**ORDER FOR A MINISTER’S INDUCTION OR APPOINTMENT
TO A CHARGE**

*When this Order is conducted in a congregation whose first language is not English, some of the hymns and prayers, one of the Scripture lessons at least and perhaps the Declaration of Standards and/or the Vow should be in its language. The charge at least to the congregation should also be in its language or be translated in the ser­vice.*

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

*The Presbytery Clerk, carrying the Presbytery Ordination Bible or the Pulpit Bible, leads the local Elders, the Presbytery Elders and 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:*

Sing a new song to the Lord!

Sing to the Lord, all the world!

Sing to the Lord, and praise him!

Every day tell the good news that he has saved us!

Proclaim his glory to the nations,

his mighty acts to all peoples. *Ps. 96:1-3*

*Or*

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*

**THE PEOPLE’S APPROACH**

**Processional Hymn**

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

**Greeting and Welcome**

*The congregation is seated.*

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

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

and welcome you to this service of induction/appointment.

**Statement of Intent**

*The congregation is seated.*

We are here to worship God

and to induct/appoint [*full name*]

to the ministry of Word and sacrament in the congregation of ….

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

**Prayer of Praise**

*The congregation stands.*

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, that, despite the noisy world around us,

by your Spirit you 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**

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 pray.

Gracious God, forgive us all our foolish pride;

we have turned aside from your truth

and walked in our own way instead of yours;

we have neglected your presence

and 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 have 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 says, ‘Your sins are forgiven!’ *Lk. 7:48*

and ‘Follow me!’ *Mk. 2:14*

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

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

**(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, it is not by the spirit of the world, but by your Spirit alone

that we may know all the benefits you wish to lavish upon us.

For your Spirit explores everything, even the depths of your own being,

and knows what is truly yours.

So grant to us that Spirit now,

that we may be enabled to hear what you say to us

in the light not of human wisdom but of your Spirit.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Scripture Readings**

*The congregation is seated.*

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

and in the charges that will 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. Suitable passages are:*

[*The list of readings as in Appendix E*.]

*The reader says:*

The Lord blesses the reading of his holy Word;

to his name be glory and praise.

**Charges**

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

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

*The charges may 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.

[*Text as in Appendix E.*]

**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 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.*

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 pastor and teach its people.

Let us hear then hear read the record of procedure.

*The Clerk reads the appropriate Narrative of Procedure.*

**Declaration of Standards**

*The Clerk reads the Declaration of Standards in the UPCSA:*

[*Text as in Appendix E above.*]

**Vow**

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

In response to 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:*

**I,** [*full* name]**, 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 exercise**

**the ministry of Word and sacrament in this pastoral charge**

**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 Confession of Faith**

**of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa**

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

**I acknowledge the doctrine and form of government**

**of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa**

**to accord with Scripture.**

**I recognize that in inducting/appointing me to this pastoral charge**

**the Uniting Presbyterian Church**

**renews the covenant between it and me**

**that binds me to be faithful to it and its ministry.**

**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 commit myself to study the Scriptures faithfully,**

**to give myself to daily prayer,**

**to live a holy life,**

**to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,**

**to be diligent in pastoral care,**

**and to respect the confidentiality**

**of all personal confessions and confidences shared with me,**

**so that God may use me to spread the gospel**

**and build up the Body of Christ.**

*The Moderator requests the minister to sign the copy of the Vow on the Holy Table and afterwards says:*

The Lord help you faithfully to keep all that you have promised before him.

**Hymn**

*The congregation may sing a hymn to the Holy Spirit.*

**Act of Induction**

*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 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,

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.**

I address the enrolled members of the congregation of ... only:

Do you accept brother/sister [*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 faithfully to keep the promises you have made today.

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 declare you, [*name*], duly inducted as Minister of this congregation.

**Act of Appointment**

*Alternatively, if the Minister is to be appointed to a charge, the Moderator asks the following question:*

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 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,

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.**

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

Do you accept brother/sister N 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 the members are standing, the Moderator says:*

The Lord help you faithfully to keep the promises you have made today.

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 declare you, [*name*], duly appointed Minister of this congregation.

**Prayer for the Minister**

*The Mioderator requests the congregation to stand, the minister to kneel facing him/her, and the other Ministers to gather around the newly inducted/appointed Minister.*

*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:*

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 giving us so great a salvation. *Heb. 2:3*

We thank you that Jesus Christ blazed the trail for our faith *Heb. 2:10, 12:2*

and is the great Shepherd of your flock. *Heb. 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,

build up the Body of Christ,

attain the unity that belongs to the faith and to knowledge of the Son of God,

and grow into the full maturity of Christ, the perfect Man. *Eph. 4:8,11-13*

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

to the vows he/she has renewed today.

Rekindle the gift of your Spirit that is within him/her

and grant him/her the spirit of power and love and self-discipline *2 Tim. 1:6f.*

that he/she needs to fulfil his/her calling here.

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

and not the voice of a stranger. *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,

called out of darkness into your wonderful light

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 newly inducted/appointed Minister stands and faces the Moderator.*

*The Moderator may invite the Minister’s spouse and children, if any, to come forward and prays briefly for them.*

*They remain at the Minister’s side until after the right hand of fellowship is given.*

**Right Hand of Fellowship**

*The Moderator says:*

Brother/Sister[*name*], we welcome you to ministry in this place with joy

*Or, if the Minister is already a member of the Presbytery,*

Brother/Sister [*name*]*,* we rejoice with you

on your induction/ appointment to this congregation.

*The Moderator then says:*

In token of this I now invite the Elders of the congregation

and the members of the Presbytery

to give you the right hand of fellowship.

The rest of the congregation may be seated.

*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.*

**GOD’S SACRAMENT**

*The newly inducted/appointed Minister may celebrate the sacrament of Holy Com­munion. One of the approved UPCSA Orders should be used for this.*

**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 in a final short prayer of petition and intercession for the welfare of the congregation and the Church’s witness and work in the world, and a prayer in which he/she and the congregation offer themselves in God’s service. It includes words such as the following:*

O Lord, help every member of this congregation

to discern his or her own gifts and individual calling,

and stand with us all as we all witness together

to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour

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

**GOD’S COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

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

Grace be with all of you.

**Amen.**

**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.*