

**A SERVICE OF RE-COMMITMENT &
RE-MEMBERING GOD'S CALL**

(adapted from "An Act of Commitment," by The Iona Community)

PRELUDE "I Will Follow"

Chris Tomlin

WELCOME

Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

OPENING WORDS

God our Creator has created us to be all we can be, to do all we can do to build God's kingdom on earth as in heaven. You are here because God has called you to serve the church as pastors, and God will continue to lead you to discover within yourselves what your commitment to that call means.

Jesus our Teacher calls us to a life of service in what we say and what we do, and to be followers of Christ in mind, body, and spirit.

The Holy Spirit guides us to continue to listen to God who never stops calling us. It is a continuous process of being called, serving, praying, listening, and being called again, to remember our call and our commitment to this holy calling.

MATTHEW 9:9

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says,

To Pharisees minding their business, and fishermen mending their nets:

Follow me!

To the money-handlers, the lawyers, the intellectuals, the power-brokers:

Follow me!

To women and men, married and single, young and old, country folk and city dwellers:

Follow me!

Then and now, in person and on Zoom, willing or doubting, ready or not, Jesus says:

Follow me!

OPENING PRAYER

God, of many names, we come from many places. We carry many prayers, joys and sorrows on our hearts and minds. Hear our prayers and remind us that we are worthy.

Called to serve your church, we seek your wisdom and guidance.

We long for great churches and eager congregations, but it seldom happens. You send us to the outbacks where many of our churches and people are struggling. We long for the best seats in the house, and it seems you hand us a ticket for the last row in the balcony.

But thank you God, anyway, for calling us to serve your church.

Wherever we go you have said you will be there, waiting and preparing a place for us at your table. So, in our ministry, hold onto us and guide us, that we may continue to be inspired and renewed for serving and being your church. Amen.

HYMN

“The Summons”

TFWS 2130

READING: JOHN 21:15-17

INVITATION TO COMMITMENT

Remember when you felt called to ministry? You wondered if this could be true. If God could really call you, and if so, what would it mean for you and your life. Jesus called his disciples and asked them to make a commitment to feed his sheep.

This invitation to commitment is an opportunity to re-member and re-commit ourselves to life and service in the church. And so, I ask you to think once again about your call to ministry:

Do you feel that God has called you to the life of a Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church?

I do.

Do you wish to continue to serve the church and pursue your completion of the Course of Study?

I do, with God's help.

Will you be faithful in your spiritual formation and in the life of the church?

I will, with God's help.

Jesus says, I call you my friend, therefore as friends in Christ, let us pray together,
Loving God, you have called me to serve your church. In the presence of these friends, I recommit myself to you, to follow Jesus, and to walk with you. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Having accepted God's call, let us affirm our faith:

We believe in God our Creator,

who is older than eternity and younger than our next breath,

who is beyond words yet knows us by name.

We believe in Jesus Christ,

who gave worth to every human life,

who touched the untouchable, loved the unlovable,

who knew our suffering and death, and rose to bring new life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

who leads us in the way of truth and love,

who works through us for care of creation

and the healing of the nations.

We celebrate our faith in God who loves us and never stops calling us.

Amen.

HYMN

“Spirit of the Living God”

UMH 393

READING: 1 Peter 1:13-15

According to Peter, our whole life is a search for wholeness, but we cannot make this happen on our own. We need God and we need to do our part both inside and outside the church, by being holy in all things. We are inheritors of rich Methodist traditions that help us do this with scripture, tradition, experience, and reason, and through which we are able to continually learn old and new ways to be the church and to grow closer to God.

HYMN "Take Time to Be Holy"

UMH 395

READING: John 15:9-11

ONE LAST THING

There's one last thing for us to consider on being pastors and that is to maintain joy for what we do. Jesus says abide in God's love, so your joy may be complete. Reuben Job refers to this as falling in love with God.

But how do we know this? The only way to do it is to show the truth of our faith in how we live our lives. It takes commitment and it takes time to do the work of the church, and to spend time alone with God. Jesus calls us friend, so it is important to spend time with anyone we call friend, and when we do that brings joy. I say this as one who is moving closer to the end of the journey, in the church and in life. Spend time in prayer and give up control because you're not in charge. Let God be God and you be the pastor and that, my friends, will save your life and your ministry, and make your joy complete. Amen.

HYMN "I've Got the Joy"

George W. Cooke

BLESSING

Go and be the church
in the words you speak and the way you live.
Fall in love with God,
and let that love fill you with all joy,
in this life and the next.
Amen.

POSTLUDE "If You're Happy"

On Pointe

RESOURCES

"An Act of Commitment," from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, (Glasgow, UK, 2017: Wild Goose Pub.).
UMC Book of Worship