

Commissioning of a Lay Preacher

1 SENTENCES

There are diverse gifts:

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God:

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways:

**but it is the same God
whose purpose is achieved through them all.**

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:

and there is no gift without its corresponding service.

There is one ministry of Christ:

and in this ministry we all share.

Together we are the body of Christ:

and individually members of it.

*Based on 1 Corinthians 12:4ff.
and Basis of Union, para. 13*

2 PRESENTATION

The presiding minister addresses the people:

The Uniting Church provides for the exercise
by men and women
of the gifts God bestows upon them
for the building up of the Church.

The office of lay preacher
is a ministry in which persons may participate
in the proclamation of the gospel.

The Church seeks to recognise those
who are called by God to the work of preaching
and who have the gifts of the Spirit for this ministry.
The Church provides for their training and accreditation.

In the act of commissioning,
lay preachers of the Uniting Church in Australia
are authorised to lead worship and preach
in the congregation in which they hold membership,
and in other congregations to which they may be invited.

*The candidate is presented to the presiding minister
by a lay member of presbytery, normally from the
candidate's congregation.*

I present Viliami Afeaki.

He has successfully completed the preparation
required by the Church,
and has made application through the Congregation of
Mount Isa to the Presbytery of North Queensland
for accreditation as a lay preacher.

The presbytery has now resolved to commission him.

3 THE VOWS

The minister asks the candidate:

Viliani,
do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you receive the witness to Christ
in the holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments;
and do you undertake to preach from these?

I do.

Being guided by the Basis of Union
of the Uniting Church in Australia,
will you live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church?

With God's help I will.

Relying on God's grace,
do you promise to carry out the duties of your office?

I do.

The minister says:

May God give you strength to fulfil these vows;
and to him be the glory
in the Church and in Christ Jesus
from generation to generation for ever.

Amen.

4 ACT OF COMMISSIONING

Those appointed by the presbytery to join with the
presiding minister in the laying on of hands come
forward.

The minister says:

Beloved in Christ,
let us pray in silence for Viliani
before we commission him for the work
to which we believe the Holy Spirit has called him/her.

The candidate kneels.

After a time of silence the minister says:

Almighty God,
in every age you have chosen servants
to speak your word to your people.
We thank you that you have called Viliani to serve you.
May he have the same mind which was in Christ Jesus
and be a faithful disciple,
proclaiming the truth of the gospel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hands are laid on the candidate's head and the
presiding minister
says:

Viliani, receive the Holy Spirit
for the ministry of lay preacher.

The people respond:

Amen.

The Aaronic Blessing may be said or sung by the people, (*Together in Song*, 776; *Australian Hymn Book*, 572), or said by the minister.

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.**

Numbers 6:24-26

5 DECLARATION

The candidate stands.

The presiding minister says:

Viliani,
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I declare you to be a lay preacher
in the Uniting Church in Australia.

The people may applaud. :

A representative of the presbytery presents the Lay Preacher's certificate.

A lay preacher or elder from the parish presents a Bible on behalf of the parish.

The new lay preacher is given the right hand of fellowship by members of the presbytery and others as appropriate.

The new lay preacher may make a brief statement concerning his/her call to this ministry.

6 PRAYERS

Intercessions for the following may be included in Prayers of the

People:

The newly-commissioned lay preacher and his/her family

The life and mission of the congregations within the parish

The work of the presbytery

The witness of lay preachers within the Uniting Church in Australia