

DEDICATION FOR GROUND BREAKING

Service for Ground Breaking and Site Dedication

A public groundbreaking service marks the beginning of construction for a new house of worship. The service announces to the congregation and the community that God is at work among His people. The service may be held following the morning worship, or at a convenient time to enable the membership and community to participate. Arrangements should include: marking a spot, perhaps in the form of a cross outlined on site; amplification if required; musical instruments, a speaker's platform. The service should be brief as attendees will be standing.

Participants may include:

The Pastor

The Bishop

The Conference Minister

Committee Chairpersons – Official Board/Ministry Council, Trustees, Building, Finance, Church Treasurer, Worship, Christian Education, Missions, Charter member(s), Contractor, others as designated by the local congregation.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE shared by the Pastor.

God has brought us to this time and place. As we break ground today, we take the first step in the actual construction of a new building for the worship of God and the study of His Word. He has led us to this site, heard our prayers, blessed our gifts, guided our plans and will provide needed wisdom to complete this facility.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that builds it.

People: For every house is built by some man; but He that builds all things is God.

Pastor: Consecrate your whole substance this day to the Lord.

People: We express our trust in the living God, the Savior of the world and we gather here to celebrate His love, mercy and goodness to us.

INVOCATION

Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation" or other appropriate hymn.

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22 or other appropriate scriptures

Sermon, Address or Message appropriate to the occasion (Brief!)

RESPONSIVE EXPRESSION OF OUR COMMITMENT

Pastor: In the Name of God the Creator, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

People: We gather to break this ground and commit ourselves to the building of a House of the Lord for His Worship, Praise, Prayer and the study of His Word.

Bishop: We gather to celebrate the vision provided to your people of this congregation within the Evangelical Congregational Church and God's guiding in this venture. We thank Him for all those who have responded to God's leading by committing themselves to this ministry of building His Church in this community, and loving people for His sake.

People: Thank you, Lord.

Conference Minister: As we stand on this sacred ground now dedicated this day to Christ, the Head of the Church, we express our gratitude that we are a part of the larger church in the world, and we, by expanding our facilities and our vision, purposefully bear witness to our faith within this community to share that faith and provide a church home for all who would enter these doors in honor of the loving, caring Father of all.

People: Thank you, Lord.

Official Board President (or representative): For the spiritual opportunity of sharing people, resources and prayer and thereby contributing to the life of this body of believers, we express gratitude to the Lord of the Church. We promise today our continued interest in this building program and the spiritual growth which will be provided to worshipers.

People: Thank you, Lord.

Chair of Building Committee: With our fee placed on this ground and our hearts filled with spiritual excitement, as Chair of the Building Committee, I ask you to reaffirm your personal commitment to Christ and His Church by attesting again to your intent to support this program with your prayers, your financial gifts, and your personal participation in our daily pursuit to complete what we have been led of the Lord to do.

People: We commit all we have and all we are to you, O Lord, as we together assume this task.

Architect/Contractor: As the one you have placed your trust in to provide the building expertise required to construct this building, I promise to you my very best judgment and ability in making decisions to achieve the desired goal, a Church as a visible reality, and I ask for your prayers and loving encouragement as we complete this facility.

People: We commit ourselves to your support, encouragement, and trust our God to supply strength, wisdom and guidance.

Finance/Church Treasurer: With gratitude we acknowledge the Lord's leadership in our financial campaign and efforts and the faithful stewardship of the membership and friends of this congregation. We commit ourselves to continued leadership and necessary planning in

completing this building program on a sound and firm financial basis assuring us of our ongoing ministry. Will you continue your faithful stewardship of God's resources as we; stewards of the Lord's bounty fulfill our task to complete this building?

People: We praise God for our blessings and desire to share our means accordingly to assure an effective and meaningful ministry for this Church.

Christian Education: The study of God's Word is paramount in our educational program. The Bible is our guide book. Through it, the spiritual education of our children, youth and adults offers us inspiration and direction for our lives, here on earth, and prepares us for the eternal home where we, by faith in and through Jesus Christ, will live forever with Him. We pledge our continued study and instruction; resulting in discipleship as together we share in ministry.

People: We give thanks to God for His Spirit among us providing constant guidance and help to share the Gospel here and throughout the world.

Pastor: In the name of God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, I invite you now to rededicate yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ, to recognize that means a strong commitment to the Church which He has purchased with His own blood and to commit your entire being to the fulfillment of our new Church building which will serve as a witness of His power and His love to all who pass this way.

Prayer:

Our Father and God, we thank You for this day; for the hopes and dreams that are ours as we propose to build this place of worship for Your glory. We thank You for putting it into our hearts to build, for the vision and dedication of all who have planned and worked and sacrificed toward this end. You have enriched us as a people. You have set our hearts to grow and construct this House of worship and prayer. We believe that You have been of all that has been and all that will be in this effort. The heavens are Yours; the earth and all that is in it. This ground already belongs to You, O God, and we believe that only Your grace make it possible for us to use this land and here construct the facility we propose. As we break the sod, we pray that You will accept this land as returned to You, as dedicated to Your glory, and as consecrated to the preaching and teaching of the Gospel. From this place, may the Word go forth as a spiritual beacon to guide our lives, be a witness of our faith to our children, and inspire our community and around the world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord of the Church. Amen.

Then the minister will take the spade and set it in the earth and remove the first spadeful of earth. Representatives as designated will follow, each removing a spadeful of earth; others may then come until the entire "cross" is dug (if that is the symbol used to locate this happening). When it is complete, the congregation will join in singing the Doxology following which the Benediction will be pronounced.

