

A Service to Welcome a Youth Worker

Notes

- 1 This service is to be used to mark the commencement of a placement of a youth worker.
- 2 The introduction of a youth worker into his/her placement is an act of the presbytery or other council of the church which has oversight of the youth worker.
- 3 The service is conducted at a time and place determined by the presbytery, normally in one of the churches of the presbytery, and in the presence of members of the presbytery, the congregations with which the youth worker will be associated and representatives of those among whom the youth worker will serve.
- 4 The introduction of a youth worker into a placement other than a parish is performed by a presbytery, a synod or the Assembly, as appropriate, and this order of service should be adapted to suit the circumstances. (Regulation 2.11.3(b),(c) and (d)).
- 5 The chairperson of presbytery, or another of its members appointed by the presbytery, presides at the service, shall put the questions to the youth worker and offer the prayer which follows. Members of the presbytery or parish may be invited by the presbytery to lead other parts of the service.
- 6 The chairperson should consult with the youth worker and people of the parish or placement in the planning of the service. As far as practicable, involvement of a wide age range should be sought in the planning and leading of worship. This applies particularly to those who are to be involved in any presentation of symbols. These symbols should need no explanation.
- 7 The service to follow is not complete in itself. Only that portion which directly pertains to the welcome is provided. This is to give scope for the service to be as creative as is practicable and/or desired, not least in the use of contemporary expressions of the creative and visual arts.
- 8 Before the service commences, the youth worker, with members of his/her family, as appropriate, may be escorted into the church and sit in a front pew or other convenient place.
- 9 Bible readings appropriate for this service are set out in Note 8 of the Service of Commissioning of a Youth Worker.
- 10 If liturgical colours are used, the colour for the service should be that of the season of the Christian Year. The youth worker may wear an alb and blue UCA scarf.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The chairperson of the presbytery describes the ministry of a youth worker referring to section 2 of the Service of Commissioning, and provides detail of the ministry in the particular location concerned.

The youth worker stands and is introduced to all and welcomed by an appropriate representative of the placement in which he/she will serve.

2. QUESTIONS TO THE YOUTH WORKER

The chairperson addresses the youth worker:

In view of the solemn trust we now give you,
we ask you to reaffirm the vows you made in your commissioning.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you believe you are called
by God and the church
to the ministry of youth worker?

I do.

Do you receive the witness to Christ
in the holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do.

Do you adhere to the Basis of Union
of the Uniting Church in Australia;
and do you submit yourself to the church's discipline?

I do.

Will you assist the church
to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to young people,
and to build them up in the faith?

With God's help, I will.

Will you encourage young people
to offer their faith, gifts and energy to God
in the life of the church and the community?

With God's help, I will.

Will you seek opportunities to enhance your gifts and skills in youth ministry?

With God's help, I will.

Will you take part in the work of *this presbytery* and other councils of the Uniting Church, and will you share in the life and witness of the wider church?

I will.

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

Amen.

3. PRAYER

The youth worker kneels.

The chairperson leads in prayer:

Almighty God,
we thank you for calling N
to serve you as a youth worker.
We pray that you will empower and strengthen him/her
for this ministry.

Amen.

The youth worker stands and faces the people.

4. THE WELCOME

Representatives of those who will be served by the youth worker come forward.
They may bring symbols with them.

One says:

We are the people of
We welcome you into *this parish*
where you will serve.

If symbols are brought, the youth worker takes the symbols
and places them in front of the communion table.

The group resume their seats.

5. PROMISES OF SUPPORT

The chairperson requests the members of the presbytery to stand and says to them words such as:

As we welcome N...
let us offer him/her our support
as he/she works among us.

Members of the presbytery greet the youth worker and then resume their seats.

Promises to pray for and support the youth worker may then be given by

representative(s) of the placement within which the youth worker will serve;

colleague(s) in any team ministry of which the youth worker is a member;

representative(s) of the wider church, as appropriate.

6. RESPONSE

The youth worker makes a brief response.

The service continues.

Prayers of the people shall include intercessions for the youth worker and his/her family, those with whom he/she will work, the community and the needs of the church and the world.