

**Recognition of Our ( *ministry name* )  
Lay Pastoral Associates  
( *name* ) and ( *name* )**

P We are honored that from among us you ( *name* ) and you ( *name* ) have completed preparation for and been commissioned to serve as ( *a* ) Lay Pastoral Associate(s) in the Montana Synod. We hold you dear as our own “Partner(s) in the Gospel” and we will call upon you often to serve us in our ( *name of congregation / ministry* ).

**C. We welcome you in this role, we affirm you as a servant of God among us, and we pray the God will bless you in your faith and in your serving the Lord.**

*A reading from The Acts of the Apostles* While (the congregational leaders at Antioch) were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3)

*A reading from First Peter* Above all, hold unfailing love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (I Peter 4:8-11)

*A reading from St. Matthew* Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward. (Matthew 10:40-42)

P. You have been commissioned by the Montana Synod to serve your church. As you come among us, we too ask you, “Will you seek to serve the Lord as ( *a* ) fitting ambassador(s), representing the Gospel and the Church of Christ according to the gifts and inspiration given you by the same Lord? Will you be faithful, understanding, and loving to the people among whom you will live and work? Will you continue to seek God’s Word of Life in study and prayer, trust God’s care for your well being, and strive to grow in love for the Lord, the world, and our people here in ( *community* )?”

*Response: We will and we ask God’s grace, wisdom, and peace in all we are and do as we serve God.*

P. May the same Lord and God give you all strength and compassion and faith in your service to the church and to us as ( *a* ) Lay Pastoral Associate(s).

And I ask of you, the members and friends of the ( *name of congregation / ministry* ), will you also accept the service of *this/these* servant(s) of God when called upon by our congregation(s)? Will you support, respect, and acknowledge ( *them* ) in ( *their* ) commitment to serve us, receive through ( *them* ) the message of salvation, respect ( *them* ) in ( *their* ) gifts, honor ( *them* ) for ( *their* ) work’s sake, and help ( *them* ) as caring leaders among us, in all things striving to live in peace and unity in Christ?

**C. We will, and we as God to grant us the grace, wisdom, and holy and loving ways so to do.**

P. We hereby fully acknowledge you in your commitment to serve the Lord as ( *a* ) Lay Pastoral Associate(s). Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Presentation of a Gift of Recognition to  
( *name* ) and ( *name* )*