

Liturgy of Commitment

Greeting

Church Representative:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

Recognition

Addressing the congregation:

Today we enter into a covenant with Lexington Theological Seminary and [name of seminarian] as s/he prepares for congregational ministry by pursuing theological education. The commitment to receive a seminarian and to serve as a place for a seminarian's practice of ministry is one way a local church affirms a person's call from God to prepare for leadership in Christ's church.

Addressing the student:

Your intention to prepare yourself for congregational ministry—to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the rites of the church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership—will require diligent and prayerful work. We promise to assist you in that work and in your pilgrimage of learning. We covenant with Lexington Theological Seminary to provide opportunities for you to minister to us, teach us, and learn from us. We pledge to be a partner in your formation for ministry by helping you develop competencies in the skills for ministry, the practical wisdom you will need as a minister, and the spiritual formation that will strengthen your service. With you, we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the future opens before you, and we invite you to call on us wherever we may be helpful to you in your preparation and study.

Promises

Church Representative:

Addressing the seminarian:

As you enter this covenant with our congregation, do you promise to seek our guidance and wisdom, to receive our support, and to minister to us faithfully?

Seminarian:

I do, with God's help.

Church Representative:

Addressing the congregation:

Do you, the members of this congregation, as you enter this covenant with [name of seminarian] and with Lexington Theological Seminary, pledge to support [name of seminarian] as s/he continues the pilgrimage of learning? Do you agree to receive his/her preaching, teaching, administration, care, and leadership, and do you promise to sustain him/her with constructive feedback, encouragement, and support?

Members of the Congregation:

We do, with God's help.

Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

God, giver of gifts for the body of Christ,
we thank you for those in our generation
who hear and answer your call to prepare for ministry in your Church.

We thank you for institutions of learning
that nurture their call and prepare them for service.

Grant your Holy Spirit to [name of seminarian]
that s/he may grow in faith,
be filled with courage,
and increase in wisdom.

Grant that we, too, may grow in faith
as we learn to support his/her theological education
and become a partner in his/her formation.

Declaration

Church Representative:

In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare that [name of congregation], [name of seminarian] and
Lexington Theological Seminary have entered into a covenant of formation for ministry.

All:

Thanks be to God!

[Note: Lexington Theological Seminary is named as a covenant partner in this service. If there is anyone present (e.g. the student's mentor) who can represent the seminary, she or he could participate along with the Church Representative.]