

Commissioning of Youth and Adults as Representatives of the Congregation or Presbytery to the Montreat Middle School Conference

The minister and those being commissioned should gather at the baptismal font or pool.

ONE: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. *Galatians 3.27-28*

ALL: **There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.** *Ephesians 4.1-6*

ONE: How very good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers live together in unity! *Psalms 133.1, 3*

ALL: **It is like the dew of Mount Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained the blessing
of life forevermore.**

The minister continues:

[To you young people, whose vision and hearing are so much sharper than they'll ever be again, I encourage you to watch and listen for the ways God will be calling each of you at the Montreat Middle School Conference: in worship, in play, in small group discussions and informal conversations, and in friendships new and old. But remember that God doesn't call you only as an individual but as members of the body of Christ and representatives of this congregation (*or* presbytery)—and so I urge you to also listen to the voices of your adult leaders, who will be there to guide and support you, offer advice, and keep you safe.

[And to you adult leaders who will accompany the youth to the conference, I encourage you to take seriously your role as guide and support, as mentor, as protector. But I also encourage you to listen for God's particular call to you: in worship, in play, in small group discussions and informal conversations, in friendships new and old—and in the voices of these young people.]

To all of you, youth and adults: The grace poured out on you in baptism [*or* as members of the body of Christ] is all you need to answer your calls as Christians, because it is *God's* grace. By God's grace we are saved and given the strength to grow in faith and to serve Christ. Today, God has called you to grow in faith, learning, and fellowship by participating in the Montreat Middle School Conference. Show that you intend to answer that call by answering these questions:

LEADER: Who is your Lord and Savior?

COMMISSIONEES: **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

LEADER: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

COMMISSIONEES: **I will, with God's help.**

LEADER: Do you welcome the responsibility of representing _____
Church [*or* Presbytery], and will you seek to follow Christ
in all that you do and say at the Middle School Conference?

COMMISSIONEES: **I will, with God's help.**

The minister addresses the congregation:

LEADER: Do you, the members of _____ Church [*or* Presbytery],
confirm the call of God to our sisters and brothers
to grow in faith, learning, and fellowship
by participating in the Montreat Middle School Conference?

ALL: **We do.**

LEADER: Will you support them with your prayers while they're away,
welcome them warmly when they return,
and pester them enthusiastically for stories about
their experience?

ALL: **We will!**

The minister continues with the Commissioning Prayer:

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us [*or* you have claimed us as covenant people]; and by
your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.
We thank you for leading these young people and their adult mentors to this time and place.
Ground them in your truth and guide them by your Holy Spirit, so that in their participation in
the Montreat Middle School Conference, they may grow in faith, hope, and love and be faithful
disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Friends, you are commissioned as representatives of the body of Christ in this place to the
Montreat Middle School Conference. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. **Amen.**

By Dwight Christenbury, with portions taken from and based on the service of "Commissioning to Ministry Outside
a Congregation," *Book of Occasional Services: A Liturgical Resource Supplementing the Book of Common
Worship, 1993* [© 1999, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a Corporation for Congregational Ministries Division,
Office of Theology and Worship], pp. 129-133. Worship leaders should adapt this liturgy, especially the bracketed
sections, to their local context; the gifts and needs of those being commissioned; and time constraints.