10.3 **ORDER FOR A MINISTER’S INDUCTION OR APPOINTMENT TO A CHARGE** (2016)

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*It is the Presbytery’s responsibility to see that the clergy of all other local Churches, especially those of the CUC, are invited to every ordination/induction/ appointment. (See the CUC Statement on the Mutual Recognition of Ministries, especially point 10 and the final resolution.) The CUC clergy should also be invited to choose one of themselves to say the words of welcome in the Order.*

*The clergy at the service should wear clerical dress with red stoles.*

*The hymns and prayers and at least one of the Scripture lessons should be in the congregation’s first language. The charge at least to the congregation should also be in its first language or be translated into it.*

*A chair is placed in front of the pews, facing the Holy Table, to seat the Minister to be inducted/appointed.*

*The Presbytery Clerk places a printed Vow and a pen on the Holy Table.*

*Two appointed Ministers escort the minister to be inducted/ appointed into the church, to the chair in front, before the service begins.*

*The Presbytery Clerk, carrying the Presbytery Ordination Bible (or else the Pulpit Bible) leads the local Elders, the Presbytery Elders, the UPCSA Ministers, any guest Ministers and the Moderator of Presbytery to the main entrance of the church, processing in that order.*

**GOD’S CALL**

**Call to Worship**

*The Presbytery Clerk calls the congregation to stand and then calls them to worship with the following or other suitable Scripture sentences, in a voice that is audible to all in the procession as well as in the church:*

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord,

praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord

from this time forth and for evermore!

From the rising of the sun to its setting

the name of the Lord is to be praised! Ps. 113:1-3

*Or*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Enter his courts with praise! Ps. 100:1f.,*4*

**THE PEOPLE’S APPROACH**

**Processional Hymn**

*The Presbytery Clerk says,* Let us worship God*, and announces a hymn of praise. During its singing he/she leads the procession into the church.*

**Greeting and Welcome**

*The congregation remains standing.*

*The Moderator of Presbytery, standing behind the Holy Table, greets the congregation:*

We greet you all in the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

and welcome you all, including all visiting clergy, to this service.

**Statement of Intent**

We meet here to worship God and to induct/appoint [*full name*]

to the ministry of Word and sacrament

as (Assistant/Colleague) Minister in the congregation

of the (*name*) Presbyterian Church.

*The Moderator leads the devotions that follow or invites the person appointed to lead them to do so.*

**Prayer of Praise**

*The congregation remains standing.*

Let us pray.

O God eternal,

we praise you for your great glory.

We bless you that out of the vast silence of eternity you speak to us

and, despite the noise of the world around us,

by your Spirit enable us to hear you.

We praise you for your Word,

the Word who has been with you from the very beginning,

the Word who became flesh and lived among us as Jesus Christ,

the Word that speaks into our lives today

to declare your grace and love to us,

to call us to be your disciples,

to enlighten our minds,

to strengthen our spirits,

to uphold us in our weakness,

to comfort us in our suffering and in our dying.

We bless you that, despite all our frailty, you use us

to proclaim and teach this Word to others in their need for you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

**Prayer of Confession**

*The congregation may stand or sit.*

We do not have a high priest

who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,

yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy and find grace. Heb. 4:15f.

Let us confess our sins.

Gracious God, forgive us all our foolish pride;

we have turned aside from your truth

and walked our own way instead of yours;

we have neither loved you with all our heart

nor served you with all our strength;

we have not loved one another as we ought

and have cared little about the needs and suffering of others;

we have been blind to Jesus’ vision of a renewed world

and neglected the struggle for justice in our society;

we have failed to be good witnesses to your gospel;

and have shared in the despair of the world.

Have mercy on us,

and assure us again of your grace and forgiveness, we pray,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Assurance of Grace**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,

that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. *1* Pet. 2:24

To all who truly repent

and by faith in him resolve to lead a new life

Jesus declares, “Your sins are forgiven!” Lk. 7:48

and says, “Follow me!” Mk. 2:14

Therefore give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**For his love endures for ever.**Ps. 106:1

(**The Great Commandments**)

You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

**This is the greatest and first commandment.**

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

**On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

*Matt. 22:37-40*

(**Hymn/Song**)

*The congregation may sing a hymn or join in a time of praise and song.*

**GOD’S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Let us pray.

O God, not by the spirit of the world, but by your Spirit alone

do we come to know all the benefits you wish to lavish upon us.

