

SHEPHERDS AND SERVANTS' COMMITMENTS WAHIAWA CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Authority: Exod. 18; Acts 6, 14:23; Titus 1; 1 Tim. 3; 1 Pet. 5, etc; church bylaws)

Your church has nominated, elected, appointed, or confirmed you to minister to her and her community as a shepherd or a servant. She has done so after considering you in light of Scripture and her bylaws as expressed in the following summaries & related church literature. You will be able to publicly answer "I do" to each of them, and be officially recognized in your role, at a special *Ordination Service* after our Aloha Luncheon in March.

To "ordain" is to appoint somebody officially to church office; to set an order to something formally. It is doing four scriptural things: (1) what Titus was called to do in Crete, "to set in order what remains, and appoint elders," (Titus 1:5), (2) what the Jerusalem church was called to do to serve her needs, "in order to serve . . . select from among you, brethren, seven men," (3) what the Roman church was called to do in recognizing women as servants in the church, "I commend to you Phoebe, who is a servant of the church . . . that you receive her in the Lord," and (4) what the apostles did to symbolize the delegation of authority from the Holy Spirit and the congregation to the selected people "through the laying on of hands."

While other churches use "install" instead of "ordain," both are acceptable. We have chosen to use "ordain" because it is right, scriptural, pleasing to the Lord, and a blessing to the community. We feel that it better reflects the idea of "set in *order*" which Titus and the Jerusalem church accomplished, and it more clearly communicates to the community, both religious and secular, what we are doing and to whom.

You and your ministry will be publicly blessed in the presence of community leaders, friends, and family who will be present to witness this historic event. Ask friends and family to attend this honorable milestone in your life and the life of our church-family. The dress code is casual, but you may "upgrade" if you prefer (and photographs will be taken, and you will kneel at one point in the ceremony).

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?**

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