

## AN ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF AN APPOINTMENT OF A PASTOR

-from *The Book of Worship*

*This order is intended to be used within a service of worship by a congregation whose pastor has been newly appointed. The leader may be the chairperson of the PPRC or another designated leader in the congregation. The service may be adapted as needed.*

*Before the reading of the scripture lessons, the pastor comes before the Lord's table, and the person officiating says to the congregation:*

Dear friends, today we welcome *Name*, who has been appointed to serve as our pastor. We believe that he/she is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our Bishop.

Leader to pastor:

*Name*, you have been sent to live among us as a bearer of the Word of God; a minister of the Sacraments; and a sustainer of the love, order, and discipleship of the people of God.

Pastor:

Today I reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

Leader to congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness, will you who celebrate this new beginning support and uphold *Name* in these ministries?

Congregation:

We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Leader:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger;

Congregation:

who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH 94-95), Glory Be to the Father (UMH 70-71), or another doxology may be sung.

The leader continues:

Let us pray. Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together, with *Name* as our pastor. Give him (her) and us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for one another and challenge one another that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love, and offering our gifts and talents to your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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