For your Spirit searches everything,

even the inexhaustible depths of God , *I Cor. 2:10*

and knows all that you have in mind for us.

So grant to us now that that same Spirit

may give us ears to hear what you say to us,

and wisdom to understand it.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Scripture Lections**

*The congregation is seated.*

Listen as God speaks to us in the reading of Holy Scripture

and the charges that follow.

*Lessons are read from the Old Testament, a Psalm, an Epistle (or Acts or Revelation) and a Gospel, or at least two of these.*

*The reader calls the congregation to stand for the Gospel.*

*Suitable passages are as in the Order for a Minister’s Ordination and Induction or Appointment to a Charge.*

*After the lessons the reader says:*

The Lord bless the reading of his holy Word;

to his name be glory and praise.

**Charges**

*The Minister to be inducted/appointed stands or sits facing the preacher during the charge to him/her.*

*The Moderator delivers the charges or else invites the preacher whom Presbytery has appointed to deliver them.*

*The charges begin,*

In the Name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**.

*If the Minister stands for the charge to him/her, the preacher thereafter invites him/her to sit for the charge to the congregation.*

**THE PEOPLE’S RESPONSE**

**Confession of Faith**

*The Moderator says:*

In response to the Word of God read and proclaimed to us,

let us stand and together declare our faith

in the words of the Nicene Creed.

*The Creed is said together in the approved 2014 version.*

**Offering and Hymn**

*At the discretion of the Presbytery an offering may be taken up in aid of the training of students for the ministry or some other cause.*

*This may be done while the congregation sings a hymn.*

*(If not sung as the Processional Hymn at the beginning, the hymn here may be the* Te Deum *or the* Gloria in excelsis*.)*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanks**

*A prayer of general thanksgiving may in any case be offered.*

**INDUCTION/APPOINTMENT**

**Preamble to the Induction/Appointment**

*The congregation is seated.*

*The Moderator stands at the Holy Table, with the minister to be inducted/appointed facing him/her, and says:*

The Lord Jesus Christ, having ascended on high,

has given people different gifts.

To some his gift was that they should be apostles;

to some, prophets;

to some, evangelists;

to some, pastors and teachers

to equip the saints for the work of ministry,

for building up the body of Christ,

until we all attain to the unity that belongs to faith

and to the knowledge of the Son of God. Eph. 4:8,11f.

Ordination to the ministry of Word and sacrament

thus means being ordained as pastors and teachers

in order to equip the saints for their ministry and mission

as the people of God.

For in baptism Christ ordains us all into the priesthood of believers,

who share in his royal priesthood and his mission to the world.

Brother/Sister [*name*],

Presbytery will now proceed, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

to induct/appoint you to this charge,

that you may teach and pastor its people.

Let us then hear the record of procedure.

*The Clerk reads the appropriate Narrative of Procedure.*

**Vow**

*The Moderator takes a copy of the Vow and says:*

(*Name*), bearing in mind the Church’s Declaration of Standards,

will you now make the prescribed Vow

in the face of this congregation.

*The Moderator hands the copy to the Minister.*

*The Minister faces the congregation and declares the Vow.*

[*The text of the Vow is as in the Order for a Minister’s Ordination and Induction or Appointment to a Charge.*]

*The Moderator requests the Minister to sign the copy of the Vow on the Holy Table.*

*After this the Moderator says:*

May God grant you grace and power

faithfully to keep all that you have promised today

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Hymn**

*The congregation sings a hymn to the Holy Spirit.*

**Act of Induction**

*The congregation is seated. The Minister stands in front of the Moderator.*

*If the Minister is to be inducted to a charge, the Moderator asks the following questions:*

Brother/Sister [*name*],

do you accept the call of this congregation as God’s call to you,

and do you promise, with God's help,

faithfully to call people to repent and believe the good news,

welcome people of every race, tribe, clan and class,

baptize believers and their children

celebrate the Lord’s Supper with them,

pray for all the people in your care,

minister to the poor no less than to the rich,

promote love, peace and unity between all,

together with the Elders oversee them in a spirit of humility,

hear their confessions and assure them of God’s grace,

minister to the sick and any in need and

prepare the dying for death?

