

**ORDINATION OF A MINISTER
AND INDUCTION/APPOINTMENT
TO A PASTORAL CHARGE**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The Clerk of the Presbytery, carrying the Scriptures, leads the procession, The local elders, the Presbytery elders, and the ministers of the Presbytery follow. The Moderator of Presbytery, preceded by those taking part in the service, walks last of all.

WELCOME AND GREETING

The Moderator:

The Presbytery of has resolved to ordain NNN to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We welcome you all to this joyful occasion and greet you in the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:14*
And also with you.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Scripture Sentences

(Hymn of praise is sung if there has not been a processional hymn.)

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, CONFESSION, AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

These or other appropriate prayers are offered:

Let us pray.

God our Father,
We worship you in wonder and in love.
Our minds cannot contain you,
nor our words express you;
yet in Christ we see your glory,
hear your word of truth
and know your forgiving love.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, gracious Trinity,
We bless and adore you.
Accept our offering of praise and thanksgiving
which we bring in the name of Jesus Christy
our Saviour and Lord,
To whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins:

Loving God, Lord of the church,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with all our heart
or served you with all our strength.
We have been blind to the vision of a renewed world
And deaf to your call to discipleship.
We have been indifferent to the suffering of others
and unwilling to forgive one another.
In your mercy, Lord,
pardon and restore us,
that together in the one ministry of Christ
we may serve you with joy
all the days of our life. **Amen.**

After the confession the following is said:

The saying is true and worthy of all acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

Hear the Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Gracious God, Lord of the world,
We bless you for calling us
into the community of your holy and universal church.
We praise you that in every generation
you have called ministers to serve in your church
that your people may be nourished in faith,
equipped for service, and brought to maturity in Christ.
We pray that through the Word and sacraments
your church may be nourished

and strengthened to do your will.
We ask for the seal of your blessing
to be on everything we do in Christ's name
in this service today.
We ask these our prayers through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(HYMN)

Where appropriate this hymn may be omitted if a time of corporate worship is entered upon.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ORDINATION

The Clerk reads the Narrative outlining the procedures that have been followed prior to the service.

PREAMBLE

The Moderator stands at the Holy Table with the ordinand facing him and says:

The Lord Jesus Christ, having ascended on high, has given people different gifts. "Gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11f).

We, as Presbytery and congregation together, therefore meet now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to ordain NNN to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments by prayer and the laying on of hands (and to admit *him* to exercise this ministry within the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa by inducting/appointing *him* to this pastoral charge).

The Moderator addresses the ordinand:

Brother NNN, you believe yourself called to this holy ministry in Christ's Church. Those whose duty it has been to train and examine you have found your learning sound and your life godly.

The Presbytery has agreed to induct/appoint you to the congregation of ...

Listen to the Church's Declaration of its standards.

*The Clerk reads the following **STATEMENT BY THE CHURCH***

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 and sufficient 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 and is continually affirmed by the Holy Spirit in the experience of the Church.

It recognizes the Westminster Confession and the Twenty-Four Articles (as amended) as witnessing to the Reformed faith and affirms as its own confessions of faith and subordinate standards the Confession of Faith of the UPCS and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa.

The Uniting Church attests 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 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.

DECLARATION BY THE ORDINAND : THE VOWS

The Moderator hands a copy of the Vows to the Ordinand and says:

In response to the Statement by the Church I invite you to take the prescribed vows.

The ordinand faces the congregation.

I, AB, 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 enter this ministry 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 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 accept the substance of the faith expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

OR

I accept the substance of the faith expressed in the Twenty-four Articles of the Faith, with their Appendix, and also 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 recognise that in ordaining me it is the Uniting Presbyterian Church that authorizes and commissions me to serve as a minister of Christ's Church. My ordination thus establishes a covenant between the denomination and me which 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 undertake to be faithful in the study of Scripture and in prayer, to live a holy life, to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and to be diligent in pastoral care, so that God may use me to spread the gospel and build up the Body of Christ.

The Moderator says:

May the Lord help you to be and do all that you have promised before him.

The Moderator requests the ordinand to sign, on the Holy Table, a copy of the Vows taken.

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE ACT OF ORDINATION

The congregation remains standing.

The Moderator hands the chalice and paten to the ordinand who holds them in his hands.

The ordinand kneels before the Moderator, who invites the other ministers to gather round and lay hands on the ordinand together with him.

The Moderator says to the congregation:

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

After a suitably long pause the Moderator says:

Almighty God, we praise you for your Church and for all whom you have called to serve you in its ministry. We thank you for the various gifts you have given them and for using their ministry to your glory.

We thank you for your servant NNN, for the grace you have shown *him*, for the particular gifts you have given *him* and for the spiritual insight and wisdom you have taught *him*.

Moderator: That *he* may keep the vows *he* has made before you and your people

Ministers: **Anoint *him* with your Spirit, Lord.**

Moderator: That *he* may faithfully preach the gospel and graciously shepherd your people

Ministers: **Anoint *him* with your Spirit, Lord.**

Moderator: That *he* may show forth all the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

Ministers: **Anoint *him* with your Spirit, Lord.**

Moderator: That *he* may remain clear in judgement, unselfish in service and pure in heart

Ministers: **Anoint *him* with your Spirit, Lord.**

Moderator: That *he* may remain simple in character and lowly in personal claim and work in harmony with *his* fellow ministers

Ministers: **Anoint *him* with your Spirit, Lord.**

Moderator: Let the same mind be in *him* that was in Christ Jesus. Amid praise and blame, success and failure, may *he* so fulfil *his* ministry that, when *he* finishes *his* work, you will welcome *him* saying, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’ This we pray in Jesus name.

