

Commissioning of a Church Plant Team

The Church Plant Team will be asked to stand. They may gather in front of the congregation.

Pastor, Elder, or another leader:

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:17 - 20

Members of [SENDING CHURCH NAME], do you send out these brothers and sisters in obedience to the command of Jesus, so that lives may be transformed by Christ?

The congregation responds:

By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, we set them apart for this ministry and send them to [REGION OR COMMUNITY OF CHURCH PLANT].

Pastor, Elder, or another leader, to the Church Plant Team:

Brothers and sisters, do you go in obedience to the command of Jesus, to make him known by word and example?

Church Plant Team:

We go, by the grace of God, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor, Elder, or another leader:

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh ^m and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:1 - 10

God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:24 - 27

Will you faithfully serve Jesus Christ in the life and ministry of this new church?

Will you be as Christ among those in [REGION OR COMMUNITY OF CHURCH PLANT], – loving them, serving them, and teaching them by his Spirit, using the gifts God has given you, to share the good news of grace, and to grow disciples of Jesus?

Church Plant Team:

We will, with God’s help.

Pastor, Elder, or another leader:

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11 - 13

Will you deny ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Church Plant Team:

We will do so, by the grace of God.

Pastor, Elder, or another leader:

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:3 - 5

Will you be diligent in doing the work of evangelism, relying on the Lord's grace to sustain and direct your lives and the witness of your church community to one another and to the world?

Church Plant Team:

We will gladly do so.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen us for the work he calls us to do.

The whole congregation joins to pray:

Heavenly Father,

we praise you that your saving love reaches down to all who call on you in faith.

Strengthen and encourage these, your servants in godly example and trust, that, led by Christ, they may be as Christ in their community.

May the good news of Jesus, the blessings of forgiveness, and the assurance of eternal life with Christ ring out from [CHURCH PLANT NAME], for your glory.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Congregation members may be invited to lay hands on the members of the Church Plant Team.

Pastor, Elder, or another leader:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, we thank you for growing your church, and for the beginning of [CHURCH PLANT NAME].

We ask that you will make these men, and women, boys and girls, modest, humble, and faithful in their ministry.

Give them the testimony of a godly conscience, and enable them to continue steadfast and strong in your Son, Jesus Christ.

May they be clothed with righteousness, and teach and live out your Word with faithfulness and gentleness.

Use their words and their life, to announce, demonstrate, and commend the gospel of Jesus, that many, many people will come to saving faith in him, being brought from death to life.

Grant also that we may see their example, and be encouraged and spurred on, to serve you and all people, always seeking your glory and the extension of your kingdom;

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.