Adventures in Renewal

Listen. Learn. Be Transformed.

Greater Milwaukee Synod

Renewal Team Commissioning

Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Commissioning for Mission

INTRODUCTION

Commissioning for Mission is appropriately set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the commissioning rite.

PRESENTATION

The assembly is seated. Those being commissioned gather with the presiding minister before the assembly.
The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

L: Today we are celebrating together the call of church in every age to share the good news in word and deed. As a part of that ancient call, we are here to commission our *(name of the Renewal Team).*

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

L: First, a reading from Acts: 13On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us. *(Acts 16:13-15)*

A reading from 2 Corinthians: Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. *(2 Corinthians 4:15)*

The presiding minister questions those being commissioned.
L: In the presence of this assembly will you accept this commission to lead us in listening, to help us discern and follow the Spirit's path out into the world, and to be grounded in both the stories of God and the stories of our neighbors?
R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

L: Will you commit to the work of spiritual renewal both personally and with all of us? Will you pray for the congregation in their renewal and for the relationships we build in the community?
R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

L: Will you commit to helping us learn to be playful in our approach to ministry, to try new things confident we will learn, and to be gracious with each other when the learning comes through unexpected results?
R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

L: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.
The assembly responds:
C: Amen.

The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

L: People of God, will you commit yourselves to learning through listening?
C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

L: Will you commit to pray, for this team in their listening, for the congregation in their renewal, and for the relationships we build in the community?
C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

L: Will you be open to being playful, to experimenting, and to trying new things, confident that what we learn together in the process will make us more able to share God's love with everyone we encounter?
C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

L: Let us pray.
God the sower, you send your people out to plant the message of the gospel, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, your Word does not return empty. Strengthen and bless these leaders, and all of us here, as we listen, learn from and love you, each other and our neighbors. So ground us in your never-ending love for all people that we cannot help but share it with others by listening to them, and by bringing the gifts of grace and mercy out with us into everyday life.
C: Amen.

BLESSING
Addressing the newly commissioned, the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.
L: Almighty God guide, bless, and keep you, that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been commissioned.
R: Amen.

The newly commissioned stand/s.
The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.
The service continues with the prayers of intercession. Prayers are included for the newly commissioned and the work of renewal to which the entire congregation has pledged its support.