Ordination Service

**Introduction**

All God’s people are called to ministry. Everyone who has been baptised into Jesus Christ is called to serve him and one another, in the fellowship of the church, wherever we go and in all that we do.

But God calls some to servant leadership among his people; to devote themselves especially to prayer and the word of God; to better equip the church for the life of discipleship in God’s world. These people we appoint and release into that calling with prayer and with our blessing. We respect their role among us as ministers, examples and leaders. We consider them ‘ordained’ to this ministry.

Today we are affirming God’s call upon xx, recognising him/her as a minister, ordained by God to the service of his church and accredited by the Baptist Union of Scotland.

So first, let’s hear from xx about how God has led him/her to this point.

**xx’s Story**

**Affirmation by representative of the church**

**Commendation by college where minster trained (optional)**

**Questions To xx**

xx,you can only fulfil the ministry to which you are being set apart in humble dependence on God, in sincerity of purpose, and holiness of life.

We invite you to declare your faith in Christ and acceptance of this ministry in the presence of God, before these representatives of his people, by answering these questions.

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

***I do. This is the God in whom I trust.***

Jesus said, ‘The greatest among you must be the servant of all’. Do you believe that you are called by God to servant leadership in our Baptist network of churches?

***I believe that God has called me.***

Jesus commissioned us to preach the good news and make disciples everywhere. Will you proclaim that good news, through word and deed, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, making disciples, and seeking the coming Kingdom of God?

***As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I will call others to follow Him.***

Jesus said: ‘Feed my sheep.’ In your ministry will you be diligent in your study of Scripture and play your part in the nourishment and nurture of the flock of God?

# Trusting the Lord as my Shepherd, I will.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray and not give up. Will you be constant in encouraging God’s people in prayer and cultivating a life of prayer yourself?

***By God’s grace, I will.***

Jesus challenged his disciples to leave self behind, to take up their cross and to follow after him. Are you determined to walk this path even though you do not know where it leads?

***With the Lord’s help, I am***

You are being ordained as a Minister accredited by the Baptist Union of Scotland. Let me read to you our Declaration of Principle, which describes our shared core convictions, then invite you to confirm that these are also your beliefs.

Our Scottish Baptist Declaration of Principle states:

1. That the Lord Jesus Christ, our God and Saviour, is the sole and absolute Authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer his Laws.
2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who ‘died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried and rose again the third day’.
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

xx,are you in wholehearted agreement with this statement?

# I am

## Question to the Church

*Please will you all stand. I invite you to respond, ‘We do’.*

As members of this church, xx’s previous churches, and as friends gathered to support him today, do you believe that God has called himto Christian ministry and do you acknowledge him as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **We do.**

**Prayer and The Laying On Of Hands**

*xx has chosen three or four appropriate people to lay on hands and lead prayers.*

**Declaration of Ordination**

xx, recognising your faith, your call and your love for Jesus and his people, on behalf of the churches of our Scottish Baptist Union and the whole church of Jesus Christ, we recognise and declare that God has ordained you to the work of ministry.

**Prayer,** *using the words from Colossians chapter 1:*

We pray that God will fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and give joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. Amen.