

## COMMISSIONING OF PARISH LAY MINISTERS

*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.)*

**Council President:** I present Candidate's name to be commissioned as a Parish Lay Minister. He/she has been recommended by the pastor, properly prepared, and approved by the bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

**Pastor:** Those commissioned to be Parish Lay Ministers are accountable to the pastor and serve in the congregation. Within the one ministry of the Church, the Parish Lay Minister 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 Parish Lay Minister may serve the needy, care for the sick, and comfort the distressed. The Parish Lay Minister may teach and perform specific liturgical functions within the congregation and its worship life. Through words and actions, the parish lay minister 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 parish lay minister 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 Parish Lay Minister, 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.**

**Pastor:** *The Prayer of Commissioning*

*The candidate kneels.*

The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

*The Congregation's pastor and (if applicable) the bishop's representative lay both hands on the head of the candidate. Other parish lay ministers 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 Parish Lay Minister 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:** *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 parish lay minister.*

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

*The parish lay minister takes the symbol.*

**Pastor:** Members of the *name of congregation*, I present to you *name*, commissioned as a Parish Lay Minister in *name of congregation* of 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 Parish Lay Minister.*

*Revised 8/2025*