

Pastoral Installations

We have used this installation liturgy for over twenty years. The installation service clearly marks a time for the beginning of a ministry with a congregation. It describes expectations and roles to be taken by both congregation and pastor. There is a clear affirmation of support for all who are part of the congregation.

Among the participants is “Elder.” This would probably be the head elder for the congregation. He/she would also lead the congregation in the parts assigned to them. “Officer” is a representative from the conference. Most likely, it would be the one who led the church’s search committee.

Sometimes all the elders present are invited forward to greet the new pastor and family in behalf of the congregation. At times a hymn is used at this point in the service.

Typically, we give three things to the pastor in the presence of the congregation. We give him/her the keys to the church, a symbol of opening ways to God for the congregation and community. We will provide a pen (a cheap form of a computer) that represents the communication of the words of scripture. Finally, we give the pulpit to the pastor. It belongs to the conference. The pastor is charged with protecting the pulpit from all matters of things that might not be in accord with scripture and the Seventh-day Adventist church. The congregation needs to hear that the pastor has the responsibility in behalf of the conference as to who uses the holy desk.

Service of Installation

(Church’s Name)

(Pastor’s Name)

(Elder): Friends, we have gathered today to welcome our pastor, (pastor’s name) into your ministry and fellowship.

People: We welcome (pastor’s name) as God’s servant and shepherd for this time and in this place.

(Officer): Who are you that welcome him today?

People: We, who are part of the body of Christ and are called God’s chosen people, we worship in this place.

(Officer): As God’s people, you are also called to ministry.

People: Indeed we are. For we gather together in common worship. Our church doors are open to all who seek spiritual nurture. We are here to sustain one another when burdened, to extend the hand of charity, and to loose the bonds of bigotry, malice, hatred, and ill-will. We are here to share the good news of God’s love in deed and in word and to seek knowledge that each generation may grow in wisdom.

(Officer): The coming of (pastor’s name) to the pastoral ministry of this congregation marks a new step in the life of this body. As members of the (church’s name), what work do you request from your pastor? And (pastor’s name), do you accept this task?

People: We ask that you will guide us in our worship and instruct us in our learning.

(Pastor): By the grace of God, I will.

People: We ask that you will sustain us in our suffering and share with us in our joys.

(Pastor): Through God's unfailing love, I will.

People: We ask that you will challenge us in our deliberations and abide with us in our frailties.

(Pastor): In God's power, I will.

(Officer): You have heard the pledges of the one who will be your pastor. I now ask you, "Will you receive him, and will you respect and support him as one who is duly called by God?"

People: We pledge to (pastor's name) our support for his ministry among us. We will dedicate our talents and gifts in cooperative service, so that our congregation will be complete and not lacking in any good thing and live as Christ's healing agents in this church and community.

(Officer): I have heard your pledges as God's people in this place. Let us pray asking the Spirit of God to assist us in filling our calling to His service.

Prayer:(Congregation and Elder)

Spirit of God; join us together this day in our shared ministry which proclaims the life and witness of Christ. May we pledge to love each other, to agree or disagree, to restrain from speaking unkindly of others, and to avoid all forms of unfaithfulness.

Bless our pledges as we minister together and seek to nurture harmony as pastor and congregation. May we witness your gifts in one another. May we grow together in joy and wisdom as we venture forth together praising your Spirit.

Prayer of Installation

Our merciful Father in heaven,

we thank you that you have provided
faithful and gifted people to serve as pastors.

As ___(name)___ assumes responsibilities,
fill him/her with your Spirit,
endow him/her with your wisdom,
and grant him/her strength.

Make him/her a faithful worker in this place

Under his/her guidance
may your church grow in every spiritual grace,
in faith which is open and unashamed,
and in the committed service that promotes your reign in the world.

Help him/her to perform his duties with enthusiasm and humility.

In his work,
grant him/her a sense of sustained awe
which is rooted in daily adoration of you, his Lord.

Through him/her may your name be honored;
may this church be served.

May your presence be with ___(spouse)___ and ___(children)___ as they minister
alongside ___(pastor)___ .

Grant them courage and understanding.

Surround them with your love.

May you always be their support as they serve in this place.

Help us, your people,
to accept him/her gladly,
encourage him/her always,
and respect him/her for the sake of your precious Son,
our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen

Prayer of Installation

Ivan Williams

_____ **SDA Church**

Our merciful Father in heaven,
we thank you that you have provided
faithful and gifted people to serve as pastors.

As Ivan assumes responsibilities,
fill him with your Spirit,
endow him with your wisdom,
and grant him strength.

Make him a faithful worker in this place

Under his guidance
may your church grow in every spiritual grace,
in faith which is open and unashamed,
and in the committed service that promotes your reign in the world.

Help him to perform his duties with enthusiasm and humility.

In his work,
grant him a sense of sustained awe
which is rooted in daily adoration of you, his Lord.

Through him may your name be honored;
may this church be served.

May your presence be with Kathleen and their children as they ministers alongside Ivan.
Grant them courage and understanding.
Surround them with your love.
May you always be their support as they serve in this place.

Help us, your people,
to accept him gladly,
encourage him always,
and respect him for the sake of your precious Son,
our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Prayer Following the Installation of Ivan Williams as Pastor at _____

Lord, on this day we mark a transition

We have installed Ivan Williams as pastor of the _____ Congregation

You have heard their words of commitment toward mutual ministry

We ask you continued presence with both pastor and congregation
as they represent you in this community

We come in gracious thanksgiving . . .

for your continued presence in our midst
for encouraging us in our walk with you
for hearing about our needs and responding to them
for your touch and your healing

We are most grateful for the gift of your son

for in him we have the assurance of salvation
in him we have a place with you in the kingdom to come
Thank you for this unmerited gift.

And now

May your presence always guide this congregation
May these people with their new pastor learn from you

Teach their eyes

to see your love
which is found in you,
in your word,
and in your people

Teach their mouths

to speak of your love and truth
of those who need to hear of your love and salvation

Teach their hands

to serve each other and their community
To help those who struggle with life
and who search for you

Teach their feet

to walk in your ways
So people may know you and your love

And now may the God

who **shakes** heaven and earth
whom **death could not contain**
who lives to **disturb and to heal us**

bless both Pastor Furness and this congregation with power
as they go forth to proclaim your Gospel of grace

Amen

Other Materials

Prayer at the Entrance into Ministry

Lord on this day we celebrate a new beginning for _____ .
We mark this day as he enters the ministry
of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
A ministry where he serves
Southeastern California Conference,
and the _____ (name of church) _____ .

He/She has heard your voice
And with the support of _____ (name of spouse) _____ .
He/She has dared to follow your call to ministry.

May your presence always guide him/her
Teach him/her those things most needed in your ministry.

May you teach his/her eyes
to see your love
found in you, in your word, and in your people

May you teach his/her mouth
to speak your truth for people
who need to hear of you and your love and salvation

May you teach his/her hand
to serve your people
who struggle with life and who search for you

May you teach his/her feet
to walk with your people
who need your love

And now may the God
who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to disturb and to heal us,
bless _____ (name and spouse) _____ .
with power as they go forth and proclaim His Gospel.

Amen

Prayer

O Creator and Mighty God

you have promised

strength for the weak,

rest for the laborers,

light for the way,

help from above,

unfailing sympathy,

undying love.

O Creator and Mighty God,

help us to continue in your promises.

That we

may be strong and courageous,

and that

we may not be frightened and dismayed

For you Lord are with us

where ever we may go.

Amen.

Adapted from a prayer from Pakistan and Joshua 1:9