

An Ordination Charge

*We have not ordained you to ministry; that happened at your baptism;
We have not ordained you to be a caring person; you are already called to that;
We have not ordained you to serve the Church in committees, planning activities, and
organisation; that is already implied in your membership;
We have not ordained you to become involved in issues of justice and peace, in the struggle,
personal, social, political, against all forms of oppression and idolatry; for that is laid upon
every Christian.*

*We have ordained you to something smaller and less spectacular:
to read and interpret those sacred stories of our community so that they speak the Word to
people today;
to remember and practice those rituals and rites of meaning which in their poetry address
people at the level where change operates;
to foster in community through Word and Sacrament and pastoral care that encounter with
truth which will set people free to minister as the body of Christ.*

We have ordained you to the Ministry of the Word. Amen.

Where the Charge is to be given before the act of ordination the wording changes to: "We are ordaining you ..." etc.

I first prepared this Charge for an ordination in 1978.