

ORDER FOR A MINISTER'S INDUCTION OR APPOINTMENT TO A PASTORAL CHARGE

Two appointed ministers escort the minister to be inducted or appointed into the church, to a seat in front facing the Holy Table. The Presbytery Clerk or the Session Clerk of the Congregation, carrying the Presbytery Ordination Bible or the Pulpit Bible, leads the local elders, the Presbytery elders and ministers, any guest ministers and the Moderator of Presbytery to the main entrance of the church, processing in that order.

GOD'S CALL

Call to Worship

The Presbytery Clerk calls the congregation to stand and then calls them to worship with the following or other suitable Scripture sentences:

Praise the Lord!
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD
or declare all his praise?

Ps. 106:1-2

Or

Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.
Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

Ps. 113:1-3

THE PEOPLE'S APPROACH

Processional Hymn

The Clerk announces a hymn of praise and during its singing leads the procession into the church.

Greeting and Welcome

The Congregation remains standing, while the Moderator of Presbytery, standing behind the Holy Table, greets them.

We greet you all in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and welcome you to this service to induct/appoint NN to minister in this congregation.

The Moderator leads the prayers that follow or invites the person appointed to lead the devotions to do so.

Prayer of Praise

Let us pray.

O God eternal,
we glorify you for your great grandeur.
We praise you that out of the vast silence of the eternal you speak to us
and, despite the noisy world around us,
by your Spirit enable us to hear you.
We praise you for your Word,
the Word who has been with you from the very beginning,
the Word who became flesh and lived among us as Jesus Christ,
the Word that speaks into our lives today
to declare your grace and love to us,
to call us to be your disciples,
to enlighten our minds,
to strengthen our spirits,
to uphold us in our weakness,
to comfort us in our suffering.
We bless you that you use us in all our frailty
to proclaim and teach this Word to others in their need for you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

We do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,
yet without sin.
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy.

Heb.4:15f.

Let us pray.

O God, forgive us all our foolish pride;
for too often we have turned aside from your truth;

we have walked in our own way instead of yours;
 we have neglected your presence;
 we have been slow to love those in need;
 we have neglected the struggle for justice in our society;
 and we have shared in the despair of the world.
 Assure us once more of your grace and forgiveness, we pray,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ himself bore our sins in his body to the tree,
 that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

1 Pet.2:24

To all who truly repent

and by faith in him resolve to lead a new life

Jesus says, 'Your sins are forgiven!'

Lk.7:48

and 'Follow me!'

Mk.2:14

Therefore give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

For his love endures for ever.

Ps.106:1

(Hymn/Song)

The Congregation may sing a hymn or join in a time of praise and song.

Statement of Intent

The congregation is seated and the Moderator says:

The Presbytery of ... has resolved to induct/appoint NNN
 to the ministry of Word and sacrament in this congregation
 that he/she may call people to repent and believe the good news,
 administer the sacraments to them,
 lead them in prayer and worship,
 teach them to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord,
 and serve them as their pastor.

GOD'S WORD

The Moderator or the person appointed to lead the devotions continues:

Listen then as God speaks to us in the reading of Holy Scripture and in the charges that will follow.

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray.

O God, it is not by the spirit of the world, but by your Spirit alone that we may know all the benefits you wish to lavish upon us. For your Spirit explores everything, even the depths of your own being, and knows what is truly yours. So grant to us that Spirit now, that we may be enabled to hear what you say to us in the light not of human wisdom but of your Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Lessons

Lessons are read from the Old Testament, a Psalm, an Epistle (or Acts or Revelation) and a Gospel or at least two of these. Some suitable passages are:

