

**A LITURGY OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
OF A TEACHING ELDER
for the John Knox Presbytery**

This liturgy is intended for use in the context of the Order of Worship customary in the particular congregation:

Immediately following the prelude the moderator shall read the following Welcome and Statement of Purpose.

Friends and neighbors in Christ, members of the congregations represented, fellow presbyters: Welcome to this very joyous occasion when the call of Christ to the ordered ministry of a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is affirmed for _____.

This service of worship and liturgy of ordination and installation are acts of The John Knox Presbytery. The ruling elders and teaching elders who are participating comprise an Administrative Commission appointed by the Presbytery to act on its behalf and in its name. This service is a service of the whole church, as well as of the particular church, just as ordination has to do with the ministry of the whole church as well as the particular individual.

Our purpose is to worship God and to ordain and install _____ (name) as pastor of the (church name) _____ of (location) _____.

Following the proclamation of the Word in Scripture and sermon, the moderator shall say:

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

God calls us into the church of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, and marks us in baptism as Christ's own people. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord.

For the upbuilding of the community of faith, God bestows gifts on certain persons for particular service as Teaching Elders, as Ruling Elders, and as deacons. Recognizing the grace of God in these gifts, and affirming the importance of each office, the church ordains in order to assure fulfillment of the primary functions of preaching the Word and administering the sacraments, ordering the governance of the church, and providing for ministries of care and compassion in the world. Representing the one holy, catholic and apostolic church, The John Knox Presbytery now ordains _____ to the ordered ministry of Teaching Elder, and installs her/him as pastor/associate pastor/designated pastor of the _____ Church(es).

A LITANY OF GIFTS

Responsively

As in one body we have many parts
and each part has its own function,
so all of us together with Christ are one body;
and we all belong to each other.

**We have different gifts
according to the grace God has given us.**

If your gift is to hear God’s Word,
receive it and share it in faith.

If your gift is the heart of a teacher,
teach what is true.

Let preachers preach with truth and conviction,
and givers give with love;

**let officers work diligently for the people,
proclaiming God’s grace and peace to all.**

Let us not lack for enthusiasm,
but be ardent in spirit,

serving the Lord,

rejoicing in hope,

patient in suffering,

constant in prayer,

supporting one another,

and welcoming all.

PRESENTATION OF THE ORDINAND

The ruling elder who is to present the ordinand and the ordinand shall come forward and face the moderator. Then the ruling elder shall say:

Speaking for the members and friends of the _____ Church(es),
I bring _____ to be ordained as a Teaching Elder and to be installed as
pastor/associate pastor/designated pastor of the church(es).

The moderator shall respond:

In his/her baptism, _____ was clothed with Christ, and is now called by
God through the voice of the church to enter upon the ministry of the teaching elder.

**We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God’s
particular call to our brother/sister _____.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE ORDINAND

In answering these questions, the ordinand should use the first word of the question – “do” or “will” -- and the pronoun “I”.

Moderator: _____, you come in response to the call of Christ to the gospel ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). You have completed the constitutional requirements of the Church. You are now asked to answer the following constitutional questions:

- A. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- B. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you?
- C. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
- D. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually guided by our confessions?
- E. Will you be governed by our church's polity and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
- F. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- G. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- H. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- I. Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in the Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CALLING BODY

The ruling elder who presented the ordinand and the ordinand shall turn to the congregation. The ruling elder shall ask the following questions:

- A. Do we, the members of the church(es), accept _____ as our pastor/associate pastor/designated pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation (these congregations) to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

RESPONSE: WE DO

- B. Do we agree to encourage him/her, to respect his/her decisions, and to follow as he/she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church?

RESPONSE: WE DO.

- C. Do we promise to pay him/her fairly and provide for his/her welfare as he/she works among us; to stand by him/her in trouble and share his/her joys? Will we listen to the word he/she preaches, welcome his/her pastoral care, and honor his/her authority as he/she seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

RESPONSE: WE DO AND WE WILL.

ACT OF ORDINATION

Moderator (*addressing the congregation*): All teaching elders and ruling elders present are invited to come forward and participate in the laying on of hands.

The teaching elders and ruling elders go forward. The candidate kneels and the teaching and ruling elders place their hands on the head of the ordinand.

The following or a similar prayer shall be offered by one or by all together:

**Gracious God,
pour out your Spirit upon your servant _____,
whom you called by baptism as your own.
Grant him/her the same mind
that was in Christ Jesus.
Give him/her a spirit of truthfulness
rightly to proclaim your Word in Christ
from pulpit, table, and font,
and in the words and actions of daily living.
Give him/her the gifts of your Holy Spirit
to build up the church,
to strengthen the common life of your people,
and to lead with compassion and vision.**

**In the journey of faith and for the work of ministry,
give to your servant _____,
and to all who serve as pastors among your people,
gladness and strength,
discipline and hope,
humility, humor and courage,
and an abiding sense of your presence.**

The laying on of hands is completed. The ordinand stands.

Moderator (*addressing the ordinand*): _____, you are now ordained a Teaching Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ (*and installed as pastor/associate pastor/designated pastor of the _____ Church(es)*).

“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)

Then the members of the presbytery, and others as may be appropriate, shall welcome the new minister into the ordered ministry of Teaching Elder

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS OF MINISTRY

Symbols appropriate to the ordered ministry of Teaching Elder may be presented to the pastor.

CHARGES

Charges to both the pastor and the congregation may be given, and are customary. The following Scriptural charges are offered as suggestions for charges to the pastor:

Psalm 96

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Matthew 28:18-20

John 21:15-19

The following Scriptural charges are offered as suggestions for charges to the congregation:

2 Tim. 1:13-14

Phil.2:5-11

I Peter 4:8-11

THE EUCHARIST

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, if desired, is appropriate. The newly ordained teaching elder may preside at the Lord’s Table, and customarily pronounces the benediction.

Note: References to installation in this service should be omitted if the minister being ordained is not being installed.

Portion of this service have been adapted from the Book of Occasional Services, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 1999.