

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

For: The 21st Century Church Leadership Team
November 11, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: **There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: **The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: **It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: **All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.**

PRESENTATION

Leader: It is my great pleasure to present to you our 21st Century Church Leadership Team: Lindsey Goodrich, Ellie Stetson, John Rowe, Bill Jones and Kevin Pleas.

These five have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this congregation, to serve our church by helping us discern God's direction for our future. They have accepted this call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

PROMISE

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Team: **We are.**

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Team: **We do, relying on God's grace.**

Leader: Members and friends of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

People: **We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

DECLARATION

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Manchester, New Hampshire, I rejoice to announce that you are recognized and affirmed your ministry as the 21st Century Church Leadership Team.

BLESSING

Leader: And now go for to love and serve with faithfulness.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

For: The 21st Century Church Leadership Team
November 11, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: **There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: **The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: **It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: **All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.**

PRESENTATION

Leader: It is my great pleasure to present to you our 21st Century Church Leadership Team: Lindsey Goodrich, Ellie Stetson, John Rowe, Bill Jones and Kevin Pleas.

These five have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this congregation, to serve our church by helping us discern God's direction for our future. They have accepted this call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

PROMISE

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Team: **We are.**

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Team: **We do, relying on God's grace.**

Leader: Members and friends of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

People: **We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

DECLARATION

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Manchester, New Hampshire, I rejoice to announce that you are recognized and affirmed your ministry as the 21st Century Church Leadership Team.

BLESSING

Leader: And now go for to love and serve with faithfulness.

People: **Thanks be to God.**