* * * * *

ALTERNATIVELY WHERE THE ABOVE RESPONSIVE ORDINATION PRAYER IS NOT USED THE FOLLOWING PRAYER SAID BY THE MODERATOR ALONE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED. IT IS HOWEVER ALSO APPROPRIATE TO USE BOTH SETS OF PRAYERS IN THE ACT OF ORDINATION.

Almighty God, we praise you for your Church and for all whom you have called to serve you in its ministry. We thank you for the various gifts you have given them and for using their ministry to your glory.

We thank you for your servant NNN, for the grace you have shown *him*, for the particular gifts you have given *him* and for the spiritual insight and wisdom you have taught him.

Gracious God, who has founded for yourself a Church in the world,. and has sanctified in all ages the men of your right hand, setting them apart for the ministry of reconciliation, some to be apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, and for the edifying of the Body of Christ; look in mercy we pray you, on your servants. Pour down on *him* the grace of the Holy Spirit, that *he* may be a faithful preacher of righteousness and a true minister of the gospel of your Son. Endue *him* with the spirit of wisdom and love, of power and a sound mind. Make him and keep him simple in character, pure in heart, clear in judgement, unselfish and earnest in purpose, and lowly in personal claim. As you have brought *him* to this holy hour, under your discipline and teaching, in ways both secret and open, so lead him in days to come., that your word and life may speak through him, that your love and grace may be seen in him, and that the mind which was in Christ Jesus may also be in him. Amid praise and blame, success and failure, may he in all things so fulfil his ministry that, when his day’s work is done, he may stand before his Master, and enter into the joy of his Lord. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the love of your dear Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Saviour. **Amen.**

* * * * *

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, and by the authority committed to us in his Church, we do now ordain you, NNN, to the Holy ministry in the holy catholic Church, committing to you authority to minister the Word and Sacraments.

The Lord anoint you with the Holy Spirit and equip you with all the gifts you need for the ministry.

As you cannot bear the weight of this ministry in your own strength pray earnestly each day for the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. Let the Word of Christ dwell richly in you. Serve his people with joy, build them up in faith, and seek to bring them to loving obedience to Christ. In all your ministry may the Lord bless you.

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 Moderator and ministers lower their hands.
The ministers return to their places, and the congregation is seated.*

*The Moderator calls for the minister to be robed.
The Moderator gives the new minister the bands of office.*

The Moderator calls for the presentation of gifts
- *on behalf of the congregation*
- *on behalf of the Presbytery.*

COMMITMENT TO WORD AND SACRAMENT

The Moderator and the new minister move to the pulpit. The Moderator, using both hands, places the Pulpit Bible in the hands of the new minister and says:

Here are the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the supreme standard of faith and life. 'All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instructions for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully equipped to do every kind of good deed' (2 Tim. 3:16f.).

Study the Scriptures prayerfully, so that you may expound God's Word with conviction and power. Proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ faithfully and boldly, so that people may come to believe in him as Saviour and obey him as Lord.

The new minister hands the Bible back to the Moderator.

The Moderator and the new minister move to the font. The Moderator places both hands of the new minister on the font and says:

Here is the font. By baptism, through faith, Jesus Christ gives us his Spirit, cleanses us from sin, incorporates us into his body and includes us in the covenant of redemption. 'Go therefore to all nations and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit' (Matt. 28:19). Instruct God's people continually in what it means to be a baptized member of the Body of Christ.

The Moderator and the new minister move to the Holy Table. The Moderator lifts up the paten and chalice with both hands, hands them to the minister and says:

Here are the plate and the cup. Through holy Supper the Lord Jesus Christ renews the faithful. 'The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?' (1 Cor. 10:16). Joyfully celebrate this sacrament that through it God may constantly nourish his people in communion with Christ and with one another and so strengthen them for their daily work and witness in the world.

The minister returns the paten and chalice to the Moderator, who places them on the Holy Table.

The Moderator and the new minister return to their places.

The Moderator says to the minister:

'May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever' (Heb. 13:20,21).

The new minister faces the congregation, and the Moderator says:

Brothers and sisters, I present to you our *brother....*, duly ordained a minister in the holy catholic Church.

The new minister bows to the congregation and the Presbytery.

ACT OF INDUCTION

The Moderator stands before the new minister. The Moderator asks the following questions:

Brother NNN, do you accept the call from this congregation as the call of God, and do you promise, with God's help, to be a faithful pastor to all its people?

I do.

I address the members of the congregation of

Do you accept *brother* NNN as your minister, called to preach the Word of God to you, to be your pastor in spiritual need and to take part in the oversight of your congregation? And do you promise to support *him* in *his* ministry and to encourage and pray for *him*? If you do, please stand.

Only the members of the Uniting Presbyterian congregation stand.

After a brief pause the Moderator says:

To show our fellowship with you in Jesus Christ at this induction, we who are not members of the church in this place now also stand.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, and by authority of this Presbytery I declare you, NNN, to be duly inducted as minister of this congregation. We welcome you into this ministry with joy.

THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

The Moderator invites the members of the Presbytery to give the new minister the right hand of fellowship.

The Moderator invites the elder of the congregation to welcome the new minister.

HYMN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament
Epistle
Gospel

THE CHARGE

The ordinand remains standing until he is requested to be seated.

After the charge to both ordinand and congregation the Moderator invites the new minister to take his place among the members of the Presbytery.

THE NICENE CREED

COMMUNION HYMN

The new minister (assisted if necessary by the Moderator or a colleague) celebrates the Holy Sacrament according to the Service Book of the UPCA.

FINAL HYMN

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Recessional Song

The congregation stands while the Presbytery processes from the Church. The new minister processes immediately before the Moderator of the Presbytery who walks last of all.