**Installation of the Mental Health Advocate**

In order to help underscore the importance of the role of the Mental Health Advocate within your congregation and to emphasize the value that the congregation is placing on mental health ministry, you may wish to hold a special rite of installation during a worship service.

This rite is set within the Divine Service before the Prayer of the Church or preceding the Prayers in the Daily Office. The pastor of the congregation serves as the presiding minister.

*The Mental Health Advocates are presented before the pastor who stands before the altar. He may greet each one individually with a handshake.*

**P:** Our congregation has asked ­­­­­­\_\_(FIRST AND LAST NAME)\_\_ to serve as our Mental Health Advocate for a minimum of one year. The Mental Health Advocate will work to develop and sustain mental wellness initiatives within the congregation that reduce the stigma of mental illness, support mental well-being, and provide encouragement and hope to those who are struggling. Additionally, the Mental Health Advocate will communicate regularly with church leadership, staff, and congregation members about educational opportunities, resources and grants related to mental wellness.

*The pastor addresses the Advocate(s):*

**P:** Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to serve our Lord as our congregation’s Mental Health Advocate. Hear what Holy Scripture has to say about those who serve in the Church:

*One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture are read.*

**8**Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **9**Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. **11**If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:8-11)

**3**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4**For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5**so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6**We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7**if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8**if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:3-8)

**10**Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11**Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13**Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:9-13)

**12**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13**For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. . . **21**The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” **22**On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23**and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, **24**while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, **25**so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26**If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.**27**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 21-27).

*The pastor addresses the Mental Health Advocates:*

**P:** In the presence of God and of this congregation, I install you as Mental Health Advocate in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Stand*

**P:** Let us pray.

Father of all compassion and mercy, bless \_\_\_\_\_name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his/her/their service to this congregation as our Mental Health Advocate(s) that he/she/they may be faithful in helping us extend Your loving care to those who may be struggling with mental health concerns and their families. Grant that through his/her/their service, Your Gospel hope may be further shared and lived out here among us and our community to the glory of Your most holy name; through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve you. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**C: Amen.**

*The service continues with the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service or the Prayers in the Daily Office.*

*\*Note: This installation service for the Mental Health Advocate was adapted from the rite “Installation of Servants of the Congregation” found on pages 243-245 of the LCMS Lutheran Service Book Agenda.*

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