

Installation of the Pastor

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area of the ELCA

Installation is a liturgy rich in meaning. Among other things installation makes real and visible the fact that a pastor has been invested with the office of Word and Sacrament by the Church (bishop) and the faith community (congregation).

Installation (whether it is for a senior pastor, associate pastor, or lay minister) is also a welcoming, festive event. Invite the pastors and leaders of neighboring congregations (both Lutheran and others), as well as civic leaders, business leaders, and friends. To accommodate them, it would be best to schedule the service at a time other than Sunday morning. Plan for a reception afterwards.

Ordinarily the dean of the conference presides over the service up to and including the installation. When the newly installed pastor assumes the office of pastor (rubric #9 in the Service of Installation), he or she becomes the Presiding Minister for the remainder of the service. The Assisting Minister and the Preacher may be persons jointly selected by the newly installed pastor, the dean, and the leadership of the congregation. Laity or visiting ministers serve as lector, cantor, communion assistants, etc.

When the bishop or bishop assistant is invited and able to be present, he or she may be the Presiding Minister for the first part of the service. The newly installed pastor will be the Presiding Minister following the Rite of Installation. The dean serves as assisting minister throughout the service and officiates at the Rite of Installation.

The service begins with the entrance hymn (invoking the Holy Spirit, or a seasonal hymn). The order of procession is: crucifer, acolyte, visiting pastors, assisting minister(s), presiding minister. The pastor to be installed is seated *in the congregation* at the beginning. The service, including Eucharist, follows good Lutheran principles and local practice.

The rite of installation follows the hymn of the day

and uses the rubrics in *Occasional Services*, with one exception. When the representative of the congregation presents the pastor (5), other members could take their places at the font, pulpit and altar and tell the pastor the substance of the call, i.e. "*You have been called to be among us to baptize and forgive sins, etc.*" (12). Following this the Presiding Minister addresses the pastor and congregation with the Bible readings (6). The Presiding Minister continues, asking the questions; the pastor being installed answering from the heart. When the congregation stands, other pastors come forward. They join the blessing by laying their hands on the shoulders of their colleague, then step back, but not yet to their seats. The Assisting Minister offers the Prayers of the Church [prepared locally] (11). Visiting pastors return to their seats. Finally, the Presiding Minister presents the newly installed pastor: "*I present to you your new pastor. Welcome your pastor!*" People applaud.

The new pastor may respond briefly. The now installed pastor, as Presiding Minister, offers the greeting of peace. The offering should be designated, in part, for the **Bishop's MAD Money Fund (Mission / Assistance / DiscipleLife fund)**. It may also be designated, in part, for a local benevolence of the new pastor's choosing. The service continues with the Eucharist. Following the benediction a recessional hymn is sung. The Assisting Minister dismisses the congregation. A reception usually follows! Photographs should be taken sometime following the service for local use and for mission area publication.

Propers for the Service

Color: *Color of the Day*

Prayer of the Day: *Installation*

Lessons: *Those appointed for Installation or others selected by the newly installed*

Preface: *Apostles*