

Presentation of the God and Service Award

[The God and Service Award is to be presented at a local church service or at a regional or national meeting of the church body of which the candidate is a member. This suggested service is intended simply as a guide. Please adapt it to suit the style of the people in attendance.]

The officiating minister stands before the assembly after the singing of a hymn focusing on service. Escort the candidate before the assembly by designated adults with whom the candidate has served and who put his/her name in nomination and by young persons with whom the candidate has worked/is working.

The minister faces the congregation and says:

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Let us pray. O Lord, you have called your people into many areas of service in your world, not the least of which is work with your children and young people. So, this day, as we honor your servant, (name) _____, we give thanks for all people who serve you in the church in guiding and nurturing our young people.**

Following the prayer, read one of the suggested Scripture readings (or any other appropriate Scripture) that shows how Jesus modeled servitude, valued children as precious gifts from God, or teaches us how to live our lives as followers of Christ.

Mark 9:33-37	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
John 12:26	Colossians 3:12-16
Matthew 19:13-15	Matthew 5:16

After the reading of the Scripture, one of the group who recommended the candidate for the God and Service Award may read a brief description of the Award and a summary of the candidate's accomplishments. The citation may be read by an officer of the congregation (or body in convention), a member of the youth board or board of education of the congregation, or another appropriate individual.

The God and Service Award was designed to express appreciation for outstanding leadership and significant contributions by an adult to the spiritual, social and physical lives of our young people. (Name) _____ is one such individual. (Name) _____ has given selflessly of his/her time so that our young people may have richer lives. Today we recognize his/her dedication and commitment to our youth, and honor him/her with the God and Service Award. Here are some of his/her accomplishments that qualify him/her to receive this award:

The officiating minister or appointed person then places the God and Service Award around the neck of the candidate and says:

In the name of all those whom you have served and in the name of the church (name the church body), I present you the God and Service Award for your distinguished service to young people. May the blessings of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be and abide with you always. Amen.

The officiating minister then invites the assembly to join in this prayer (or another appropriate prayer):

Hear our prayers, O Lord. We thank you for the gift (name) _____ has been to your church and young people. Heavenly Father, bless all the service he/she has rendered to others in your name. May he/she continue to serve you, your Church and the young people of our congregation and our community; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory forever. Amen.

This concludes the service.