

Commissioning of Church School Teachers

The Church School teachers (or all who teach in the congregation and/or wider community) stand before the Celebrant and the congregation:

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and give gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to the special ministry of teaching.

The Celebrant addresses the Director of Christian Education, Church School Coordinator, Senior Warden or other appropriate person:

Are these persons whom you present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by their knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of the Church?

DCE: I believe they are.

Celebrant (to the teachers): You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Teachers: I will.

Celebrant: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation and its children and youth?

Teachers: I will.

Celebrant: Let us pray. God of all wisdom and knowledge, give your blessing and guidance to all who teach in your Church, that by word and example they may lead those whom they teach to the knowledge and love of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as a teacher in this church.

For Those Who Teach

Creator, you are the source of all Life, all Truth, and all Beauty.

Bless me with FAITH, for wisdom of self is rooted in faith and educated in mind.

Bless me with LOVE, a calling to be compassionate in heart to all those I encounter along the path.

Bless me with TRUTH, the commitment to a justice grown from truth and the courage to respond to an ever-changing world.

Bless me with PEACE, to witness the unfolding souls of my students as I accompany them along their way.

**from Prayers from the Heart by Dr. Jeanne S. Marcato, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT*

Litany for Teacher Dedications

Group: But what is the kingdom of God like? What parable shall we use to express it?

Reader 1: It is like this: A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground.

Reader 2: In time it sprouts and grows. It becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out large branches and the birds make their nests in its shade.

Reader 1: The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed in his field.

Reader 2: He sleeps at night, he is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing.

Group: All the while, the seeds are sprouting and growing! Yet we do not know how it happens.

Reader 1: We participate in the mystery of growth and rebirth.

Reader 2: God can move through us, his vessels...

Reader 1: Through us, the sowers of his seed.

Reader 2: We pray. But the mystery of rebirth is in God's hands - an explosion between soil and seed.

Group: We wait - in joy and expectation. For some of the seed will sprout, grow and bear grain - some 30 grains, some 60, and some 100.

**from *Called to Teach Youth* by Mary Lou Cummings*

Prayer of Commitment for Teachers



Giver of every good gift,
your greatness is glimpsed in the wonder and variety of
humanity. Enable us to share our talents freely, humbly and
generously, and help us to welcome the gifts of our students
graciously and gratefully.
God, you who hold us all in your loving hands,
gift us with true humility that,
in knowing how frail and small we are,
we may rejoice even more in the magnitude of your love
and the wonders of our own giftedness.
We ask this through Jesus and the Spirit. Amen

Mennonite Church of Canada

A Covenant for Church Educators

Leader: Gracious God, we come to you with thanksgiving for your son Jesus Christ who revealed the love that can transform us.

People: We will participate in shared events of the Christian story through church education, curriculum resources, and leadership training programs that manifest your grace and order our existence.

Leader: O God we pray for the outpouring of your power upon us for building up communities of faith to praise God and to serve our neighbor.

People: May your power transform us into communities of praise, communicating biblical values, traditions of faith, and new knowledge of how to live in a changing world.

Leader: Brothers and sisters, through this community of faith we hear God's call to help people learn worship, praising, and witnessing.

People: We will meditate on God's word, dream passionately, persevere boldly, move from chaos to calm, and extend the church's story and vision into the future. Embed in our hearts and minds the capacity for comprehension and wisdom for new circumstances and situations to meet the church's need.

Leader: God is good! O God, yours are the works of creation, inspiration, transformation, change, reconciliation, union, bonding, and teaching.

All: In the enduring spirit of the Lord, we find the grace to serve. Amen.

**from General Board of Discipleship (United Methodist Church) by Francine Taylor-Thirus*

Collect for Education

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*1979 Book of Common Prayer*, p. 261)

Collect of a Teacher

O God, by your Holy Spirit you give to some the word of wisdom, to others the word of knowledge, and to others the word of faith: We praise your Name for the gifts of grace manifested in your servant *N.*, and we pray that your Church may never be destitute of such gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*1979 Book of Common Prayer*, p. 248)