# Covenanting, Dedication and Installation

## Reception of a Candidate for the Ordained/Diaconal Ministry

### Preface

The people will join in those responses that appear in bold face print. The service usually takes place as an act of worship in the home church of the candidate. A representative of presbytery presides. When there is more than one candidate, the service may be adjusted accordingly.

#### Gathering

#### Prelude

#### Greeting

*All stand. The presider greets the community with scripture sentences appropriate to the season 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 occasion may be offered. After the prayer, the service may include an act of confession of sin or proceed directly to the Presentation.*

### Presentation

#### Presider

We are gathered here in the presence of God to receive *NN* as a candidate for the ordained/diaconal ministry of Christ's church.

#### Presenter: *from local congregation or discernment committee*

I present to you *NN*, to be received as a candidate for the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care/Education, Service, and Pastoral Care. We have examined her/him and believe that she/he is a suitable candidate for this ministry.

#### Presenter: *from presbytery*

We too have examined *NN* and believe that he/she is a suitable candidate for the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care/education, service, and pastoral care.

#### Words of Welcome

*The presider may recognize special guests.*

### Service of the Word

**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.**

*Silence may follow.*

#### 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

### Covenanting Action

#### Renewal of Baptismal Faith

#### Presider: *addressing all*

Let us stand and 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.*

#### Statement of Ministry

*The candidate comes forward at the invitation of the presider.*

#### Presider

In Jesus Christ, God came into the world as servant of all. By our baptism, we are called to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. From among us, some are called to a ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care. Some are called to a ministry of education, service, and pastoral care. The church seeks, trains, tests, and recognizes those whom God calls. Let us ask for God's grace as we receive this candidate.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us. Strengthen us by your spirit and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
Amen.

### Promises of the Candidate

#### Presider: *addressing the candidate*

That this assembly may know your mind and will, I ask you:

Do you believe in God who created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,   
to reconcile and make new,  
and who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit?

#### Candidate

I do.

#### Presider

Do you believe that God is calling you to the order of ministry in Christ's church?

#### Candidate

I do.

#### Presider

In your preparation for ordered ministry, will you diligently study the scriptures and the history and doctrines of the church?

#### Candidate

I will.

#### Presider

Will you accept the oversight and support of this presbytery and act within the polity and practice of The United Church of Canada?

#### Candidate

I will.

### Promises of the Presbytery

*Members of the Discernment Committee and presbytery come forward.*

#### Presider: *addressing the members of presbytery*

Do you, members of *N* Presbytery, receive *NN* as a candidate for the order of ministry?

#### Presbytery members

We do.

#### Presider

Will you be responsible for the oversight of *NN* and will you encourage and support him/her as he/she prepares for ordained/diaconal ministry?

#### Presbytery members

We will.

*The Discernment Committee is thanked and discharged.*

#### Presentation to the Candidate

*A suitable book (e.g.* The Manual*,* Service Book*, or* Hymn Book*) may be presented to the candidate.*

#### Act of Praise

*A doxology, hymn, or anthem may be sung.*

#### Prayers of the People

*A lay member of the congregation 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.*