

Some More Ideas for Worship A Commissioning Service

The Service

PASTOR: In the Christian church, our mission is to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all people. We hear this in His words: "I command that you love one another as I have loved you...by this, all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

We celebrate you and your devotion to the tasks ahead of you, as you join with other persons in mission to *(Name of project or country)*. Through the gift of your service and its example of love, you show others the infinite love that God has for all people. This is both a privilege and a responsibility, and we ask that you now publicly affirm your commitment to this work. Will you accept the persons whom you serve right where they are and just the way they are?

TEAM: I will, with God's help.

PASTOR: Will you seek to work in glad cooperation and mutual support with other workers, being sensitive and helpful according to the needs presented to you?

TEAM: I will, with God's help.

PASTOR: Will you conduct yourself in a manner which will demonstrate your love of Christ and the church which you represent?

TEAM: I will, with God's help.

PASTOR: Do you sincerely believe that the work you are about to undertake is truly the work of God within our world?

TEAM: I do so believe.

PASTOR: Let us pray: "Almighty God, look graciously upon these persons now to be commissioned. Endow them with Your spirit, enrich them with Your grace, and strengthen them for the tasks which lie ahead, that through their work Your name may be glorified." AMEN.

The Commissioning

PASTOR: *(Name(s))*, I commission you to share the love of Jesus Christ with your gift of service to the *(name of people, country, or project)*. They go as representatives of Christ and the church. I commend them to you for your love, your care, your prayers, and your support for the work that they will perform.

CONGREGATION:

We rejoice to recognize you as representatives of our church, and thank God for your dedication and your gift of service. We send you forth with our prayers and our support, and with you, we renew our commitment to God and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray God's blessings for you and *(name of people, country, or project)*. AMEN.

* Adapted and used by permission from the Appalachia Service Project in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Note: This commissioning service can be adapted for use in commissioning an individual volunteer by changing "Team" to "Mission Volunteer" and using the appropriate pronouns.