Affirmation of ministry at the re-election of a synod bishop

This order is intended for use when a bishop of a synod is re-elected and is intended to be used during the synod assembly. When possible, this rite is set within Holy Communion and precedes the prayers of intercession. This rite may be used by itself when circumstances do not allow for the affirmation to take place during Holy Communion. The vice president of the synod and/or the churchwide representative leads the rite.

The leader addresses the assembly:

When a bishop is newly elected, a service of installation is planned and takes place at a time after the assembly. At this assembly we re-elected our bishop and now we affirm them in their call.

_name_ has been re-elected to serve a six-year term in the office of bishop in the _synod name_ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The prophet Isaiah writes, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ ”

The leader addresses the bishop:

Bishop _name_, when you were first installed you promised to discharge your duties in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. You promised to be diligent in your study of the Bible and in your use of the means of grace. You promised to give faithful witness in the world, that God’s love may be known.
You promised to guide, encourage and support the people of this synod in their varied ministries and the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Now, this synod, gathered here in assembly, has renewed your call to this ministry.

Will you renew your efforts to keep the promises you have made, striving to fulfill all of the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of your office as bishop of this synod?

_The bishop responds:_

I will, and I ask God to help me.

_The leader addresses the assembly._

People of God, will you continue to receive _first name_, as a servant of God and a shepherd in Christ’s church? Will you pray for _them_, help and honor _them_ for _their_ work’s sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ? If so, answer, “We will.”

_The assembly responds:_

We will.

Let us pray (_brief pause_)

Ever-living God, strengthen and sustain, _first name_, that with patience and understanding _he/she_ may love and care for your people. Give _them_ the courage and the compassion to do the things you have called _them_ to do. Surround _them_ with your love and uphold those who love and care for _them_. Grant that together we may all follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

_When set within Holy Communion the service continues with the prayers of intercession._

_When the order is used at another time, an assembly song or another acclamation of thanksgiving may be included._