

SUGGESTED SERVICE OF CELEBRATION TO BE USED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF A NEW APPOINTMENT

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The appointment of a new pastor to a church is an important event in the life of the pastor, his/her family and each member of the congregation. This service of worship allows us to celebrate the shared ministry which we shall assume, to pledge loyalty and support to each other, and to seek God's help and guidance in fulfilling this awesome privilege and responsibility.

THE CHARGE TO THE PASTOR

 (name) , you have accepted the challenge of ministry through the church of Jesus Christ. The Cabinet of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church has appointed you to carry out this ministry with the people and staff of the (church) United Methodist congregation. I now invite you to enter into a covenant relationship with this new congregation.

Your ministry is one that is to be shared with God and with every member of this church. Do you promise to perform this task with loyalty, to preach and teach the Word of God, to administer the sacraments, to share God's love through deeds and relationships as well as words, and to fulfill the daily responsibilities of the pastoral office?

RESPONSE OF THE PASTOR

With God's daily help, I do. To the people and staff with whom I have been called to share life, I pledge my concern and my loyalty. I want to be as open to your ministry to me and my fellow human beings as I trust you will be to mine. I pray that I may help you grow in spiritual grace, the joy of living, and in service to your fellow human beings.

THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Leader: Do you, the members of this church, receive (pastor's name) as your pastor and teacher, promising both to labor with him/her in the ministry of Jesus Christ and to give him/her your respect and loyal support?

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

People: We do, with God's guidance and grace. As a part of this church we pledge our loyalty and support. We shall strive to create among us a caring community. We will pray for you, and we trust that you will pray for us so that God may bless and prosper His Church. We, the members of the (name of church) are happy to receive (pastor's name) as our pastor and teacher, promising both to labor with him/her in the ministry of Jesus Christ and to give him/her our prayerful support and love.