

Ordination Service

November 4, 2007

Instructions	Script
Praise Team and Tim to stage	<p>Call to Worship Welcome—Tim Meet and Greet Praise and Worship Time</p>
Praise Team exit... Tim to CS mic	<p>Otter Creek is a “shepherd-led” church. We select men from our number and ask them to walk with us, encourage us, mentor us, counsel us, and—when necessary—discipline and correct us. We rely on these men to watch over the health of our church, to make sure we’re headed in godly directions, to promote maturity and harmony, to hold up the word of God as the standard by which we live.</p> <p>We are a “shepherd-led” church. That doesn’t mean they make every decision or have a finger in every pie. It doesn’t mean they do all the planning and visioning and leading. We want them to recognize our giftedness and encourage our ministries and trust our competencies. We want them to rely on talented staff and the work of members who love this church. But the buck has to stop somewhere ... and, at Otter Creek, the buck stops with our shepherds. They are ultimately responsible—to us and to God—for the welfare and direction of this church.</p> <p>We are a “shepherd-led” church. As such, we rely heavily on these men who have been entrusted with our spiritual well-being. We respect and honor their work. We pray for and encourage their ministry. We ask God to give them the strength and wisdom to do what they have been called to do.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A word about the Ordination Service—why? 2. A word about wives <p>We gather today to recognize that our shepherds have been “called” to this. The Bible talks about shepherds being “appointed” by Apostles or evangelists. We talk about shepherds being “selected” by congregations. But we recognize that ultimately shepherds are called to serve by God and by his Holy Spirit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is God who “entrusts” these men with his precious work (Titus 1:7) 2. It is God who puts his flock “under the care” of shepherds (1Peter 5:2) 3. It is Jesus Christ who “gives” shepherds to his church (Eph 4:11) 4. It is the Holy Spirit who “makes men overseers” (Ac 20:28) <p>Such a great calling. Such a huge responsibility. Where are the perfect men, the spiritual giants, the icons of maturity and Christ-likeness to answer this call and fill this role?</p> <p>They don’t exist. They never have. Shepherds are not called by God and honored by congregations for their perfection or gigantism or iconic maturity. God always calls mere mortals to this work, men with flaws and feet of clay. God always looks for people with baggage and a story to tell and scars on their faces—these are the only people who can do the work. We don’t respect and submit to these men because</p>

<p>Elders to stage during this reading. Be seated ... (3 newbies in center seats, others surrounding...) Tim exits to SL ...</p>	<p>they're always right and know everything. We respect them because we see the hand of God on their lives and we know that they love us.</p> <p>Who is competent to do this work? No one. No one is wise enough or good enough or loving enough to be a shepherd when measured by the rule of themselves. But God never asks his shepherds to be competent. He asks them to be faithful. And then he promises to make them competent.</p> <p>“We are competent and confident because of our great trust in God through Christ. We know we are not qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He is the one who enables us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of Law, but of Spirit. And the Spirit makes us competent to use his new covenant to bring life to his people.” (2Cor 3:4-6—paraphrased)</p>
<p>Testimonials: Wayne and Joe to mic CS</p>	<p>Testimonials to the power of God to make us competent to serve as Shepherds.</p>
<p>Wayne and Joe to seats ... Fred to mic</p>	<p>Readings: Eph 4:11-16; Acts 20:28-32 (Congregation=yellow; shepherds=white)</p> <p>Congregation: It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,</p> <p>Shepherds: to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up</p> <p>Congregation: until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.</p> <p>Elders: We will keep watch over ourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made us overseers.</p> <p>Congregation: Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.... Be on your guard!</p> <p>Shepherds: We commit ourselves to God and to the word of his grace, which can build all of us up and give us an eternal inheritance.</p>
<p>Ordination: Fred seated ... Steve G. to mic... Newbies stand beside Steve ... [Phil, Jerry, and David—your responses are simple (“I do” or “I will”) and shouldn't require you to read the script. Steve will pause where a response is expected.]</p>	<p>You have been called by God and by this congregation to serve as shepherds of this flock. Do you accept this calling, trusting in God to make you competent to serve effectively?</p> <p>[I do.]</p> <p>Do you submit yourself to the Word of God, to the Lordship of Christ, and to the will of God—both for your own life and for the life of this church?</p> <p>[I do.]</p> <p>Will you be faithful in life, constant in prayer, eager to serve, humble in Spirit, and loving towards those whom God has entrusted to you?</p> <p>[I will.]</p> <p>Will you put the needs of this church above yourself, the good of these people above your own, the truth of Christ above everything?</p> <p>[I will.]</p> <p>Do you recognize the calling of your fellow elders and will you honor them as you agree to serve beside them?</p> <p>[I will.]</p> <p>As you look at the people who make up the Otter Creek Church, will you commit to</p>

	<p>loving them: not just in the abstract, but in the particular ... not just when they deserve it, but especially when they don't ... by treating them better than they will treat you ... by showing them Christ no matter the situation or the circumstances? [I will.]</p> <p>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Hold to the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. Keep your head in all situations ... endure hardship ... do the work of a shepherd ... discharge all the duties of your ministry. (based on 2 Ti 4:1-5)</p>
<p>Congregational Blessing [Tim will step to boom mic SL and prompt this]</p>	<p>The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.</p>
<p>Prayer: Jerry Franklin to mic</p>	<p>Prayer for new Shepherds Invitation to congregation to engage in “Communal Prayer” Close this time with a few sentences of blessing and the Amen</p>
<p>Charge to the Shepherds as a whole: Jerry to seat ... Tim to mic ... all rise ...</p>	<p>On behalf of this congregation of God’s people, as a minister of the gospel of Christ, and for the sake of God’s Kingdom, I charge you as shepherds to prepare yourselves for what God is about to give to you. He will see to it that all of his promises will prove true for you. His will is about to be done in this people through your work. If God is for you—and he is—no one will be able to stand against you. As he was with Moses and with David and with Peter and with Paul, so he will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.</p> <p>So be strong and courageous, because you must lead these people to inherit the promises God has made to them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all that God requires of you; do not turn to the right or to the left, that you may be blessed in everything you do. Do not let this Book depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be powerful and blessed. Has God not called you? Has God not directed you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.</p>
<p>Charge to the Congregation:</p>	<p>On behalf of the leaders of this congregation, as a minister of the gospel of Christ, and for the sake of God’s Kingdom, I charge you to recognize the calling these men have received—from God and from this church; to honor their lives and their wisdom; to give them the respect that is their due and the encouragement that will sustain them. I charge you to submit yourselves to their leadership and gladly receive their care for your souls. I charge you to partner with them in building up the body of Christ, in becoming one in the faith, in growing in the knowledge of God, so that we may all become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.</p> <p>I charge you not to gossip or engage in malicious talk about your leaders, but to make their work a joy—because that is for your good. When you are sick, call upon them for prayer. When you are sinful, call upon them for intercession. When you are troubled, call upon them for help. When you are lost, call upon them for direction</p>

	<p>and encouragement. Brothers and Sisters, these are your shepherds, given to you by Christ for your spiritual good. Pray that they do their work well so that you can become what God has called you to be.</p>
<p>Doxology: Elders to Supper stations ... Praise Team to stage ... Tim CS</p>	
<p>Supper Comments: Tim</p>	<p>Bob Brannon/Terry Frisby/George Buck Thanksgiving memories: Turkey/Dressing and Mom. Nourishment comes from the flesh and blood of Jesus. It is almost always mediated through a human hand. That's what today is about ... thanking God for sustaining us, recognizing he frequently does so through the agency of his people.</p>