**Aug. 10, 2025 - Minister Affirmation Service**

Elders will sit up front and minimize transition times between sections. As one elder leaves the next should be on the stage or walking up the steps.

**Affirmation of a New Preaching Minister**

Theme: **Set Apart** (Romans 1:1/Jeremiah 1:4)

**1. Opening Song**

**2. Welcome & Call to Worship (**Don Fitzgerald**)**

Scripture: Colossians 3:16–17

* Welcome the congregation and introduce the purpose: the affirmation and charge to our new preaching minister.
* Acknowledge the biblical tradition of setting apart leaders for service (cf. Acts 13:2–3).

**3. Elder’s Charge to the Minister (**Don Fitzgerald**)**

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

* From 2 Timothy 2:15: Present yourself to God as one approved, rightly handling the word of truth.
* Encourage the minister to be faithful in:
  + Preaching and teaching the Word with compassion, courage and integrity.
  + Living as an example to the congregation.

**4. Congregational Singing**

* Songs:2-3 songs

**5. Opening Prayer (**Steve Walker**)**

Focus:

* Thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness.
* Guidance and wisdom for the minister and the congregation.
* Unity and spiritual growth.

**6. Scripture Reading on the Call to Ministry (**Bret Blackford**)**

* 1 Timothy 4:12–16 – Don’t neglect the gift given by God; devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture and teaching.
* 2 Timothy 4:1–5 – Preach the Word with patience and careful instruction.
* Ephesians 4:11–13 – Ministers are called to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

**7. Communion Thoughts (**Brad Stevens)

**8a. Minister’s Response (**Andrew Owens**) 5-minutes**

* Share a brief testimony or personal call to ministry.
* Express commitment to:
  + Preach the Word faithfully.
  + Care for the people lovingly.
  + Serve the mission of Christ with humility and dedication.

Example Affirmation: \*“With God’s help, I commit to faithfully proclaim His Word, to serve this body of believers, and to shepherd.

**8b. Share whatever is on your heart (**Andrew Owens**) 10-min or less**

**9. Closing Song(s) 2 or 3 songs**

**10. Congregational Affirmation, prayer and laying on of hands – (**Dave Weiler)

* Elder invites the congregation to stand to affirm support
* “We affirm our love, prayers, and partnership with Andrew, Lydia and their family, and commit to walking alongside him as he serves the Lord in this congregation.”
* Elders and wives gather around the minister and family in middle of auditorium
* Lay hands on him and pray over him

**Dismiss worship service**

**11. Andrew introduce his family (get slides of family) - auditorium**

**12. Prayer before Fellowship Meal and dismiss (**Steve**) – gym**