

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Installation of an Interim Pastor

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America holds the congregation and the office of ordained ministry in high regard. Consequently, the ELCA invests resources in support of congregations during times of change in pastoral leadership. The interim between permanent pastors provides opportunity for evaluation, renewal, and transition from the extended service of a previous pastor; and can help congregations to remain faithful, creative, and vital in mission and ministry.

Installer: Having been authorized by the Church to install _____, our co-worker in the Gospel, as Interim Pastor of _____, I now ask for certification of this appointment.

Congregational Officer: We, of _____, after prayerful deliberation, have appointed _____ to be Interim Pastor. I present him/her for installation under the terms of our agreement.

Installer: Our Lord Jesus Christ says: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

And again: "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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Hear the words addressed to Timothy: "Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Installer: Pastor _____, in the presence of this congregation will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitution of the church?

Interim Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installer: Will you preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church?

Interim Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installer: Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people? Will you nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, leading them by your own example in the use of the means of grace, in faithful service and holy living?

Interim Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installer: Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Interim Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installer: Will you share responsibility for the ministry at _____ with the Reverend _____?

Interim Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installer: Will you covenant to so minister with us during this interim that we are able to value the past, plan for the future and minister in the present?

Interim Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installer: Will you agree not to become a candidate for the position of permanent pastor?

Interim Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installer: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Congregation: AMEN!

Installer: And you, people of God, will you receive this messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him/her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

Congregation: We will.

Installer: Will you pray for him/her, help and honor him/her for his/her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

Congregation: We will.

Installer: Will you agree not to consider him/her as a candidate for the position of permanent pastor?

Congregation: We will.

Installer: The office of Interim Pastor of _____ is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.

Congregation: Amen.