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## PDA Host Site Commissioning Liturgy

What a joy and a privilege it is to worship with you today! My name is *(name)* and I am a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team. Throughout this discernment process, it has been an honor to walk alongside you. I am so excited to see how God continues to work through your ministry to help *(name of town or area)* recover from *(name of disaster)*.

Today we commission *(church name)* to serve as a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Volunteer Host Site and *(host site coordinator name)* as it's Coordinator. As Presbyterians, we believe God commissions people to go for God and God's mission to the world. We, representatives of PDA, are commissioning you as the Host Site Coordinator at *(church name)* and this church to be utilized for the glory of God and the recovery of others.

*(Host Site Coordinator/Volunteers)* will you join us in the front as we commission you and *(name of church)* to serve as the leaders of this host site?

*NRT to Host Site Coordinator and/or Volunteers ...*

Do you accept that God has called you to this work and will sustain you as long as you serve? And do you accept the responsibility of representing this congregation in doing the work of our Lord in *(name of town)*? If so, say "I do."     **I do.**

Will you work to demonstrate Christ's teachings by welcoming strangers, loving those you encounter, sharing Christ's love with care, and responding to the call of the Holy Spirit? If so, say "I will."     **I will.**

Will you serve faithfully in this work in ways that bring honor and glory to God? Will you serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? If so, say "I will."     **I will.**

*NRT to the Congregation...*

Do you, the members of this church, open your hearts to the ministry of *(host site coordinator)* and will you pray for their ministry? If so, say "we do."     **We do.**

Will you continue to support him/her/them with your prayers, love, and service during this season of ministry with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and *(work partner)*? If so, say "we will."     **We will.**

*NRT invites elders, pastors, other PDA staff and volunteers to lay hands on the Host Site Leadership.*

Let us pray.

God of love and hospitality,

We lift to you the prayers of this community.

We pray for this church family, O God.

After *(name of disaster)*, you called the saints of *(name of church)* into action to respond to the recovery efforts around them.

They answered your call. Prepare them and bless them as they continue responding to your call.

Foster among them energy to maintain this host site and enthusiasm to embrace the volunteers who stay here.

May they continue to be faithful stewards of this space to serve your children and your world.

We pray for the church facilities, O God.

May the beds provide a safe and comfortable sleep to volunteers, so that they may wake up refreshed to participate in Your mission.

May the showers provide warm water so that volunteers may remain clean and healthy as they refresh for another day's labor.

May the kitchen and dining facilities provide space for nourishment and communion.

May the community spaces foster love, community, reflection, and fellowship.

May this PDA host site help this community recover from *(name of disaster)*.

We pray for the volunteers, O God.

That they might experience your traveling mercies as they come to visit, travel to work sites, and return to their homes.

We hope they will come with open hearts and willing hands, that they might serve your people faithfully.

Give them spaces to process, discern, work, connect, and serve.

May they be transformed by their experiences here and choose to continue participating in your mission wherever they may go.

We pray for the host site coordinator, O God.  
May he/she/they engage faithfully in the work you've called them to.  
Bestow on them whatever sustains them in this work, as long as there is work to be done.  
Grant *(name of host site coordinator)* sabbath rest when the work becomes tiresome.  
Grant them, companions, to listen and offer support.  
Bless *(name of host site coordinator)* with joy as they welcome volunteers to this space.  
Give them patience and understanding when difficulties arise.  
Grant them collegiality with work partners, this church family, and volunteer team leaders.  
Through their actions and words, make them witnesses of your great love and your concern for disaster recovery.

God of welcome, you have been guiding this process all along.  
We give thanks for your continued presence in this community through the power of your Holy Spirit.  
We pray that through our collaborative efforts, your name might be known, and your love might be shown.  
All of this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

*NRT to Volunteer(s) and congregation...*

On behalf of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, thank you for your willingness to welcome volunteers into this community. We are grateful for the ways God is working in you and through you during this disaster recovery journey. Know that we love you and stand in solidarity with you each step of the way.

Go forth to serve in the name of God who creates you, Christ who redeems you, and the Spirit who sustains you every day. Amen.