

Church Commissioning Service

Consider conducting a dedication service for the mission team on the Sunday prior to their departure. This allows the church to formally participate in the sending out the group as their missionaries. There should be time for participation of both team members and the congregation in the service. Team members should be challenged to focus on their role as “carriers of the Good New”. The congregation should be challenged to be active participants through the ministry of prayer.

You may want team members to sit together in a designated area toward the front of the church. The theme of the service (including music) should be missions service and commitment. Consider testimonies from one or two team members about how God has been working in their lives to prepare them for service. A responsive reading, led by the pastor, which includes challenges to the team members and the congregation, would be appropriate. Finally, the team may be asked to kneel at the front while church members come by to lay hands on each individuals and offer a quick prayer or words of Christian encouragement.

Sample Commissioning Service

Congregational Hymn

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Scripture Commitment and Group Confession (team may read together Psalm 51: 16-17; Psalm 139: 23-24 for example)

Congregational Hymn

Message (John 13 – Jesus’ Servant Example; Luke 10 – Commissioned by Jesus; Isaiah 6 – Isaiah’s Call)

Litany of Commitment

Congregation: We present these servants before you, Oh Lord, committing to pray committing to pray consistently for them in their service to you.

Mission Team: We present ourselves to you, thankful for your call to service, thankful for your provision for service, and thankful for your leadership in our service.

Congregation: We send these, your missionaries, out as an extension of ourselves, seeking your protection and wisdom for them.

Mission Team: We acknowledge we can do nothing without you, Oh Lord, and all that will be accomplished is because of you and through you, Mighty God, in your Son Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Use them, Oh God. Use us, Oh God.

Mission Team: Use us all Oh God.

Prayer of Dedication

Laying on of Hands

Congregational Hymn

Closing Prayer