



Commissioning Liturgy for Mission Immersion Groups

This liturgy is designed to be a means by which youth and their adult leaders are prayed for and sent out by their congregations to serve and learn at their mission immersion experience. Please feel free to adapt this liturgy to best suit the needs of your group and congregation.

Leader: Jesus said that the two greatest commandments are to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. This group of young people and their adult leaders are preparing to live out those commandments through a mission immersion experience at _____ (Asheville, Raleigh, Memphis, Dallas or Charleston) Youth Mission. While they are there, they will serve at a variety of ministries and community agencies. They will get to know people who are living on the margins. They will learn about the root causes of poverty, homelessness, and disparity. They will engage in Bible study to connect what they have learned with their faith, and they will discern God's call in their life. As they go, we make the following commitments to one another.

To the group, I ask:

Do you promise to do all that you can to serve the people of _____ (Asheville, Raleigh, Memphis, Dallas, Charleston), using your strengths and talents, your mind and your heart, for their benefit and for the glory of God?

Do you promise to learn from those you meet, hearing their stories and experiences, and as it says in Matthew 25, see the face of Christ in those you serve?

Do you promise to represent our congregation and our community well, through your care, compassion, joy, and grace?

Do you promise to return to us and share your experiences, so that we too can learn from those who are marginalized and more clearly hear God's call to live in more just and equitable ways?

And to the congregation I ask:

Do you promise to pray for this group as they are on this journey of service and learning, asking for God to grant them safety, make good use of their hands and feet, and open their hearts and minds so that they might do God's will?

Upon their return, do you promise to listen to their experiences and integrate what they have shared and discerned into the work and mission of our congregation?

Let us pray.

God of Love, be with these young people and adults as they are on this journey. Give them safety, strength, compassion, and wisdom. Teach them your ways through this experience, and fill them with the power of the Holy Spirit so they would serve your people faithfully. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.