

Ordination Service Template
Committee on Ministry: Preparation
St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ

This template, based on the *UCC Book of Worship*, comes near the end of a service of word and sacrament. The spirit and uniqueness of the ordinand and the host church's worship style should be an important consideration as this service is crafted. All of the participants should be very clear as to their parts, use of microphones, gathering time, dress code, seating arrangements, etc. in advance. [Ordinands traditionally serve communion and offer the benediction!]

GREETING

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Oversight*)

Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers on earth. The St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

People: To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Local Church Representative: (_____)

(Name of Church), after carefully considering the call to ordained ministry of (name of Ordinand), respectfully requests that the St. Louis Association ordain (name of Ordinand) to the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ, consistent with scripture and with the traditions of the church universal, and according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Preparation - Advisor*)

The St. Louis Association has reviewed the request of (name of Church). We have prayerfully examined (name of Ordinand), concerning (his/her) fitness for ministry in Christ's church. We are pleased, on behalf of the United Church of Christ, to authorize the ordination of (name of Ordinand) into the Christian ministry.

(Name of Ordinand), servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your consent to receive ordination into the Christian ministry.

Association Representative: (*Conference Minister*)

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession.

It looks to the word of God in the scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ.

EXHORTATION

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Oversight*)

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: "I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me!' How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace! The messenger announces victory and says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' The Spirit of God is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, heal the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those who are bound."

EXAMINATION

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Preparation*)

(Name of Ordinand), before God and this congregation, we ask you: Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ? And are you ready with the help of God to enter this ministry and to serve faithfully in it?

Ordinand: I am.

Association Representative: Do you, with the church throughout the world, hear the word of God in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and do you accept the word of God and the rule of Christian faith and practice?

Ordinand: I do.

Association Representative: Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and in reading the scriptures, as well as in the public duties of your office?

Ordinand: I do, relying on God's grace.

Association Representative: Will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church, speaking the truth in love?

Ordinand: I will, relying on God's grace.

Association Representative: Will you be faithful in preaching and teaching the gospel, in administering the sacraments and rites of the church, and in exercising pastoral care and leadership?

Ordinand: I will, relying on God's grace.

Association Representative: Will you keep silent all confidences shared with you?

Ordinand: I will, relying on God's grace.

Association Representative: Will you seek to regard all people with equal love and concern and to undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all?

Ordinand: I will, relying on God's grace.

Association Representative: Do you accept the faith and order of the United Church of Christ; and will you, as an ordained minister in this communion, ecumenically reach out toward all who are in Christ and show Christian love to people of other faiths and people of no faith?

Ordinand: I do and I will, relying on God's grace.

ACCLAMATION

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Oversight*)

Association members, you have heard the promises (name of Ordinand) has made.
What is your will?

Association Members:

By the grace of God, (he/she) is worthy! Let us ordain (her/him). Come, Holy Spirit.

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Oversight*)

Will you support (name of Ordinand) in the ministry of Christ?

Association Members: We will.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Association Representative: (*Conference Minister*)

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer on them gifts for ordained ministry.

Association Representative: (*Conference Minister*)

Please join me in prayer: Eternal God, in wisdom you govern all things, and from the beginning you have chosen faithful people to serve you in ministry, calling some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip all your people for the work of the ministry and for building up the body of Christ.

Now bless and sanctify by your Holy Spirit your servant (name of Ordinand), whom we, in your name and in obedience to your will, by prayer and with the laying on of hands, ordain to the ministry of the church, committing to (him/her) the authority to preach your word, administer the sacraments, and exercise the responsibilities of pastor and teacher.

Bestow on (name of Ordinand) the power of your Holy Spirit, confirming what we do.

Let the same mind be in (him/her) that was also in Christ Jesus. Enable (him/her) to nourish your people in the faith of the gospel. Fill (his/her) speech with truth and (his/her) life with purity.

Increase the faith of (name of Ordinand) in you, strengthen (him/her) in the day of trouble, prosper (his/her) words and works that your name may be glorified and your truth exalted, through Jesus Christ our Sovereign Savior.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God!

DECLARATION

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Oversight*)

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare (name of Ordinand) to be ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION

Association Representative: (*Committee on Ministry: Preparation*) **Presentation of Bible**

Receive at our hands this Bible of which you are appointed as an interpreter. Be diligent in the study of its message that you may speak with the authority of truth and be a faithful minister of the word and sacraments.

Association Representative: (*Conference Minister*) **Presentation of Certificate of Ordination**

You are granted ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ, and in behalf of its people, we offer you the hand of Christian love.

Local Church Representative: (_____) **Presentation of Gifts from Church**
(robe, stole, etc.?)

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