

## COMMISSIONING OF SYNOD PARISH DEACONS

*This rite is set within the service of Holy Communion following the sermon and hymn of the day.  
The Nicene or Apostles' creeds may precede the rite.*

*Presentation of the Candidate (Candidate stands before the altar.)*

**Pastor of the Congregation:** I present Candidate's name to be commissioned as a synod parish deacon. He/she has been recommended by me, properly prepared, and approved by the bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

**Bishop's Representative:** Those commissioned to be Synod Parish Deacons are accountable to the pastor and serve in the congregation. Within the one ministry of the Church, the synod parish deacon serves as a bridge between the ministry of Word and Sacrament and the ministry of all the baptized in the congregation. Through the pastor, the synod parish deacon may serve the needy, care for the sick, and comfort the distressed. The synod parish deacon may teach and perform specific liturgical functions within the congregation and its worship life. Through words and actions the synod parish deacon brings God's love to all people.

*The Examination*

**Pastor:** Candidate's name, being fully accountable to me, the Pastor of this congregation, will you serve as a synod parish deacon in this congregation for a term to run no longer than concurrent with the Pastor's call in this congregation?

R. I will, and ask God to help me.

**Pastor:** Name of congregation, a congregation of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and the norm of its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

Will you, therefore, serve in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

R. I will, and I ask God to help me.

**Pastor:** Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

R. I will, and I ask God to help me.

**Pastor:** Will you witness in word and deed, and by your own example encourage God's people in faithful service and holy living?

R. I will, and I ask God to help me.

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

C. AMEN.

*Congregational Affirmation*

**Pastor:** Members of the *name of congregation*, will you receive *Candidate's name*, commissioned this day to be a synod parish deacon, serving God's people here, and affirm his/her service among you through continued prayer and support?

**C. We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**Bishop's Representative:** *The Prayer of Commissioning*

*The candidate kneels. The bishop's assistant leads the prayer.*

The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

*The Congregation's pastor and the bishop's representative lay both hands on the head of the candidate. Other deacons present may also participate if the pastor so chooses.*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us the way of servanthood. We praise you for the mission that you have set before this congregation. We praise you for calling this servant to this ministry.

Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Candidate's name* whom you have called to be a synod parish deacon in this congregation. Guide, bless, and keep her/him in her/his serving, that she/he may faithfully carry out the ministry entrusted to her/him, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Pastor:** Deacon *name*, this ministry is committed to you in the Name of the (+) Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the people of the *name of congregation* say:

**C. AMEN.**

**Presentation:** *a symbol of the diaconal ministry is presented by the congregation's pastor to the deacon.*

*(Wear this stole) or (use this symbol) as a sign of your commissioning to serve the Lord and his people.*

*The deacon takes the symbol.*

**Bishop's Representative:** Members of the *name of congregation*, I present to you *Deacon's name*, commissioned as a synod parish deacon in the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**C. AMEN. Thanks be to God.**

*The service continues with the Prayers of Intercession which may be led by the new synod parish deacon.*

*Revised 1/2017*