

Service for Commissioning
Commissioners to the 224th General Assembly
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
June 2, 2020

Vilmarie

Thank you Mr. Moderator. I now call our attention to the commissioning of our General Assembly Commissioners.

In Baptism each Christian is called to discipleship and sent in service to the world. God also calls people to particular acts of service in the church and world: in our case today, in the larger church, through service as commissioners to the General Assembly; and beyond the church, cooperating with others who work for evangelism, compassion, justice and peace, and care of creation.

Anita, David, Laurie, and Phil

You have been called to service as commissioners to the 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) and today we are grateful for your calling and commission you to this service.

Hear now these words from scripture. As you respond, we will keep you muted but you may say the words wherever you are.

One: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

All: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.

One: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

One: We are called by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

All: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of heaven to the world.

One: The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

G.A. commissioners, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ.

Chuck:

Anita, David, Laurie, and Phil

God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and the counselor and guide for our lives?

Will you in your life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, conduct yourself in an exemplary manner, and demonstrate the highest moral values?

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors and to work for the reconciliation of the world?

Will you serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Do we, the members of Blackhawk Presbytery, promise to support, encourage and pray for our General Assembly commissioners as they fulfill their responsibilities?

Vilmarie

Please hear our Commissioning Prayer:

Almighty God,

in Jesus Christ you called disciples

and, by the Holy Spirit,

made them one church to serve you.

Be with members of the General Assembly.

Help them to welcome new things you are doing in the world

and to respect old things you keep and use.

In their deliberation,

bring about what is best for us and for all people.

As they meet, let your Spirit guide

so that the whole church may be joined
in love and service to Jesus Christ,
who, having gone before us,
is coming to meet us
in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

Charge and Blessing:

Commissioners, you are now commissioned to your service. Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Let us close with this blessing from scripture

May the God of peace
make you holy in every way,
and keep your whole being,
spirit, soul, and body,
free from every fault
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen. (*1 Thess. 5:23*)

You may all respond by clapping where you are!