

Are You Ready for September 10?

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Like it or not, September 10 (the first Sunday after Labour Day) is the start of the functional program year for churches.

Here are helpful hints to get the fall off to a great start:

- Make sure all the Sunday school cupboards have been cleaned and stocked with fresh supplies.
- Make sure that there are welcome bags for all newcomers to the church. These can be age-focused—for non-reading children, school-age children, teens, adults and seniors. Include items like these: a bookmark with the times of worship, a pamphlet about the church, a small book of prayers or suggested Bible readings for times of worry or trouble, candy or sticks of gum.
- Prior to September 10, recruit thoughtful and capable teachers and host a brief training orientation for them. Include elements like these: safety considerations, an overview of their teaching material, ideas about how to make Sunday school participatory and engaging, suggestions for personal devotions, an overview of Reformed theology and a sweep through Bible history. Too much to cover in one session? Space several meetings out over the fall.

Commissioning for Teachers and Leaders

Leader: *Teachers and leaders, you stand before the congregation today because you care about teaching and leading. Do you promise, God being your helper, to do this ministry with excellence and commitment?*

Teachers and Leaders: *We do.*

Leader: *Do you promise to guide the learners in this church so they may grow into the likeness of Christ?*

Teachers and Leaders: *We do.*

Leader: *Do you promise to continue to grow in your knowledge and faith, taking care of your own spiritual needs?*

Teachers and Leaders: *We do.*

Leader: *Our Lord Jesus asks us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Do you promise to look out into the community, inviting in others who may need to hear the good news that Jesus offers.*

Teachers and Leaders: *We do, with the help of this congregation.*

Leader: *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*