



THRIVING SMALL CHURCHES

TOOLS FOR BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Welcoming New Members

This brief rite of welcome provides an opportunity for the community to express its understanding of discipleship and ministry and allows for the new member to publicly commit themselves to the Christian life within the community.

This can be done at any convenient place within the regular worship service. It begins when the leader, preferably the pastor invites up front those joining the congregation

The Leader begins by saying to the candidate;

Jesus said,
I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
But will have the light of life.

N, the call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship.
Our discipleship is a manifestation of new life
Into which we enter through baptism
And in which we affirmed in community.

It is possible because in Jesus Christ
We have been set free from the bondage of sin and death
To be healers in a broken world.

Discipleship is a both a gift and a commitment,
An offering and a responsibility.

It is marked by change, growth and deepened commitment.
It is lived out of a renewing sense of God's calling to us,
And of God's claim upon us made in our baptism.

N, today we welcome you, formally, into this community
and invite you to take up the mantle of discipleship with us

to be the hands and feet of the Body of Christ in this place.

Do you willingly take up this call to discipleship in Jesus Christ
As a member of this congregation?

The new member responds;

I will, with God's help

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation

Will all of you commit to support and affirm *N*, holding *her*
In your prayers and walking with *her* on the path of Christ?

The congregation responds;

We Will!

The Leader then leads the congregation in prayer

Let us pray together

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven
and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen
the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent.
Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring
us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**