

## Commissioning Rite

### R3 Leadership Team



*The commissioning of the R3 Leadership Team should happen during a regular worship service. It should be presided over by a lay leader who is not on the team. The pastor should not lead it because he/she is a member of the team that is being commissioned.*

**L:** As a congregation we are entering into the R3 Congregational Renewal Process together. This is a visioning and strategizing process to help us learn to be who we are and see what we have for the sake of doing what matters to God. This is a journey we do not take lightly. It will mean paying attention to what God is up to and following where God leads. God may take us into unexpected places, even places we cannot yet imagine. So we gather to ask God's blessing on us as we begin. Today we are commissioning a team of leaders to be our guides on this journey. We do this knowing that this is our journey, not just theirs.

*(The R3 Leadership Team is introduced and brought forward)*

**L:** Hear this reading from scripture about the day the earliest Christians began their journey together. From Acts 2:14-24:

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.  
And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him

among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**L:** *(To the congregation)* Do you, the people of *(name of your congregation)*, covenant with the members of this team to be involved in the work that comes from their training and to support and pray for them as they guide us on this journey? Will you seek to let your hearts, minds, eyes, and ears be open to what God is up to here in our midst, in our community, and in our everyday lives? Are you committed to joining with God, with our neighbors, and with each other for the sake of participating in God's mission?

**Congregation:** **We will and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**L:** *(To the R3 Leadership Team)* Do you, members of the R3 Leadership Team, covenant to engage this work fully throughout this process; to let your hearts, minds, eyes, and ears be open to what God is up to here in our midst, in our community, and in our everyday lives; to learn and to teach us how to be who we are and see what we have for the sake of doing what matters to God?

**R3 Leadership Team:** **We will and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*At this point, you may want to ask people in the congregation to raise their hands toward the leadership team as a sign of blessing. As hands are raised, the following prayer may be said:*

**L:** Let us pray. Gracious God, you were before all things and you will be long after all things are gone. You are at work right now, here in our midst, in our community, and in our everyday lives. We thank you for the promise of your presence with us and for the ministry of Jesus, through whom you dwelt among us and sent your Holy Spirit to be our comforter and guide. We know that you continue to work in our world today! We pray for this Facilitation Team and for the work that lies ahead. Help them to learn, to listen for your voice, to see you work, and to discover your dreams. Open their hearts to what God is doing in and through people in our neighborhood and wider community. Fill them with the fruit of your Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this entire congregation so that our hearts, minds, eyes, and ears might be open to what you are up to. Empower us to action so that we might join in and be a part of what you are doing. Help us learn more and more what it means to be who we are and see what we have for the sake of doing what matters in this world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Congregation:** Amen

*(The worship service continues...)*