

The Commissioning of a Search Committee

When the vestry has organized a Search Committee to seek nominees and candidates for a position opening in a congregation, it is important to publicly recognize and commission the members of the committee for this sacred ministry. The following is a form that may be used or adapted for the blessing and commission of the committee.

The commissioning should take place at a Sunday liturgy – or at each liturgy on a Sunday. This form is written to fit in with Prayers of the People during the Eucharist. In cases where this is used, it is recommended to omit the Confession of Sin for that liturgy. This allows us to end the Liturgy of the Word with the commissioning and the Peace.

At the end of the prayers of the people, the Sr. Warden comes to the crossing in the church building and faces the people. Members of the Search Committee stand in the aisle facing the Sr. Warden.

Jr. Warden or other Parish Official:

I present to you *these persons* to be installed as members of the *Rector/Vicar/Chaplain* Search Committee in this congregation.

Sr. Warden: God will not overlook your work and the love which you show for his sake.
Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God:

Committee Members: Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Sr. Warden: As members of the Search Committee, you are hereby charged to diligently search for a candidate to be the next *Rector/Vicar/Chaplain* of _____ Church, _____, Diocese of Western Louisiana. You are given the authority to act as a sub-committee of the Vestry and to rely upon the services and resources of the Diocese of Western Louisiana, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring a call to the Vestry. As members of this congregation, know that we will pray for you and give you the support necessary to fulfill your charge. May God, who has given you the ability to fulfill this ministry, give you the Grace to accomplish it.

Let us pray. *(A period of prolonged silence is kept for private prayer)*

Regard, O Lord, our supplications, and confirm with your heavenly benediction your *servants* whom we admit today to this ministry; that with sincere devotion of mind and body *they* may offer you a service acceptable to your divine Majesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the Name of God and of this congregation, and on behalf of the Vestry, I commission you as the Search Committee for _____ Church.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *AMEN.*

(The Celebrant continues the worship with the Peace)