# Covenanting, Dedication and Installation

## Constituting a Congregation

### Preface

The chairperson of the presbytery or designate shall preside. The people will join in those responses printed in bold face.

#### Gathering

#### Prelude

#### Greeting

All stand. The presider greets the community with scripture sentences appropriate to the season or occasion and/or the following dialogue.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

#### Hymn of Praise

#### Opening Prayer

A prayer appropriate to the season or one such as the following may be offered.

#### Presider

Eternal God,  
Once we were not a people,   
but now you have called us to be your own.   
Once we had not received mercy,   
but now you have given us your grace.   
To us it is an awesome and joyous thing.   
Gather us anew,   
that we may proclaim your goodness and glorify your name   
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

#### Statement of Purpose

#### Presider

Through the ages, God has moved the people of Christ to join in worship and service. We are gathered here to constitute a new congregation of Christ's church in an act of covenanting. May the gifts that God has entrusted to the church be used to the glory of God.

#### People

**Thanks be to God.**

### Service of the Word

#### Proclamation of the Word and Response

#### Old Testament Lesson

Before the lesson the reader may say,

A reading from...

After the lesson the reader may say,

The Word of the Lord.

And the people say,

**Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

#### Psalm

#### Epistle Lesson

Before the lesson the reader may say,

A reading from...

After the lesson the reader may say,

The Word of the Lord.

And the people say,

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Hymn, Canticle, or Anthem

#### Gospel Lesson

Before the lesson the reader may say,

The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to...

And the people respond,

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

After the reading, the reader may say,

The Gospel of Christ.

And the people respond,

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Sermon

### Action of Constituting the Congregation

A brief history of the events leading to the formation of the congregation may be told by a representative of the congregation.

#### Covenant

#### Presider

Will all who are baptized into the church of Jesus Christ and who have indicated their intention to become members of this new congregation please stand.

The people stand.

If it is your will to constitute here a congregation of The United Church of Canada, I ask you now to make your covenant before God and in the presence of members of N Presbytery.

#### People

**By the grace of God we covenant together**  
**to be a people of God in this place:**  
**to celebrate God's presence in Word and Sacrament,**   
**to care for one another in love,**   
**to nurture one another in the faith,**   
**and to share in the life and mission**   
**of The United Church of Canada**   
**and of the whole church of Jesus Christ.**   
**Thanks be to God.**

#### Presider

N Presbytery has authorized the formation of this congregation and pastoral charge. I now ask its representatives to stand and covenant with this congregation.

#### Presbytery Members: standing

By the grace of God, we covenant with you in your life and service as Christ's people in this place. We recognize you as one congregation in this communion. We promise you our oversight and support. We share with you in the life and mission of The United Church of Canada and the whole church of Jesus Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

The people may be seated.

#### Renewal of Baptismal Faith

#### Presider

Brothers and sisters, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace that is given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

#### People

**We are one body and one spirit.**  
**We have one hope in God's call to us.**

#### Presider

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

#### People

**Out of the water of baptism we rise with new life,**  
**forgiven of sin and one with Christ,**   
**members of Christ's body.**

#### Presider

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you turn away from the forces of evil and renounce their power?

#### People

**I do, by the grace of God.**

#### Presider

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as Saviour and Lord?

#### People

**I do, by the grace of God.**

#### Presider

Do you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of Christ's Church?

#### People

**I do, by the grace of God.**

The people stand.

#### Presider

As a baptized and baptizing church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community that worships God, resists evil, and seeks justice?

#### People

**We do.**

#### Presider

Let us with the whole church confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**  
**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**  
**born of the Virgin Mary,**  
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**  
**was crucified, died and was buried;**  
**he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;**  
**he ascended into heaven,**  
**is seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
**and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
**the holy catholic church,**  
**the communion of saints,**  
**the forgiveness of sins,**  
**the resurrection of the body**  
**and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

or

Let us stand and join in a statement of our communal faith.

**We are not alone,**  
**we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**  
**who has created and is creating,**  
**who has come in Jesus,**  
**the Word made flesh,**  
**to reconcile and make new,**  
**who works in us and others**  
**by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church;**  
**to celebrate God's presence,**  
**to live with respect in Creation,**  
**to love and serve others,**  
**to seek justice and resist evil,**  
**to proclaim Jesus,**  
**crucified and risen,**  
**our judge and our hope.**  
**In life, in death,**  
**in life beyond death,**  
**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

The people are seated.

The presider may, with cupped hand, lift water from the font and let it fall back into it or may sprinkle water towards them (or omit all symbolic action).

#### Presider

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

#### People

**Amen.**

Those who wish to do so may come forward in turn to receive the laying on of hands, with prayer for the Spirit.

#### Presider

N, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

#### People

**Amen.**

#### Act of Praise

A doxology, hymn, or anthem may be sung, or the people may express their joy with applause, a fanfare, or the ringing of bells.

#### Prayers of the People

A lay member of the congregation or diaconal minister may lead these prayers. Intercessions or thanksgivings may be offered for:

* the church universal
* the world
* the local community
* those in need
* the departed.

A litany of prayers and responses may be used.

Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord have mercy.**

or

Lord hear our prayer,  
**And in your love answer.**

The leader concludes the prayer with words such as these:

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices  
and fears that deny and betray our prayers.   
Enable us to see the causes of strife;   
remove from us all false sense of superiority.   
Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children.   
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,   
trusting in your mercy now and forever.  
**Amen.**

The Service of the Table may continue this liturgy.