1 Sam.3:1-10

1 Ki.19:19-21

Isa.6:1-8

Isa.49:1-6

Isa.55:1-11

Isa.61:1-6b

Jer.1:4-10

Ezk.2:1f.,8-3:4

Ezk.3:16-21

Joel 2:23-32a

Amos 7:10-15

Jon.3:1-10

Ac.13:1-5

Ac.20:17-36

Ac.22:6-15

Ac.26:12-29

1 Cor.9:13-23

2 Cor.5:10-20

Eph.4:1-16

1 Tim.4:8-16

2 Tim.1:1-14

2 Tim.2:1-13 or 15-26

2 Tim.3:10-16

2 Tim.4:1-8

Tit.2:11-3:8

1 Pet.5:1-9

Mk.4:14-20

Matt.10:1-20 or 26-33

Matt.28:16-20

Mk.2:13-17

Lk.9:1-6

Lk.5:1-11

Lk.9:57-62

Lk.15:1-7

Lk.10:1-12

Lk.10:38-42

Jn.1:6-18 or 19-29

Jn.12:44-13:17

Jn.21:4-17

The reader says:

The Lord blesses the reading of his holy Word;
to his name be glory and praise.

Charges

The Moderator preaches the charges or invites the preacher Presbytery has appointed to preach the charges.

The minister to be inducted/appointed stands or sits facing the preacher during the charge to him/her.

If he/she stands, he/she is then invited to sit for the charge to the congregation.

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Confession of Faith

The Moderator says:

In response to the Word of God read and proclaimed to us, let us stand and together declare our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Offering and Hymn

An offering may be taken up in aid of the training of students for the ministry. This may be done while the congregation sings a hymn to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanks

A prayer of thanks may in any case be offered.

INDUCTION/APPOINTMENT

Preamble to the Induction/Appointment

The Clerk reads the appropriate Narrative of Procedure.

The Moderator stands at the Holy Table with the minister facing him/her and says:

The Lord Jesus Christ, having ascended on high,
has given people different gifts.
'He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists
and the pastors and teachers,
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
until we all attain to the unity that belongs to faith
and to the knowledge of the Son of God.'

Eph. 4:8, 11f.

As Presbytery and congregation together we therefore proceed now
to induct/appoint *NNN* to the ministry of Word and sacraments
in this congregation of

Declaration of Standards

Listen then to the Church's Declaration of its Standards:

The Clerk reads the Declaration of Standards in the UPCSA:

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa shares the faith
that the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church has always held.
It believes and trusts in Jesus Christ as the Lord and Redeemer of the
world,
in whom God saves us by grace through faith.
In line with what God has revealed in Jesus Christ
it worships one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
This Church accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
as inspired by the Holy Spirit

to be the uniquely authoritative witness to Jesus Christ
and as such the Word of God and the final rule of faith and life.

It accepts the ecumenical creeds
commonly called the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds
as subordinate standards that witness to, and safeguard,
the faith that was committed to the disciples of our Lord.

It recognizes as witnessing to the Reformed faith
the Westminster Confession of Faith and
the Twenty-four Articles of the Faith, with their Appendix,
and affirms as its own confessions of faith and subordinate standards
the Confession of Faith of the UPCSA
and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa.

The Uniting Church affirms its right to formulate, adopt, modify
and interpret its doctrinal statements,
always subject to the Word of God,
under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit
and in accord with the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith.
Of this accord this Church itself shall be the sole judge.

This Church recognizes liberty of opinion
on all points of doctrine that are not fundamental to the faith.
But it retains the right in every case to judge what falls within this
description
and to guard against any abuse of this liberty
that may injure its witness, unity or peace.

Vow

The Moderator takes a copy of the Vow and says:

In response to the Church's Declaration of Standards
will you now make the prescribed Vow in the face of this congregation.

The Moderator hands the copy to the minister.

The minister faces the congregation and declares:

**I, [full name], own and confess God as my Father,
Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord,
and the Holy Spirit as my Helper.**

**As far as I know my own heart,
I am moved to exercise the ministry of Word and sacrament
in this charge
by zeal for the glory of God,
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,
the call of the Holy Spirit,**

the commission to proclaim the coming of God's kingdom on earth and a desire for the salvation of all people.

