

Leader: As You _____ go under the calling of God and the blessing of this church to take the gospel of Christ across some cultural and geographic boundaries.

Congregation: We support this valuable and unique ministry.

Leader: The Lord himself has commanded us to go into the entire world. This ministry _____ is one of many ways that we obey Him in fulfilling the Great Commission.

_____ **team: We will pray for you that the Holy Spirit will fill and empower and guide you.**

Leader: The _____ teams will be inviting people to seek God's face, to receive God's love in Christ, and to radiate God's Spirit in the world. The people to whom they go will have many spiritual, emotional, physical and psychological needs.

All: To live up to this calling, we need the filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Jesus Christ has promised to always be with us. Jesus invites us to abide in Him and promises to abide in us.

All: We thank Jesus for this promise. Strengthened by the awareness of Jesus in us, we offer ourselves to God's purposes and accept this call.

Leader: There will be many challenges on this journey, but we are led by the greatest of all shepherds. Jesus knows where we will find what we need. We are all part of this adventure of seeing where Jesus will lead.

_____ **teams: We joyfully offer our gifts and talents, our energy and enthusiasm to follow Jesus' lead in the many challenges that our ministry will bring.**

Leader: May the Shepherd of all of our souls lead you, bless you and make you a blessing as you serve. May that same Shepherd also lead the rest of us, bless us and make us a blessing wherever we will serve Him.

Commissioning Service

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

You have responded to that command in ministry here, and now in mission abroad.

In this mission _____, will you seek to make and sustain disciples?

As Jesus taught and preached the gospel, will you tell the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed?

As Jesus reached out to heal and to love, will you reach out in compassion?

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, will you nurture the children?

As Jesus prayed for God's guidance and strength, will you turn to God for help?

As Jesus sent 70 disciples out two by two, will you work with those who serve with you in mission?

Team... We will

Will you the members of this congregation support this mission with your prayers? We will.

In light of these commitments, we the members of _____ Church commission you to serve God and the church in this ministry.

Sovereign Lord, you have saved us by your grace and have called us to serve you with our lives, promising to be with us always. Be close to and the other members of the mission team. Keep them safe, and give them strength and wisdom, compassion and courage that they may fulfill your will for them in. Bind them to you and to each other with the faith, hope, and love of the gospel, and lead them along your way. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND COVENANT SERVICE FOR MISSION TRIP GROUPS AND CONGREGATIONS

(Use this resource to send a group on a mission trip and involve the congregation.)

"Act for Transformation -- Be Transformed for Action"

Leader: You have been preparing for this mission experience.

Mission Trip Group: Now we embark on the trip.

Mission Trip Participant A: to recognize Jesus in the vulnerable, the excluded, and the outcast.

Mission Trip Participant B: and commit ourselves to participating in acts of transformation that end these realities.

Leader: You have been preparing for this mission experience.

Mission Trip Group: Now we embark on the trip.

Participant A: to recognize God's love in the world.

Participant B: and commit our presence and gifts and skills to embodying that love.

Leader: You have been preparing for this mission experience.

Mission Trip Group: Now we embark on the trip.

Participant A: to recognize ways society is organized that limit or deny opportunities for people to live the fullness of life that God intends.

Participant B: and commit ourselves to personal changes and public advocacy when we return home that the world can be transformed.

Leader (to congregation): You have been preparing for this mission experience.

Congregations: Now we send you out.

Congregant A: with gratitude for your commitment to act for transformation and to be transformed for action.

Congregant B: with prayers for your safety.

Congregant C: with commitment to receive your testimony when you return as part of our own journeys of faith.

Congregant D: with commitment to act in advocacy as prompted by the group's experiences in order to transform the world so that all may live the fullness of life that God intends.

All: Thanks be to God for the opportunity in this mission trip to act for transformation and to be transformed for action. May we be faithful to that calling. Amen.

Commissioning

We embark on this _____ EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED --
To meet God in new ways,

Congregation Side One: **Congregation Side Two:**

I was hungry and you gave me food

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink

I was a stranger and you welcomed me

_____ **Group:**

To be present with our sisters and brothers in difficult life situations

Congregation Side One: **Congregation Side Two:**

I was naked and you gave me clothing

I was sick and you took care of me

I was in prison and you visited me

_____ **Group:**

To ask new questions of faith,

Congregation:

When was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?

_____ **Group:**

We commit ourselves anew to action as part of
God's mission in the world.

Congregation:

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

One from Congregation:

Now as we send you out – we commission you --

Go with our gratitude for your willingness to embody your
faith in the world through this mission trip

Go with our prayers for your safety.

Go with our expectation that you will experience God,
yourselves, and the world in new ways
and will return to live that faith.

One from _____ Group:

Now as you send us out – we commission you --

Pray for us and the people among whom we serve

Receive our stories of love and transformation when we
return and open yourselves to God's transformation

Engage even more faithfully in this community,
the wider United States, and the globe
inspired by the experiences of this mission trip.

All: Amen.