**I do.**

The Lord help you faithfully to keep the promises

you have made as you stand before him today.

I address the members of this congregation of . . . Church only:

Do you accept brother/sister [*full name*]as your Minister

and do you undertake to support him/her in his/her ministry,

encourage him/her and pray for him/her?

If you do, please stand now.

*When the members are standing, the Moderator says:*

The Lord help you to keep your commitment.

To show fellowship with [*name*]in his/her induction

I invite all those who are not enrolled members of this congregation

also to stand now.

*When all are standing, the Moderator says:*

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

and by the authority of this Presbytery,

I now duly induct you, [*full* *name*],

as (Assistant/Colleague) Minister in this congregation.

**Act of Appointment** (alternative to Induction)

*The congregation is seated. The Minister stands in front of the Moderator.*

*If the Minister is to be appointed to a charge, the Moderator asks the following questions:*

Brother/Sister [*name*],

do you accept appointment to this congregation

as God’s call to you,

and do you promise, with God's help,

faithfully to call people to repent and believe the good news,

welcome people of every race, tribe, clan and class,

baptize believers and believers’ children

celebrate the Lord’s Supper with them,

pray for all the people in your care,

minister to the poor no less than to the rich,

promote love, peace and unity between all,

together with the Elders oversee them all in a spirit of humility,

hear their confessions and assure them of God’s grace,

minister to the sick and any in need, and

prepare the dying for death?

**I do.**

The Lord help you faithfully to keep the promises

you have made today.

I address the members of this congregation of . . . Church only:

Do you accept brother/sister [*name*] as your duly appointed Minister

and do you undertake to support him/her in his/her ministry,

encourage him/her and pray for him/her?

If you do, please stand now.

*When all the members are standing, the Moderator says:*

The Lord help you to keep your commitment.

To show fellowship with [*name*]in his/her appointment

I invite all of us who are not enrolled members of this congregation

also to stand now.

*When all are standing, the Moderator says:*

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

and by the authority of this Presbytery,

I now duly appoint you, [*full* *name*

as (Assistant/Colleague) Minister in this congregation.

**Prayer for the Minister**

*After the Induction/Appointment the congregation remains stand­ing.*

*The Moderator requests the Minister to kneel facing him/her..*

*The Moderator says to the congregation:*

In silence let us each pray for God to bless his servant, [*name*].

*After a suitably long pause the Moderator leads in the following prayer, which may be suitably adapted to the circumstances of the congregation and/or of the Minister:*

Almighty Father, who sent your only Son

to live among us, to die for our sins and to rise again in glory,

we thank you for so great a salvation. *Heb. 2:3*

We thank you that Jesus Christ blazed the trail for our faith

and is the great Shepherd of your flock. *Heb. 2:10, 12:2, 13:20*

We give you thanks that he, our ascended Lord,

has called [*name*]

to be the pastor and teacher of your people in this place,

in order to equip them,

so that they may minister to one another and to the world,

So may they build up the Body of Christ,

realize between themselves the unity

that comes from faith in, and knowledge of, the Son of God,

and grow to a spiritual maturity

that accords with the full maturity of Christ. *Eph. 4:8,11-13*

We pray that you will help [*name*] to be faithful

to the vows he/she has renewed today.

Rekindle the gift of your Spirit within him/her:

grant him/her the spirit of power and love and self-discipline

that he/she needs to fulfil his/her calling here. *2 Tim. 1:6f.*

May he/she always listen to the voice of the true Shepherd

and the voice of no other. *Jn. 10:4f.*

May he/she proclaim your gospel without fear or favour,

be a faithful pastor to your people,

hear their sins, and assure them of your grace.

So may this congregation be truly part of the royal priesthood,

a holy people belonging to you,

and declare to the world your mighty acts of grace and power.

