

Section II, Appendix W

ACT OF DEDICATION

Hear these words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

The United Methodist Church, in its endeavor to carry out the Great Commission, has declared, "The supreme aim of missions is to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all people in all lands as their divine Savior, to persuade them to become His disciples, and to gather these disciples into Christian churches; to enlist them in the building of the kingdom of God; to cooperate with these churches; to promote world Christian fellowship; and to bring to bear on all life the spirit and principles of Christ."

MINISTER: Members and friends of _____ Church, the Great Commission given by our Lord is still in effect today, and the call is great upon each one of us to answer in our own way. Before us today stand those who are ready for a particular assignment as volunteers in mission who wish to dedicate themselves to their task. Now we as a congregation are to commission them and send them forth in the name of Christ and the Church.

_____ name(s), we rejoice that you have resolved in your heart(s) to devote time, talents, and energy to this mission of _____. Your labors will take you to the people of _____. They will also be in mission to you as they likewise share their faith. Through word and deed you are to testify to the infinite love of God. Such a task confers a great privilege. It also places upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have done alone with God in offering yourself for this mission we now ask you to do publicly in the presence of this congregation.

Do you sincerely believe that you have been led by the Spirit of God to engage in this ministry of _____?

MISSIONER(s): **I do so believe.**

Will you earnestly seek to carry forward this ministry in a Christ-like manner, in cooperation with your fellow team members and leader, and in full respect of the national church officials and local hosts?

MISSIONER(s): **I will, the Lord being my helper.**

(The missioner(s) will then kneel for prayer.)

MINISTER AND CONGREGATION

Almighty God, whose love for the whole family of humankind has been made known to us through your Son, send thy blessing upon these your servants soon to go forth on this mission assignment. Grant that they be guided and strengthened for their task; that they be open to new truths and insights from their hosts, and that they be given good health and traveling mercies; to the end that your name be glorified in all the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Section II, Appendix X

SERVICE OF SENDING FORTH

THE COVENANT OF THE SALT

A covenant sealed with or symbolized with salt is one seen as a solemn promise before God, never to be broken.

LEADER: Our Lord calls us into the world to show us who we are.

MISSIONERS: **We are sons and daughters of God.**

LEADER: Our Lord calls us into the world to show us what we are to do in the world. God asks, "Whom shall I send?"

MISSIONERS: **We are to deny self, bear the cross and follow after. We have heard Him calling! Here I am, Lord, I will go if you lead me.**

LEADER: Our Lord calls us into the world to show us how we can make a redemptive difference. He asks, "Whom shall I send?"

MISSIONERS: **We have heard Him calling! Here I am Lord. We will hold your people in our hearts. We are the salt for the world.**

LEADER: Our Lord calls us into the world offering a covenant, giving us the courage to be the salt that adds compassionate flavor to an insipid world. He asks, "Whom shall I send?"

MISSIONERS: **We have heard Him calling! Here I am Lord. Pass the salt please!**

LEADER: Do this in remembrance of the gift of grace and the cost of discipleship. As you eat this salt, think of your mission to the world. We will be with you in prayer. God will lead you.

MISSIONERS: **We have many gifts to give to the world. Let us have a part in salting the world, and loving God's people. Here I am, Lord.**

CONGREGATION: Continue now in quest of your mission as a person with the taste of salt in your mouths. Go, with your personality open. Go, willing to share your faith and love of God with others. Go, knowing the way at times will be difficult. Go, with the promise of God's grace.

Closing Prayer

Section II, Appendix Y
The Peace Candle Ceremony

For the past several years, team leaders attending the SEJ UMVIM Rally at Lake Junaluska have been given candles representing the original Candle for Peace described below. They in turn present the candles to churches they visit with their teams. A copy of the statement below is left with each candle as it is given.

Candle for Peace

An American minister visiting Russia was given money by an old woman in the city of Odessa, and she asked him to light a candle for peace when he returned home. He did, and the church he attended decided to send out candles to other churches in the area as a fellowship link. So the Candle for Peace was on its way. It was taken to the following places:

England

Australia

Canada

Arizona

Iowa

Alaska

Colorado

Malaysia

Singapore

California

Virginia

Mexico

Jamaica

And then a church group from Virginia took a candle back to Russia and presented it to the Russian Orthodox Church in Asha, a city in the Ural Mountains.

Now it has gone to many other places thanks to Volunteers in Mission who take a Peace Candle to present to churches in the places where they go.

Hence a very long chain of fellowship and love follows this candle. It shall be lit on Holy Communion Sundays and other special occasions. As the candle is lit wherever it may be, let a prayer be said for peace.