

**THE SERVICE OF INSTALLATION  
VERGERS  
ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA  
[INSERT DATE]**

**The Presentation**

*The congregation is seated. All Vergers present gather at the communion rail.  
The Rector then addresses the congregation:*

**Rector**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are baptized by 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 **[Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)]** as a Verger in the Name of God and of this Parish. He / She has responded to a noble calling to serve in this signal manner, and will hereafter take his place among the various ministries of our congregation. We accordingly raise up this particular ministry of the laity to the Body of Christ in the Church universal and do hereby recognize and acclaim this ministry to the Gospel of Our Lord in the daily life of **[Insert the name of your Parish]**

**Role of a Verger**

Since the early days of the church, lay persons have been commissioned to assist the Clergy in the Divine Liturgy. The position of Verger first evolved in medieval England where a man served as “Protector of the Procession”. He led and protected the Clergy, Deans or Bishops as they processed within the precincts of the church or cathedral. As a sign of liturgical authority vested in his Office, the Verger carried a large mace known as a “Virge”. The Virge was often used to dissuade animals or unruly people from disrupting the procession. Vestiges of this tradition still exist throughout the Anglican Communion as Vergers leading processions and in the wand or staff they carry as a sign of their Office. Today the Verger serves as a lay assistant to the rector, helping to both oversee the preparations for church services and manage physical aspects of the service.

*The candidate is then presented to the Rector and the congregation.*

## Head Verger, [Insert the name of your Parish]

Reverend Father, I present [Insert Candidate(s) name(s)] who comes before you respectfully and prayerfully on this occasion as candidate for the Office of Verger in St. Timothy's Anglican Church. As Head Verger, I hereby certify to you, that he/she has duly responded to this high calling, that he has received ample preparation for his/her duties and responsibilities, and that he/she has solemnly agreed to serve the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the best of his/her respective abilities.

### Rector

The traditions of the Church require all persons appointed as Vergers to bind themselves to a faithful performance of his/her duties by making a solemn declaration.

**Rector:** [Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)], are you prepared to confirm your declarations of intent before God and this Congregation here assembled?

**Candidate:** I am so prepared in the name of Christ our Lord and to the glory of God the Father.

### The Examination:

*The Rector and Head Verger now examine the candidate(s):*

**Head Verger:** [Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)], do you acknowledge and confirm a commitment to Jesus Christ our Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by knowledge of the duties of your calling, to exercise to the best of your ability the Office of Verger at St. Timothy's Anglican Church, to the honor of God and the welfare of His Church?

**Candidate(s):** I do so in the name of Christ our Lord and to the glory of God the Father.

**Rector:** [Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)], you have been called to the ministry of Verger in this Parish. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this ministry, perform your responsibilities to the best of your abilities with reverence and with diligence?

**Candidate(s):** I will in the name of Christ our Lord and to the glory of God the Father.

**Rector:** Will you tend this House of God with reverence and care, and will you endeavor to see that the forms of worship are conducted in conformity with the Canon Laws of the Anglican Church in North America, the rubrics of The Book of Common Prayer, and the customs of this congregation?

**Candidate(s):** I will in the name of Christ our Lord and to the glory of God the Father.

**Rector:** [**Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)**], will you strive to keep the dignity of this office and to be a witness of God's call to love and serve?

**Candidate(s):** I will in the name of Christ our Lord and to the glory of God the Father.

*The Rector then addresses the whole congregation:*

**Rector** – to the congregation

Will all you who are present do all in your power to support and uphold [**Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)**] in his/her ministry as Verger?

**People:** We will

**Rector** - to all the Vergers and Candidates:

Vergers and Candidate(s) here gathered, do not be negligent, for the Lord has chosen you to stand in His presence, to minister to Him, and to be His minister.

**Candidate and all Vergers present:** I am your servant, Lord. Grant me humility that I may know your decrees.

**Rector:** Let us pray.

Everlasting God, bless [**Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)**] ministry, give understanding of the tasks that await him/her and patience to persevere in the fulfillment of his duties so that he may make the place of your presence glorious; Grant also that the people of St. Timothy's Anglican Church, together may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

## The Commissioning

*The Rector now commissions the candidate:*

**Rector:** In the name of God and of this congregation, I commission you, [**Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)**], to serve as a Verger at [**Insert the name of your Parish**]. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

*The Rector now blesses the gifts and symbols of the Office of Verger that will be presented to the newly commissioned Vergers.*

**Rector:** Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, bless, hallow, and sanctify these symbols of the Office of Verger at [**Insert the name of your Parish**], about to be presented. May they signify to us the sanctity of worship, and our Holy calling to serve you faithfully and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

*The newly commissioned Verger is presented with the appropriate gifts and symbols of the Office of Verger by the Head Verger of the Parish. The following words are said as each gift or symbol is handed to the newly commissioned Verger.*

### **Vergers' Certificate**

**Head Verger:** [**Insert the Candidate(s) Name(s)**], accept this certificate recognizing your completion of training and your entry into the Vergers' Guild of the Anglican Church in North America. Let your certificate be a reminder of the love and support of your colleagues in the Vergers' Guild throughout the Anglican Communion.

**People:** Amen.

### **Vergers' Gown**

**Rector:** [**Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)**], accept your Verger's Vestment. Let it be worn with dignity and fidelity and as a symbol of the service you will offer to Christ and his Church.

**People:** Amen.

*(The Vergers in attendance place the Verger's Gown on the new Verger)*

## The Virge

**Head Verger:** **[Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)]**, accept your Virge and let it be a sign of your Office to provide guidance and protection.

**People:** Amen.

**Rector:** Please stand. Let us rejoice! Today, we celebrate **[Insert Candidate(s) Name(s)]** new ministry as Verger in **[Insert the name of your Parish]** !

*The people celebrate with applause.*

*The Eucharistic Service then continues.*

