

A service to Commission and Re-dedicate

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we gather today to commission and rededicate those who are appointed to positions of formal service in our Church. We do this to acknowledge the weight of role/office that they have undertaken and to show our much we appreciate and value all who enable the various ministries of our Church. *[Our Commissioning this year is of particular importance for us as we welcome newly elected Elders.]*

In preface to our Commissioning Service we acknowledge two important things:

1. We give thanks to all who have furthered the message of Jesus, in word and deed, through the various ministries of this Church of St. George since 1866 - first as a Presbyterian Church and more recently as a Uniting church. *[In this Commissioning Service we will refer to our church as Eden Uniting'.]*
2. We recognise that the mission of our church is only possible because of the valued contribution of:
 - a. The quiet and faithful discipleship of many of our congregational members who volunteer their time and energy without any formal appointment to any specific role. We thank you.
 - b. The many volunteers who serve in the various activities of Eden Uniting but who do not worship regularly at our Church services. We thank them.

And so we gather today to give thanks to God for all who have made, and continue to make, this Church a welcomed institution in our Town.

Let us now commission our Office Holders for their ministry in the year ahead. *(Elders, those recognised among us with teaching and preaching roles and those elected or appointed to either specific committees or to representative roles come forward and make the following responses.*

Our Vision *(Note- Yet to be formally approved)* — ‘**Just like Jesus**’

Will you seek to walk in the character of Jesus as revealed in the Bible?

Response – With God’s help we will.

Will you aspire to follow Jesus in valuing all people without exception?

Response – With God’s help we will.

As Jesus sought to breakdown walls of inequality and stigma, will you advocate justice for the downtrodden.

Response – With God’s help we will.

Will you give of yourself to inspire Eden Uniting Church to be a place where people grow to be just like Jesus?

Response – With God’s help we will.

Do you affirm that we are made holy, ‘Just like Jesus’, not by your good works but by the gracious gift of God.

Response – In God’s grace we trust.

Our Mission - Uniting in Faith, Hope and Love with community

(Note- Yet to be formally approved)

We appreciate that concepts of Faith, Hope and Love are universal aspirations for a decent society. We know that our understanding of the content of Faith, Hope and Love for others is only achieved as we respectfully listen to them. We believe that Christian Faith does enlarge these concepts to enrich both individual wellbeing and our community life but we also believe that our faith content, to these words, is frequently only welcomed after we have shown others the dignity of listening, our willingness to collaborate with community, and by our kindness.

Will you commit to be uniting in Faith, Hope and Love with community? Will you be quick to listen and ever ready to share the Christian shape of these shared concepts?

Response – With God’s help we will.

Knowing that a kind and connected town is good for all its citizens, including its churches, will you look for opportunities where you, as individuals, and us, as a Church, can collaborate with others in activities to promote shared aspirations for community cohesion?

Response – With God’s help we will.

Will you do everything in your power to ensure that the mission of our church remains grounded in the Faith that God has graciously stepped towards us as Jesus?

Response – With God’s help we will.

Will you encourage us all by word and example to patiently endure difficulties because of our sure Hope that God is uniting all things for good in the living Lord Jesus?

Response – With God’s help we will.

Will you strive to ensure our Church abides in love knowing that our love for one another is not only a clear indication that we are disciples of Jesus but also the essential manifestation in human relationships of what and who God is?

Response – With God’s help we will.

Minister faces the Congregation -

You have heard these our brothers and sisters in Christ affirm their commitment to Christ, Our Church and our Town. Will you do everything in your power to support them in prayer and encourage them by your own faithfulness in walking with Jesus?

Response of all - With God’s help we will
