

Commissioning new Parish Council Members

Minister:

This meeting has elected Z, X and P to be parish councillors.

Welcome to the team! This church is led by the parish Council, together with the Minister. You have been chosen because you have won the respect and trust of these people for the Christian quality of your lives and your fitness for this Office. You are expected to be faithful in worship and prayer, to care of the people, share in the organisation of the church and its witness in the community.

"Do you believe in one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and do you confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord??"

"Do you promise to promote the life and mission of this parish and to foster its unity in Christ?"

"Do you respect the doctrine and practice of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches and accept the authority of the parish council and regional and national church courts?"

"Do you accept office on the parish council and undertake faithfully to perform the duties of a councillor?"

The presiding minister then puts the following question to the congregation

"You have chosen P, Z, and X to share in the oversight of this parish; do you welcome them into this leadership, and promise in Christian fellowship to give them your support and encouragement?" All: **We do.**

councillors kneel/stand "Almighty God you have set your church in the world to bear witness to the Gospel. We thank you that you call men and women in every generation to offer their lives and their talents for the fulfilment of your purpose. Bless your servants whom you have called to be councillors in this parish."

lay hand upon the head of each person to be commissioned in turn

"Pour out your Holy Spirit to X.. whom we in your name commission as a councillor"

"Give them grace to do the work committed to them and vision to lead your people in their witness to the world. Make them constant in service and wise in counsel grounded in the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, that through them your will may be done and your name may be glorified"

All respond **Amen.**

The councillors stand. The presiding minister says "I declare P, Z, and X commissioned councillors and members of the parish council. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit be with you always."