**I accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
as inspired by the Holy Spirit
to be the uniquely authoritative and sufficient witness to Jesus Christ
and as such the Word of God and the final rule of faith and life.**

**I accept as subordinate standards of the faith
the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.**

**I affirm the substance of the faith expressed in the Confession of Faith
of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa.**

**I acknowledge the doctrine and form of government
of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
to accord with Scripture.**

**I recognize that in inducting/appointing me to this pastoral charge
the Uniting Presbyterian Church
renews the covenant between it and me
that binds me to be faithful to it and its ministry.
I promise to honour this covenant and be loyal to this Church,
to accept its authority,
to abide by its laws and discipline
and to encourage other members to do the same.
I will take my place in its ruling councils
and seek its unity and peace.**

**With God's help I commit myself to study the Scriptures faithfully,
to give myself to daily prayer,
to live a holy life,
to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,
to be diligent in pastoral care,
and to keep inviolate
all personal confessions and confidences shared with me,
so that God may use me to spread the gospel
and build up the Body of Christ.**

The Moderator requests the minister to sign a copy of the Vow on the Holy Table.

Act of Induction

The Moderator asks the following questions:

Brother N,

do you accept the call of this congregation as God's call to you,
and do you promise, with God's help, faithfully to
pray for them,
preach the Word of God to them,
baptize believers and believers' children,
celebrate the Lord's Supper with them,
together with the elders oversee them in a spirit of humility,
hear their confessions and assure them of God's grace,
promote love, peace and unity between them,
minister to the sick and those in need and
prepare the dying for death?

I do.

I address the enrolled members of this congregation of ... only:
Do you accept *brother N* as your minister
and do you undertake to support him/her in his/her ministry,
encourage him/her and pray for him/her?
If you do, please stand now.

When the members are standing, the Moderator says:

The Lord help you faithfully to keep the promises you have made today.

To show fellowship with *NN* in his/her induction
I invite all of us who are not members of this congregation
also to stand now.

When all are standing, the Moderator says:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Head of the Church,
and by the authority of this Presbytery,
I now declare you, *N*,
to be duly inducted as minister of this congregation.

Act of Appointment

Alternatively, if the minister is to be appointed to a charge, the Moderator asks the following question:

Brother N,
do you accept your appointment to this congregation as God's call,
and do you promise, with God's help, faithfully to
pray for them,
preach the Word of God to them,
baptise believers and believers' children,

celebrate the Lord's Supper with them,
together with the elders oversee them in a spirit of humility,
hear their confessions and assure them of God's grace,
promote love, peace and unity among them,
minister to the sick and those in need and
prepare the dying for death?

I do.

I address the members of this congregation of ... only:
Do you accept *brother* N as your duly appointed minister
and do you undertake to support him/her in his/her ministry,
encourage him/her and pray for him/her?
If you do, please stand now.

When the members are standing, the Moderator says:

The Lord help you faithfully to keep the promises you have made
today.

To show fellowship with *NN* in his/her appointment
I invite all of us who are not members of this congregation
also to stand now.

When all are standing, the Moderator says:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Head of the Church,
and by the authority of this Presbytery,
I now declare you, N,
to be duly appointed minister of this congregation.

Hymn

A hymn to the Holy Spirit is sung.

Prayer for the Minister

The congregation remains standing, while the minister kneels before the Moderator, who invites the other ministers to gather around.

The Moderator says to the congregation:

In silence let us each pray for God to bless his servant, N.

After a suitably long pause the Moderator leads in the following prayer:

Almighty Father, who sent your only Son
to live among us, to die for our sins and to rise again in glory,
we thank you for giving us so great a salvation.

We thank you that Jesus Christ blazed the trail for our faith
and is the great Shepherd of your flock.
We give you thanks that he, our ascended Lord,
has called N to be the pastor and teacher of your people in this
place,
in order to equip them,
so that they may minister to one another and to the world,
build up the Body of Christ,
attain the unity that belongs to the faith
and to knowledge of the Son of God,
and grow into the full maturity of Christ, the perfect Man.
We pray that you will help N to remember and be faithful
to the vows he/she has renewed today.
Empower him/her with your Spirit,
grant him/her the gifts, the wisdom and the discipline
that he/she needs to fulfil his calling here.
May he/she ever listen to the voice of the true Shepherd
and not the voice of a stranger.
May he/she proclaim your gospel without fear or favour,
Be a faithful pastor to your people,
hear their sins, and assure them of your grace.
So may this congregation be truly part of the royal priesthood,
a holy people belonging to you,
called out of darkness into your wonderful light
and declaring to the world your acts of grace and power.
All this we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
belong all glory and honour, now and for ever.

