

APPENDIX 4

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

Processional Hymn

The clerk of the Presbytery, carrying the Scriptures, leads the local elders, the Presbytery elders, the ministers of the Presbytery and the Moderator of Presbytery into the church, processing in that order.

Call to Worship

The people are called to worship with Scripture sentences such as the following:

Worship the LORD in gladness;
come into his presence with joyful songs.
Acknowledge that the LORD is God;
he made us, and we are his,
his own people, the flock which he shepherds. *Ps.100:2-3*

or

Praise the LORD, you that are his servants,
praise the name of the LORD.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
may the LORD's name be praised! *Ps.113:1,3*

Greeting and Welcome

The Moderator of Presbytery says:

We greet you all in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
and welcome you to this joyful occasion
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

2 Cor.13:14

And also with you.

Hymn

A hymn of praise is sung, if there has been no processional hymn.

Prayers of Praise and Confession

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 your Spirit enables us to 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 the offering of praise and thanksgiving
that we bring in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,
to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin:

Loving God, Lord over all,
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,
so that together, in the one ministry of Christ,
we may serve you with joy
all the days of our lives.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Tim.1:15*

Hear Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven. *Mk.2:5*

Thanks be to God.

*A hymn may be sung or the congregation may join in a time of
praise and song.*

Statement of Intent and Prayer

The Moderator says:

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, Lord of the world,
we bless you for calling us
into the community of your holy and catholic Church.
We praise you that in every generation
you have called ministers to serve 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 on everything we do in this
service today,
for we do it in Christ's name.

So, Lord, as your Word is read and proclaimed to us now
let your Holy Spirit imprint it upon our hearts,
that we may truly hear you speak to us

and learn to walk in your way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament
Epistle
Gospel

Charges

*The Moderator invites the appointed preacher to deliver the
charges.*

*The ordinand stands or sits facing the preacher during the charge
to him.*

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

Creed

The Moderator says:

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

*The congregation, all standing, say the Nicene Creed, the
Apostles' Creed or another appropriate liturgical confession of
faith.*

Preamble to the Ordination

*The clerk reads the Narrative of the procedures followed prior to
the service.*

*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 *NW* to the ministry of the Word and sacraments by prayer and the laying on of hands (and to induct/appoint *him* to the exercise of this ministry in this pastoral charge in the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa).

The Moderator addresses the ordinand:

Brother N, you believe yourself to be called to this holy ministry in Christ's Church. Those whose duty it has been to examine you have found your learning sound and your life godly. The Presbytery has therefore agreed to ordain you (and to induct/appoint you to the congregation of)

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

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

It also accepts, as witnessing to and safeguarding that faith, the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Twenty-four Articles of the Faith, with their Appendix, the new 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 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.

Vows

The Moderator takes a copy of the Vows and says:

In response to the Church's Declaration of Standards I invite you to take the prescribed Vows:

The Moderator hands the copy to the ordinand.

The ordinand faces the congregation and declares:

**I 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 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 Westminster Confession of Faith and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa.

or

I affirm the substance of the faith expressed in the Twenty-four Articles of the Faith, with their Appendix, and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa.

or

I affirm the substance of the faith expressed in the new Confession of Faith of the UPCSA and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa.¹

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

I recognize that in ordaining me the Uniting Presbyterian Church authorizes and commissions me to serve as a minister of Christ's Church. My ordination thus establishes a covenant between the denomination and me that binds me to be faithful to it and its ministry.

¹ See UPCSA Proceedings and Decisions of General Assembly 2003, p.560.

**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 to do all that you have promised before him.

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

Act of Ordination

A hymn to the Holy Spirit is sung.

The congregation remains standing.

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

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

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 saying the Ordination Prayer:

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, *N*,
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.

*your people' onwards, the Moderator may say the following
prayer alone:*

Gracious God, who has founded for yourself a Church in the
world
and in all ages has set apart people for the ministry of
reconciliation,
some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,
and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints,
for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the Body of
Christ,
look in mercy, we pray, on your servant.
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 led him under your discipline and teaching,
in ways both secret and open,
to offer himself for this ministry,
so lead *him* in days to come,
that your word and life may be spoken through *him*,
your love and grace be seen in *him*,
and the mind which was in Christ Jesus be also 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 Lord and
Redeemer.
Amen.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the
Church,

*Alternatively, instead of the above responsive prayer from the
line 'That he may keep the vows he has made before you and*

and by the authority committed to us in his Church we ordain you, *N*, to the holy ministry of the holy catholic Church and commit to you the authority to minister the Word and sacraments.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you always and equip you with all the gifts you need for the ministry.

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 the ministers lower their hands.

The Moderator says:

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 ministers return to their places, and the congregation is seated.

Robing

The Moderator calls for the new minister to be robed.

The Moderator gives the new minister the bands of office.

The Moderator calls for the presentation of any gifts

- *on behalf of the congregation*
- *on behalf of the Presbytery.*

Commitment to the 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 instruction 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 then 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 gives us his Spirit,
cleanses us from sin, incorporates us into his body
and includes us in the covenant of redemption.

The Lord Jesus Christ said,

'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 new minister and says:

Here are the plate and the cup.

Through the 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 new minister returns the paten and the 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 new 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 glory for ever and ever.

Heb.13:20f.

Presentation

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

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

*The new minister bows to the congregation and to the Presbytery.
The new minister then faces the Moderator.*

Act of Induction

If the new minister is to be inducted to a charge, the Moderator asks the following questions:

Brother N, 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 this congregation of ... only:
Do you accept *brother N* 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,
encourage *him* and pray for him?
If you do, please stand.

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 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 new minister is to be appointed to a charge, the Moderator asks the following questions:

Brother N, do you accept appointment to this charge as God's will for you,
and do you promise, with God's help, to fulfil all its duties?

I do.

I address the members of this congregation of ... only:
Do you accept *brother N* as your minister, appointed
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,
encourage *him* and pray for him?
If you do, please stand.

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 appointment 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 the authority of this Presbytery I now declare you, *N*, to be duly appointed to be minister of this congregation.

The congregation is seated.

Prayer for the Minister's Family

The Moderator may invite the new minister's spouse and young children, if any, to come forward and prays for them. They may remain at his side until after the right hand of fellowship is given.

The Right Hand of Fellowship

The Moderator says:

Brother..., we welcome you into this ministry with joy. In token of this I now invite the members of the Presbytery and the elders of the congregation to give you the right hand of fellowship.

The Moderator then says:

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

The new minister takes his seat among the members of Presbytery.

Communion Hymn

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

Final Hymn

Commission and Benediction

The Moderator says:

Jesus said: 'Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, 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.

May the God who gives us peace make you completely his,
and keep your whole being, spirit, soul and body,
free from all fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Th.5:13*

Recessional Song

While the congregation stands, the Bible is carried out, and the Presbytery processes out behind it. The new minister processes immediately before the Moderator of the Presbytery, who walks last of all.

Note:

- 1. The printed order uses the term 'brother' and masculine pronouns. With a woman ordinand the female equivalents must obviously be used.*
- 2. If and when the UPCSA adopts a new Confession of Faith, the statements in the Declaration of Standards and in the Vows will need to be amended accordingly.*