

Litany of Affirmation and Ordination

Leader: We gather here today, [Name of Candidate], as witnesses that have traveled with you on your journey of faith. We celebrate your ministry among us and affirm God's work in your life. Because you have been gifted and empowered by the Spirit, we ordain you to the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

People: We are the voices of nurture, speaking from within the wonderful churches that surround you. With ever-abiding care, we have given you the foundation of faith. Go forth and nurture others with the same generosity of spirit as we have nurtured you.

Leader: We are the voices of love, speaking from within the family that surrounds you. We have embodied the love of God that extends beyond condition. Go forth and love others with the same depth of devotion as we have loved you.

People: We are the voices of challenge, speaking from within the circle of friends that surrounds you. With reverent conviction, we have perpetually summoned you to think and act outside your comfort zone. Go forth and challenge others with the same spirit of friendship as we have challenged you.

Leader: We are the voices of the oppressed, speaking from within the larger community that surrounds you. With dreams of what can be, we seek hope for the future and ask that you take risks and work for change. Go forth and seek justice for others with the same ferocity of need as we have called you.

People: We recognize this servant leader and truthful friend as one set apart to guide, strengthen, and walk with us as we live out our faith. We pledge our love and support and offer our prayers that together we may glorify God and make Christ known in the world.

ALL: We ask God's blessing on [Name of Candidate], and on each member of this family of faith, in the name of Christ, whose people we are. Amen.

**Shared with permission from the ordination service of Kristina Woods Brown.*