

ORDINATION AND/OR INSTALLATION OF A NEW PASTOR

Before coming to meet with the Pastoral Transitions Commission for examination, a new minister and Pastor Nominating Committee work together to select an ordination and/ or installation date and a list of persons to serve on an installation commission. It is important to choose a date and time that coordinates well with the new pastor's schedule, the activities of the church, and the ability of presbyters to participate (given driving distances).

An ordination or installation commission is a group of people carefully selected to represent the presbytery as installation is an act of presbytery and presbytery will elect these people. A commission should be 5-7 men and women, nearly evenly divided among clergy and elder participants with not more than one of the elders from the same church. It would be considerate to include your Pastoral Transitions Commission contact person on the commission.

_____ *(Please complete and bring to PTC meeting)* _____
COMMISSION

Name of Pastor to be ordained/installed:

Name of church(es):

Date and Time of Service:

Members of Commission:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Minister?Elder?</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Part in the Service</i>
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1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

*6.

*7.

*Non-members sitting with the commission:

*optional

ORDINATION AND/OR INSTALLATION SERVICE OUTLINE

On the day designated for the installation, the presbytery or commission appointed for this purpose shall convene and shall call the congregation gathered to worship. The service shall focus upon Christ and the joy and responsibility of the mission and ministry of the church, and shall include a sermon appropriate to the occasion.

Statement of Purpose (by Moderator or Chair of the Commission) *Following the Sermon*

Moderator or Chair says something about the theology of call, the process of preparation for ministry, the process of call and our Presbyterian understanding of the work of the Spirit in this, describes installation as an act of presbytery, and acknowledges the commission representing presbytery.

Presentation of the Candidate (presented by an elder, perhaps Chair of the PNC)

"Speaking for the people of the church, I bring _____ to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament." and/or installed as (Pastor, Associate Pastor, etc.)."

Constitutional Questions to the Candidate (by Moderator or Chair of the Commission)

(1) 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?

(2) 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?

(3) 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?

(4) Will you be a minister of the Word and Sacrament in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually guided by our confessions?

(5) 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?

(6) Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

(7) Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

(8) Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

(9) Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith, and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

for ordination:

Prayer and Laying on of Hands

The candidate, having answered the questions in the affirmative, shall kneel, if able, and the presbytery shall, **with prayer and the laying on of hands**, ordain the candidate to the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Declaration of Ordination

The member presiding shall then say: (Name) _____, you are now ordained a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the church of Jesus Christ. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.

for installation - **Constitutional Questions to the Congregation (Elder from the congregation)**

(1) Do we, the members of the church, accept (Name) as our pastor (associate pastor), chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

(2) 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?

(3) 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?

Prayer of Installation (Member of commission)*

candidate may kneel or stand (no laying on of hands)

Declaration of Installation *

The member presiding shall then say: "(Name) _____, you are now a minister of the Word and Sacrament in and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen." Symbols of office may be offered (Bible, chalice, baptismal bowl, stole, etc.)

*If the minister is being ordained and installed in one service, it is not necessary to offer separate prayers and declarations.

Welcome by commission Members of the commission greet new minister.

Charge to minister (by member of the commission)

Charge to congregation (by a member of the commission)

Brief statement and Benediction (by new minister)

After the service, the officers and members of the church should be invited to come forward to greet their pastor and give him or her an appropriate expression of cordial reception and affectionate regard. The installation of a minister as pastor or associate pastor of more than one church may take place in a joint service, provided each church is present and answers for itself the constitutional questions.