

Service of Recognition For internships in church settings

On the first Sunday after the intern begins his or her duties, it is appropriate that during the regular worship service he or she should be formally recognized. Not only does this serve to introduce the intern to the congregation but it sets the tone for the entire time that he or she will be with the congregation. This litany of recognition serves to:

1. establish the covenantal aspect of the field education experience
2. clarify the purpose of the internship
3. formally recognize the role of the seminarian as intern pastor as opposed to summer helper or youth pastor.

It is also appropriate during the service to explain briefly the nature and purpose of the supervisory process, identifying the roles of the intern, the supervisor, the lay/Shepherding Committee, and the congregation. The litany of recognition could occur during the time when the concerns of the people are addressed or possibly after the sermon is preached. Following is a sample litany.

Litany of Recognition

- Supervisor: We are a diverse people who come to worship the Living God.
- People: We stand as witnesses to a loving God who has blessed and called us to service.
- Supervisor: We have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same God whose purposes are achieved through them all.
- People: We are a diverse community, blessed by God and touched by God's grace and mercy.
- Chair: Today we celebrate a new blessing as we welcome _____, shepherding our new intern pastor, and (his/her) Committee family into our midst.
- Intern: I have come to serve and learn with this church family.
- Chair: We have been called as a congregation to be a teaching and a learning community for _____.
- Shepherding Committee: _____.
- People: We welcome you into our community, _____, as God's representative. Our homes, our hospitals and nursing homes, our classrooms and programs, our sanctuary, our lives are all open to you.

Intern: With God's help I seek to learn about ministry within this congregation, to earn your trust, and to be a fellow-laborer with you. I seek your support and your response to me as one who is preparing to serve as an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, for the countless blessings you bestow on your people, for service in your name, for the promise and excitement of new relationships, and for the challenge of teaching and learning your purposes we give you thanks.

Almighty God, by whose call we are at work, guide us and nurture us as we embark on this new adventure in ministry. Grant that as we work together, submitting ourselves in obedience to Christ and guided by your Spirit that our lives may be enriched, and our ministries filled with joy. May our experience together be one of honesty and support, giving and receiving, patience and steadfastness, and faithfulness and trust. We ask these things in the name of Christ. Amen.