Amen.

Or

Almighty God, we thank you that in every generation
you give abundant gifts to your people
with which to build up the body of Christ and serve you in the world.
We thank you for the men and women you call
to the ministry of the Word and sacraments.
We thank you now for your servant, N,
for the grace you have shown him/her,
for the particular gifts you have given him/her
and for the spiritual insight and wisdom you have taught him/her
through the work of the ministry.
As he/she begins this new work for you,
we pray that you will renew his/her anointing with your Spirit,

so that he/she may keep the holy vows he/she has renewed today before you and your people.

May he/she faithfully preach the gospel of Jesus Christ,

in the power of the Spirit make many disciples

and shepherd your people in this place with love and patience.

In the face of praise and blame, success and failure,

may he/she have the mind that is in Christ Jesus,

and persevere in his/her ministry with humility and obedience.

May he/she remain earnest and unselfish in service,

pure in heart and lowly in personal claim

and work in peace with all who lead and minister with him/her.

Use him/her to bless the people of this congregation and community.

Prepare their hearts to receive your Word;

enlighten their minds with your truth;

and grant that he/she may so fulfil his/her ministry that,

when his/her work is done,

he may stand before his/her Master,

hear him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'

and so enter into the joy of his/her Lord.

All this we pray in Jesus Christ's name.

Amen.

The congregation sings the Aaronic blessing.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you

and be gracious unto you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you

and give you peace.

The ministers return to their places.

Prayer for the Minister's Family

The newly inducted/appointed minister stands and faces the Moderator.

The Moderator may invite the minister's spouse and children, if any, to come forward and pray briefly for them.

They may remain at the minister's side until after the right hand of fellowship has been given.

Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship

The Moderator says:

[Name], we welcome you with joy

to the ministry in this congregation in our Presbytery and welcome you as well, [*spouse's and children's names*].

In token of this I now invite the elders of the congregation and the members of the Presbytery to give you the right hand of fellowship.

The rest of the congregation may be seated.

While the right hand of fellowship is being given, the choir may sing a short anthem.

The Moderator then says:

N, I invite you to take your place as a member of the Presbytery.

The newly inducted/appointed minister takes his seat among the members of the Presbytery.

GOD'S SACRAMENT

By prior decision the newly inducted/appointed minister may celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, using an approved UP CSA order.

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Prayers of Petition, Intercession and Self-Offering

The newly inducted/appointed minister leads in a final short prayer of petition and intercession, praying for the welfare of the congregation and the Church's witness and work in the world, and a prayer in which he/she and the congregation offer themselves in God's service.

If no Holy Communion is celebrated, the Moderator may say this prayer immediately after the Prayer for the Minister's Family. The Right Hand of Fellowship then follows the prayer.

The prayer includes the following words:

Help every member of this congregation to take to heart that NN is inducted into/appointed to this congregation to help and encourage all its members to discern their own gifts and individual callings, to train them for their own particular ministries, and to stand with them as they all work for, and witness to, Christ their Lord and Saviour in the Church's mission to the world.

GOD'S COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Commission

The Moderator calls on the congregation to stand and says:

Jesus said: 'Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'

Jn.20.21

In the power of the Spirit, go into the world:

serve the Lord and witness to him.

We go in the name of Christ.

Benediction

Now may the God of peace equip you with everything good

that you may do his will,

working in us that which is pleasing in his sight,

through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever!

Grace be with all of you.

Heb. 13:20f., 25

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

As the recessional hymn begins, the Presbytery Clerk, carrying the Bible, leads the Presbytery out. The inducted/appointed minister immediately precedes the Moderator of the Presbytery, who walks last of all.