

Scriptures and Prayers

for the Shepherds and Servants (Larry Fisher)

“The reason I left you in Crete was that you might set in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it,” (Titus 1:5-9).

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap. Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. Women [that is, deacons’ wives or female servants,] likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus,” (1 Timothy 3:1-13).

“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, (Romans 16:1-2). **[Prayer for the Shepherds and Servants]**

Related Scriptures

Acts 6:1-7; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-7; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3

ORDINATION

Kevin Gilbert (narrator)

As I read each role, and the name of the person who has been elected or appointed to fulfill it, that person will come to the front, center, and face the church. *[Read the list of roles and names]*

Since each of you has been elected a shepherd, or has been elected or appointed a servant, of this Wahiawa family, your church has viewed you as possessing the characteristics the Bible associates with your role.

1. **To the shepherds and male servants:** Your church sees you as mature enough for your role, a spiritual, blameless (not perfect, but generally solid), self-controlled, gentle, hospitable, monogamous, heterosexual, and responsible Christian husband and father; as having children that believe, and who, together with your Christian wife are not riotous, unruly, divisive, or gossipy; **do you accept this calling?**
2. **To each of you:** Your church views you to stand firmly on the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in the person & work of Christ (not on toxic theology, legalism, sectarianism, human ability, or such things), to use your adequate Bible knowledge for healthy teaching and for the rejection of unhealthy teaching, and to passionately desire that this church be a healthy, relational, family of peace; **do you accept this calling?**
3. Your church views you as demonstrating a willingness to sacrifice & suffer for Christ and His righteousness, as available and approachable, as generous with yourself and your resources (such as time and finances), as regularly pursuing related Christian education and experience to develop your mind, body, and spirit for better service, and to prepare others for service; **do you accept this calling?**
4. Your church views you as committed to the long-term best interests and numerical growth of this church as priorities (including its vision, mission, goals, character, and covenants), as a servant of God and your neighbor who is also known to have a decent reputation among non-Christians, and as a shepherd who protects the flock from wolves, or as good servant in your role; **do you accept this calling?**
5. Your church views you as one who does not seek money, power, prestige, or to lord it over the flock or your ministry as a commander or dictator, but one who seeks to be a servant who guides by persuasion and example, and who is not covetous, self-willed, quick-tempered, addicted to substances, a quarreler, a new convert, or characterized by a need to have things your way; **do you accept this calling?**
6. Your church views you as one opposed to spiritual abuse in all its forms, who is not characterized as a gossip, a slanderer, a factious person, or as one who gives ear to such people, and who is not given to triangulation (which is going from person to person or house to house politicking for your position against another’s, and is essentially an attempt to divide the church into factions); **do you accept this calling?**

7. Your church views you as one devoted to the unity of the church, who will prepare others to follow in your place, and who has demonstrated an ability to care well for God's family, or for your ministry, by being a decent family person who loves your own family, who will serve the church and community well, and who will be devoted to the role which the church has asked you to fulfill; **do you accept this calling?**

Let the Shepherds and servants of this Wahiawa assembly turn to face the front of the auditorium and kneel. Servants, please join your hands. Shepherds, please join your hands.

Let the Wahiawa church of Christ stand and join hands in a family circle in the center isle, with those closest to the front laying hands on the shoulders of the minister (Kevin).

The minister places a free hand on a head of each of the Wahiawa elders.

Because your congregation, upon finding you suitable, has nominated and elected you to shepherd, or elected or appointed you to otherwise serve this body of Christ, and because you have freely accepted the mantle of these roles, let all the world witness that the Holy Spirit and this Wahiawa congregation, through the laying on of hands, have appointed you to oversee or serve this flock of God for the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, and that God has given each of you a gift to fulfill your calling.

May God be praised, his angels rejoice, and his servants put their hands to the plow with no shadow of turning. Amen.

Stand and turn to face the congregation. [Applause] Form a single line against the wall behind the pulpit to be received. The receiving line will move from the center isle, right to left, exiting through the side isle. In just a moment, you will have the opportunity to receive and encourage these servants. Please stay for refreshments/fellowship.

[Have Special Guests Begin & Join Receiving Line]. Thank you for coming; please stand for the benediction after which this assembly is dismissed.

Those Ordained Shepherds (listed alphabetically)
 Minister and Trustee, *Kevin Gilbert*
 Vice President and Trustee, *Donnie Mullins*
 President and Trustee, *Brad Walker*

Those Ordained Servants (listed alphabetically)
 Secretary and Trustee, *Steven Force*
 K-12 Education, *Barbara Gilbert*
 Youth, *Chrisanta Mullins*
 Office and Womens' Ministry, *Brenda Walker*
 Prayer Room and Assistant Womens' Ministry, *Michelle Woods*
 Treasurer, Trustee, and Physical Plant, *Harold Woods*

Ordination Service

Wahiawa Church of Christ • 1881 California Avenue • Wahiawa, HI 96786

Order of Service, March 2, 2003

- 12:00 Noon, Aloha Luncheon
- 12:50 Prelude & Call to Assemble (Screen) **Brad Walker**
 Elder, Wahiawa Church of Christ
- 1:00 Welcome, Introduction, Invocation... **Kevin Gilbert**
 Minister, Wahiawa Church of Christ
- 1:10 Scripture and Prayer
 for the Shepherds & Servants..... **Larry Fisher**
 Pastor, OLS Roman Catholic Church, Wahiawa
- 1:15 Reading of bylaws..... **Donnie Mullins**
 Elder, Wahiawa Church of Christ
- 1:25 Congregational Song, *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet* (Screen)..... **Brad Walker**
- 1:30 Guest Speaker..... **Jack Smith**
 Pastor, Wahiawa Community Church of the Nazarene
- 1:45 Ordination **Kevin Gilbert**
- 1:56 Benediction..... **Michael "Bong" Abagon**
 Pastor, First Baptist Church, Wahiawa
- 1:59 Dismissal, Receiving Line & Refreshments

Our Vision: *The Wahiawa Church of Christ will be known as a welcoming family of peace and justice to all seeking fellowship in a Christian community. It will exhibit God's wisdom in the world through creating and strengthening relationships that empower people to better serve God and one another. And it will be a living model of the truthfulness, righteousness, and power of God's redeeming grace through Jesus Christ.*

Our Mission: T.E.A.M. Ministry—*To Evangelize the lost, Assist the saved, and be a Model Christian community, through our church "team" where every member is a minister.*

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