



Dear Church Leader,

We write to you today in the name of our Lord, sending greetings to you and your church. We praise God for you and for how He is using you for the sake of the gospel. We are writing as the Josiah Team, a group of leaders in health and healthcare who are part of the The Kardía Foundation, an international ministry to healthcare workers. **We would like to introduce you to a very exciting project: a health & healthcare workers commissioning statement we designed as a special blessing to those in health and healthcare professions around the world.** It is titled *Called to Care, Sent to Share*. We believe this document, when used as suggested below, will bring God’s blessing to the churches who send out these faithful ones and to the health and healthcare workplaces themselves.

The commissioning is intended to validate the work of people who serve in the health and healthcare professions by having their churches send them out as workplace missionaries. Our desire is for your church, during one or more of your services, to recognize and commission everyone who works on behalf of people’s health. The list below provides examples, alphabetically arranged, of people who serve the public in health- and healthcare-related fields. It is quite an impressive list, but not exhaustive. Notice the variety of callings! Please include any other professionals or students who are part of these fields. **We hope you will commission and empower anyone who tends to some aspect of people’s health, whether directly or in a supporting role.**

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Anesthetists | Assisted Living / Nursing Home Staff | Athletic Trainers | Chaplains |
| Dental Hygienists | Dentists | Dietitians | EMTs / Paramedics |
| Facility Maintenance Staff | Fitness Professionals | Health & Healthcare Faculty | Health & Healthcare Researchers |
| Health & Healthcare Students | Healthcare Administrators | Healthcare Aides | Healthcare Assistants |
| Healthcare Technicians | Laboratory Personnel | Mental Health Professionals | Nurses & Nurse Practitioners |
| Occupational Therapists | Personal Trainers | Pharmacists | Physical Therapists / Physios |
| Physician Assistants/Associates | Physicians / GPs | Receptionists | Speech-Language Pathologists |
| Surgeons | | | |
- And anyone else who serves in a health- or healthcare-related role**

In addition, there are many ways to augment the commissioning statement in recognizing and encouraging health and healthcare workers and students during a service where you send them out to their workplace mission field. Consider a health- and healthcare-themed service, a sermon focused on healthcare, an extended prayer service focused on health- and healthcare-related topics, and congregational songs that express God’s healing touch. **This is a powerful opportunity to engage your entire church in the sending process.** May your commissioning of these servants of God be just the beginning. We will be glad to dialogue with you about other ways you can engage in ministry for health and healthcare. Thank you for taking up this call!

Yours to serve,

The Josiah Team

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Called to Care, Sent to Share

A Statement to Commission Health and Healthcare Workers

To begin, the leader should invite to the front of the auditorium, sanctuary, or room—or, alternatively, invite to stand—those who work or study in a health- or healthcare-related field in any capacity.

Good morning [afternoon, evening] church family. Today [Tonight] we would like to dedicate a time of commissioning for the members of our church serving in health and healthcare. The individuals who are here before you [standing] have answered a call to serve and care for others, a call perfectly fulfilled in the life and person of Jesus Christ. As a church, we recognize the health industry is multifaceted and multifunctional—a true reflection of God’s diverse tapestry that extends around the globe. Let us lift up these individuals today.

Brothers and sisters in health- and healthcare, we echo what the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians: we thank our God every time we remember you. In all our prayers for all of you, we always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now [Philippians 1:3–5]. We recognize the dedication, schooling and sacrifice each of you have made for your profession. A profession that steps into the hurt and pain of another. A profession that heals, uplifts, and cares for others as the Lord does for us. As the psalm says, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” [Psalm 147:3]. Your service to others is a direct reflection of the heart of Jesus.

Each of your fields is vital to the healthcare system and to serving those who seek care. As Paul told us, “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” [Ephesians 4:16]. Just as Jesus calls us to wholeness in the church, may you, as you go, carry wholeness into each dimension of health. You are the foundation of caring for people’s wellness. You may be overworked, understaffed, and underappreciated. You can get discouraged. The days can be long and taxing. There may be times when it feels impossible to keep bearing the weight of all the responsibilities your job demands. However, this promise is for you: “Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you” [Psalm 55:22]. As health-related workers you have been entrusted with a significant calling and various gifts to bring healing and hope to those under your care. God has called you to this profession to be a beacon of light in the darkness, and to be his hands and feet in a world that does not know Him. Continue to allow His love, excellence, and wisdom to shine through you as you serve those you encounter.

Just as you place your trust in God, the people you encounter in your daily work trust you to be blameless and above reproach in all you do [1 Corinthians 1:8]. You give assistance. You give answers. You give a smile. You give a kind word. All of these they need. Whether you are a frontline worker or behind the scenes, God has placed you to make a unique contribution of His grace in your workplace. Your strength and endurance are sustained by the ultimate power source that never runs out. As a congregation, we pledge our support and commit to stand with you in prayer. We encourage you to press on, servants of the living God. Be strong in the Lord and in His limitless power as you use the gifts He has bestowed on you to be a blessing to others. Every time you leave home for work you go on an important mission trip. May His love be evident in all you do.

Leader: We would now like to take a moment to establish a partnership between our congregation and all of you who are called to serve the Lord in your health-related fields. **[Turning to the congregation]** Will you, as a congregation, commit to sending these, His people, into their workplace and supporting them with prayer, friendship, and encouragement? If you pledge to do this, please say, “We will.” **[Congregation responds, “We will.”]**

Leader [addressing the workers]: You are God’s handiwork and His ministers in health and healthcare. With great joy and expectation, we send you from this place to do the good works that God has prepared in advance for you to do [Ephesians 2:10]. Please, everyone, join me in prayer. **[Leader offers a prayer.]**



Tell us about your church’s commissioning experience: info@kardia.org

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