



## The Service of Commissioning of a Verger

### *About the Service*

This document serves as a template for planning the commissioning liturgy of a verger. Clergy and vergers, working together, are welcome to adapt and/or modify this service as appropriate for your congregation.

The Vergers Guild (VGEC) offers free of charge an official Commissioning Certificate to any member of the VGEC being commissioned as verger. Color certificates are generated as PDFs and emailed to you. They are easily printable on 11x17 cardstock at your church office or at any office supply retailer. Contact [membership@vergers.org](mailto:membership@vergers.org) for more information.

It is recommended you invite other vergers to a commissioning service. This can be done by posting an invitation on the [Vergers FaceBook page](#), the [VList](#), or by using the [Membership Management System](#) to search by state or province for individual contact information. A visiting VGEC member may represent the VGEC during the commissioning. If geographically and logistically possible a VGEC Board member would enjoy representing the VGEC at this milestone in your verger ministry. The other vergers should be encouraged to vest and walk in procession.

The VGEC requests you contact [news@vergersvoice.org](mailto:news@vergersvoice.org) to let us know about your commissioning. If possible, please provide photos and a commentary about your commissioning and ministry in your parish. Periodically articles are written that include news from around the Guild.

*This service may be inserted in the liturgy before the Peace, or at some other place of the Clergy's choosing.*

## **THE PRESENTATION**

*The People sit.*

*The Rector addresses the congregation:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good and the edification of the Church. We are here to commission *N.* in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which *he* has been called.

*VGEC Representative:*

Since the early days of the church, laypersons have been commissioned to assist the clergy in the conduct of liturgy. The position of verger was developed in Medieval England where the verger served as the "escort and protector of the procession." They walked before clergy, deans or bishops as they processed within the precincts of the church or cathedral. They carried a large mace or virge, used to dissuade animals or unruly people from disrupting the procession. Today the verger typically assists the clergy in liturgy planning and helps in overseeing the preparations and execution of worship services.

*Rector:*

The candidate(s) may now be presented.

*Presenter(s):*

I present to you *N.* to be commissioned as a verger in this congregation.

*Rector:*

Do you believe *his* manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

*Presenter(s):*

We believe *him* to be well qualified for this ministry.

## **THE EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE**

*Rector:*

Do you believe that this person has been prepared for their office by a commitment to Christ our Lord, by regular attendance at worship, by the knowledge of *his* duties, all to execute the office of Verger to the honor of God and the welfare of God's Church?

*Presenter(s)*

We do.

*Rector:*

*N.*, you have been called to the ministry of verger. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work in this congregation, perform it with diligence?

*Candidate:*

I will.

*Rector:*

Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your clergy?

*Candidate:*

I will.

*Rector:*

Will you who witness this commissioning do all in your power to support *this person* in their ministry?

*People:*

We will.

*Rector:*

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, bless the ministry of *N.*, give *him* understanding and patience to persevere in the fulfillment of *his* duties; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and the service of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **THE COMMISSIONING**

*Rector:*

Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, + bless, + and sanctify these symbols of the office of verger. May they signify to us the holiness of worship, and our calling to serve you faithfully and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Presenter(s):*

*N.*, accept *this vestment* and let it be worn with humility in the service of Christ in his church.

*N.*, accept *this emblem* of your ministry in this place and let it be a sign of your ministry.

*VGEC Representative:*

*N.*, accept this certificate, and let it be a reminder of the love and support of your colleagues in the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church as you begin your new ministry.

*Rector:*

In the Name of God and of this Congregation, I commission you to serve as verger in this parish. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. Amen.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:*

And also with you.