**Many Parts – One Body**

Leader: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ team has had the pleasure of spending time together for the past number of months, learning together and sharing from each other’s experiences and wisdom. Now as they are commissioned for their time of service we will begin by one of the team members sharing what they anticipate doing and learning while in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Team member briefly shares.**

\*Word of introduction

Leader: In Rom. 12, Paul offers us a beautiful description of a life lived in the kingdom of God. He writes about being the body of Christ, with many members but not everyone having the same function and gifts. We are to use our gifts and be devoted to each other in love. We are to bless others, do what is right, live at peace with others and overcome evil with good. This does not mean just those who live around us in our own community, but also those who live in other parts of our world – places such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. So let us pray…

Leader: Gracious God,

**ALL: we thank you for the gifts that belong**

**not to us alone, but to all our sisters and brothers,**

**since they too are created in your image.**

Leader: Open our eyes to each other

and to all our brothers and sisters,

especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated.

**ALL: Let their need become our need;**

**let their hunger become our hunger;**

Leader: and grant to us also a portion of their pain,

so that in sharing ourselves,

we discover the Christ who walks

with our brothers and sisters.

**ALL: We consecrate ourselves and our gifts to you**

**and to the service of others, as we work in and for your kingdom,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord and King. Amen.**

\*Words of Commissioning

***Mission team comes forward***

Leader: As you are about to be commissioned for your service in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I would like to ask you to respond to the following questions.

Our Lord and King, who came among us to serve, calls us to faith and to a life of gratitude. Each

of you stand here to offer a particular service, a gift from God to equip us his people and church

in the work of ministry. For as in one body we have many members, and not all members have

the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, members one of another.

So \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name team members), do you accept the ministry you have been
 called to, in confidence that it comes from God?

**Mission Team: Yes, with all my heart.**

Will you fulfill this ministry in accordance with the teaching and practice of the Christian Reformed Church as it serves in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Mission Team: I will, and ask God to help me.**

Will you be diligent in your devotions, and constant in prayer?

**Mission Team: I will, and ask God to help me.**

Will you trust in God’s care, seek to grow in love for those you serve and build on what you’ve experienced as a catalyst for your own transformation and the transformation of others?

**Mission Team: I will, and ask God to help me.**

**ALL: Brothers and sisters, fellow workers in the kingdom of God, we commission you for this ministry in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*Commissioning Prayer

*Ask prayer partners and others to come forward and lay hands on the team members.*

Leader: Gracious God, as you call your church to build relationships both locally and globally, so you have called these servants. Grant them joy and strength as they serve faithfully in your kingdom. Fill them with humility, grace and compassion. Protect them on their journey, during their time on the field, and bring them safely home. May they reflect the love of Christ in their words and actions, and may your Spirit open their hearts, eyes and minds to the amazing ways that You are building Your Kingdom. We pray all of this, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, who equips us for service. Amen.

\*Words of Comfort

Leader: As followers of Jesus Christ,

living in this world -

which some seek to control,

but which others view with despair -

we declare with joy and trust:

**ALL: Our world belongs to God!**

Leader: From the beginning,

through all the crises of our times,

until his kingdom fully comes,

God keeps covenant with us forever.

**ALL: Our world belongs to him!**

**God is King! Let the earth be glad!**

**Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!**

Leader: The Spirit is at work, renewing the creation.

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

**\*** Words of Blessing

Leader: Now to him who by the power at work within us

is able to accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine,

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations,

forever and ever.

 **ALL:** **Amen.**

**\*Song: LUYH #869 “Here I Am Lord” or #964 “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”**

*Sources:*

*The Worship Sourcebook* *ed. John D. Witvliet (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Publishing Group, 2004), 5.2.10, 5.2.30.*

*Lift Up Your Heart: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2012) - #855, A Commissioning Liturgy*

*Contemporary Testimony, Our World Belongs to God, st.1-2*