

# 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**