

BEGINNING THE INTERNSHIP:
A POSSIBLE LITURGY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A PERKINS INTERN
(to be adapted as necessary or desired)

Introduction

The congregation of *(name of church)* has been invited into partnership with Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in its stated mission “to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.” From *(beginning date of internship)* until *(closing date of internship)*, we will be the teaching congregation for *(intern’s full name)*, who will serve on our pastoral staff as part of her *(degree program: Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Ministry)* studies. This internship follows several years of academic study of Bible, Theology, Church History, and Ministry. *(Intern’s first name)* will learn the skills of ministry and live the life of a minister under the supervision of the seminary and our church.

Covenant liturgy *(to be led by appropriate representative of teaching congregation):*

(to Mentor Pastor)

As Mentor Pastor, *(pastor’s name)*, will you covenant to share your ministry with *(intern’s first name)*, guide her in maturing faith, and teach her in theological reflection?

I covenant to do these things as Mentor Pastor for *(intern’s full name)*.

(Ask Lay Teaching Committee to stand)

As the Lay Teaching Committee for *(intern’s first name)*, will you covenant to pray for *(intern’s first name)*, to be attentive to her learning, to participate constructively in evaluating her growth, and to encourage her ministry with truth?

We covenant to do these things as the Lay Teaching Committee for *(intern’s full name)*.

(To the Intern)

As Intern, *(intern’s first name)*, will you covenant to share your calling to ministry in the life of *(name of church)*, to do all you can to learn from the family of God in this place, and to open yourself to grow in God’s grace?

I covenant to do these things as the Ministerial Intern at *(name of church)*.

Congregation

As the Teaching Congregation, will you covenant to accept the ministry of *(intern’s full name)*, to teach her from your lives, and to support her in every way as she grows in her calling?

We covenant to do these things as the Teaching Congregation for (*intern's full name*).

Let us pray. (*Charles Wesley, United Methodist Hymnal 561*)

“Jesus, united by thy grace and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek thy face and know our prayer is heard.

Help us to help each other, Lord, each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid afford, and feel each other's care.

This is the bond of perfectness, thy spotless charity;

O let us, still we pray, possess the mind that was in thee.”

Amen.