the Name of our exalted Lord and Master. Amen.