

CEREMONY SAMPLE #1

Another minister that has already been ordained by his/her ministry best performs this ceremony. Because of the nature of the ceremony, the minister who performs the ceremony should be one who serves on the presbytery board or in some capacity as the pastor/founder's mentor or overseer. This establishes a bond between the church, the pastor/founder and the minister performing the ceremony.

There is not a correct time or place to perform this ceremony. My recommendation is that it be done during one of your weekly Sunday services.

Because the ceremony will be performed during a regularly scheduled service, the minister that performs the ceremony should also be the one who delivers the message. The theme of the message should be on the "Call," using examples such as the disciples who dropped their nets and followed Jesus, and verses like Phil 3:8, Lu 9:62, 1Ti 1:12 and so forth. The message is geared to make it known to the people that the pastor/founder is giving his/her life to the call of God and is dedicating his/her life to the ministry.

After the message is over the minister should call the pastor/founder to the stage and begin by saying to the congregation:

"Today is an important day in the life of your pastor. He/she has surrendered his/her all to God's call and is embarking on a new journey as an ordained minister of the gospel. This journey is a higher call than what he/she has previously known and will be one filled with many victories and some defeats, great times and difficult times, happiness and sadness, times for celebrations and moments of grief. Regardless of what this journey entails for your pastor, he/she is now ready to give their all to complete it."

Turning to the pastor/founder, the minister will address him/her directly by saying:

"There will be times when God's call will require you to go through very difficult times. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 '*We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-- ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*' When persecutions or tribulations come you must always remember that God will never lead you where His grace cannot keep you. The ministry of reconciliation that God has placed in your hands will require that you live a life that is holy and separate unto Him. Today, you will be making a commitment before God and man to do just that."

The minister now asks the pastor/founder the following question:

“Pastor **Name**, you have heard God’s call on your life; do you covenant today before God and this congregation that you will do everything within your means to live a life worthy of that call?”

The pastor/founder should answer a resounding YES!

The minister now asks the following:

“Pastor **Name**, God will use you in various ways to serve His people and help them to achieve all that God has called them to be. Do you commit yourself to serve the Body of Christ in such a way that you are willing to lay down your life so that others may enter the Kingdom of Heaven?”

The pastor/founder (hopefully) will still answer a resounding YES!

The minister now asks the following:

“Pastor **Name**, the Word of God is a word of truth. God has called you to shepherd His people which entails directing them by your example and by your words. At times God’s Word will require you to speak necessary words of correction. Speaking the truth in love is rarely easy and most times unpopular. As one who will give an account, do you covenant with God to speak His words of truth and not shrink back in the face of adversity?”

The pastor/founder should answer a resounding YES!

Finally, the minister asks the congregation to stretch out their hands and join him as he lays his hands on the pastor/founder and prays for him/her.

After praying for the pastor/founder, the minister presents him/her to the congregation and charges the church to love their pastor/founder and to honor him/her as stated in Heb. 13:17:

Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit (NLT).

CEREMONY SAMPLE #2

This ceremony is best performed by the pastor/founder since he/she has already been ordained and represents the covering under which the candidate has gone through the training process. Because of the nature of the ceremony, it should be performed as a father speaking to his dearly loved sons and daughters.

There is not a correct time or place to perform this ceremony. My recommendation is that it be done during one of your weekly Sunday services.

Because the ceremony will be performed during a regularly scheduled service, the pastor/founder does not need to preach any special message outside of what he/she would have preached had there not been a ceremony. It does not mean that you cannot choose to do that.

It is recommended that the ceremony take place before the message, although it does not have to be done this way. The pastor/founder should call the candidate(s) to the stage and begin by saying to the candidate(s):

“Today is an important day in your life/lives. You have surrendered your all to God’s call and have embarked on a new journey as a minister of the gospel. This journey is a higher call than what you have previously known and will be one filled with many victories and some defeats, great times and difficult times, happiness and sadness, times for celebrations and moments of grief. Regardless of what this journey entails for you, you are now ready to give your all to complete it.

There will be times when God’s call will require you to go through very difficult times. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 *‘We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-- ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.’* When persecutions or tribulations come you must always remember that God will never lead you where His grace cannot keep you. The ministry of reconciliation that God has placed in your hands will require that you live a life that is holy and separate unto Him. Today, you will be making a commitment before God and man to do just that.”

The pastor/founder now asks the candidate(s) the following question:

“You have heard God’s call on your life; do you covenant today before God and this congregation that you will do everything within your means to live a life worthy of that call?”

The candidate(s) should answer a resounding YES!

The pastor/founder now asks the following:

“God will use you in various ways to serve His people and help them to achieve all that God has called them to be. Do you commit yourself to serve the Body of Christ in such a way that you are willing to lay down your life so that others may enter the Kingdom of Heaven?”

The candidate(s) (hopefully) will still answer a resounding YES!

The pastor/founder now asks the following:

“The Word of God is a word of truth. God has called you to assist in shepherding His people, which entails directing them by your example and by your words. At times God’s Word will require you to speak necessary words of correction. Speaking the truth in love is rarely easy and most times unpopular. As one who will give an account, do you covenant with God to speak His words of truth and not shrink back in the face of adversity?”

The candidate(s) should answer a resounding YES!

Finally, the pastor/founder asks the congregation to stretch out their hands and join him as he lays his hands on the candidate(s) and prays for him/her (them).

After praying for the candidate(s), the pastor/founder presents him/her (them) to the congregation and charges the church to love and to honor him/her (them) as stated in 1 Thessalonians 5:12

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong (NLT).