*1 Pet. 2:9*

All this we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,

belong all glory and honour, now and for ever.

**Amen**.

*Or*

Almighty God, we thank you that in every generation

you give abundant gifts to your people

with which to build up the body of Christ

and serve you in the world. *Eph. 4:11f.*

We thank you for the men and women you call

to the ministry of the Word and sacraments.

We thank you now for your servant, [*name*],

and the grace you have shown him/her,

the particular gifts you have given him/her

and the spiritual insight and wisdom you have taught him/her

for the work of the ministry.

As he/she begins this new work for you,

we pray that you will rekindle the gift of your Spirit

that is within him/her.

May he/she faithfully preach the gospel of Jesus Christ,

in the power of the Spirit make many disciples,

shepherd your people in this place with love and patience *1 Pet. 5:2*

and be a blessing to this congregation and this community.

In the face of praise and blame, success and failure,

may he/she have the mind that is in Christ Jesus, *Phil. 2:5*

and persevere in his/her ministry with humility and obedience.

May he/she remain earnest and unselfish in service,

pure in heart and lowly in personal claim,

and work in peace with all who lead and minister with him/her.

May he/she so fulfil his/her ministry that, when his/her work is done,

he/she may stand before his/her Master,

hear him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

and so enter into the joy of his/her Lord. *Matt. 25:21,23*

All this we pray in Jesus Christ’s name.

**Amen.**

*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.** *Num. 6:24-26*

*The Ministers return to their places.*

**Prayer for the Minister’s Family**

*The Moderator invites the Minister’s spouse and children, if any, to come forward to stand beside him/her and prays* briefly *for them or invites an appointed person (preferably someone who knows them) to pray for them.*

**Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship**

*The Minister’s family remain at his/her side.*

*When the congregation is seated, the Moderator says:*

[*Name*], we welcome you with joy

into the ministry in this congregation in our Presbytery

and welcome you too, [*spouse’s and children’s names*].

*A member of the clergy representing the CUC Churches in the area steps forward and says:*

In the name of the clergy of this area

(*or* In the name of the local fellowship of clergy)

I welcome you into our fellowship too, (*name*).

The Lord be with you and bless your ministry.

*The Moderator says:*

In token of this I now invite the members of the Presbytery,

the visiting clergy and the Elders of the congregation

to give you the right hand of fellowship.

The rest of the congregation may sit.

*The right hand of fellowship is given to the newly inducted/ appointed Minister and his/her family.*

*During this time the choir may sing a short anthem.*

*The Moderator then says:*

[*Name*], I invite you to take your place as a member of the Presbytery.

*The newly inducted/appointed Minister takes his/her place with the members of the Presbytery, while his/her family return to their pews.*

*The members of Presbytery all sit.*

**GOD’S SACRAMENT**

*The newly inducted/appointed Minister may celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion according to an approved UPCSA Order.*

**THE PEOPLE’S RESPONSE**

**Notices**

*Brief relevant notices, such as an invitation to tea, may be given.*

**Prayers of Petition, Intercession and Self-Offering**

*The newly inducted/appointed Minister leads the congregation in a final short prayer of petition and intercession for its own welfare and its witness and work in the world, and then in offering themselves for God’s service. The prayer should* include *words such as the following:*

O Lord, help every member of this congregation

to discern his or her own gifts and individual calling,

and help us all together to witness

to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour

and share in the Church’s mission to the world.

**GOD’S COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

*The Moderator calls the congregation to stand, if it is not already standing, and pronounces the Commission and Benediction or invites the new Minister to do so.*

**Commission**

*The Moderator calls the congregation to stand and says:*

Jesus said: “Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send 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.**

**Benediction**

Now may the God of peace,

who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep,

by the blood of the eternal covenant,

make you complete in everything good, so that you may do his will,

working among us that which is pleasing in his sight,

through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever!

**Amen.** Heb. 13:20f.,25

**Recessional Hymn**

*As the second last stanza of the recessional hymn begins, the Presbytery Clerk, carrying the Bible, leads the Presbytery out. The newly inducted/ appointed Minister immediately precedes the Moderator of the Presbytery, who walks last of all.*