**FOR A MINISTER’S ORDINATION**

**AND 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 ordinand, and the Presbytery Clerk places a printed Vow and a pen on the Holy Table.*

*Two appointed Ministers escort the ordinand 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:*

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*

*Or*

Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good;

His faithful love is eternal.

Who can tell all the great things he has done?

Who can praise him enough? *Ps.106:1f.*

**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 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.

**Statement of Intent**

We are here to worship God

and to ordain [*full name*]to the ministry of Word and sacrament

in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ

and induct/appoint him/her to minister 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.

We praise and adore you, God our Father:

by your will all things came to be

and by your power all things continue in being.

We praise and adore you, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh:

you have made known to us the true and living God;

your life and death on the Cross have reconciled us to the Father;

your resurrection has given us new birth into a living hope;

and you continue to pray for us at the Father’s right hand.

We praise and adore you, Holy Spirit, the Giver of life:

with wind and fire you brought the Church into being;

with your gifts you continually build up the Body of Christ;

and by your ceaseless activity you continually renew

the Church’s mission and ministry to the world.

For the greatness of your power,

the wideness of your mercy

and the wisdom of your purpose for humankind

we praise and adore you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

one God for ever and ever.

**Prayer of Confession**

God shows his love for us

in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Rom. 5:8*

Through him, in the one Spirit,

we all have access to the Father *Eph. 2:18*

and may approach God with freedom and confidence. *Eph. 3:12*

Let us pray.

Gracious God, forgive us that

whereas Jesus proclaimed your truth, we obscure it;

whereas he opened the way to your presence, we have shut people out;

whereas he blessed the poor and touched the sick,

we shrink from the demands of justice and compassion;

whereas he loved his enemies, we love only our friends;

whereas he prayed for the unity of all; we are divided;

whereas he gave himself for the world; we hide in the Church.

In these and so many other ways we have sinned against you.

We earnestly pray that, in your mercy, you will pardon all our sins.

So by your Spirit enable us all to serve you, with joy,

in the ministry of witness and service

to which Jesus has called all his disciples.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

**Assurance of Grace**

He is a saying you can trust, one that merits full acceptance:

‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.’ *1 Tim.1:15*

All who have faith in him, then, listen to his word of grace:

Your sins are forgiven. *Mk. 2:5*

**Thanks be to God.**

**(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.

Gracious God, who has chosen a people for your own possession,

a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

we thank you that you have given Jesus Christ to be our great High Priest

and the author of our salvation,

and that you nourish and sustain your people

through your Word.

So we pray that as Scripture is now read and proclaimed to us,

your Holy Spirit may write your Word on our hearts,

and move us to true faith and obedience;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

**Scripture Readings**

*The congregation is seated.*

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

and in 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. Suitable passages are:*

*1 Sam. 3:1-10 Ac. 13:1-5 Matt. 5:1-12*

*1 Ki. 19:1-19 or 21 Ac. 20:17-36 Matt. 10:1-20 or 26-33*

*Neh. 8:1-12 Ac. 22:6-15 Matt. 28:16-20*

*Isa. 6:1-8 Ac. 26:12-29 Mk. 2:13-17*

*Isa. 49:1-6 Rom.10:5-15 or17 Mk.3:13-19*

*Isa. 52:7-10 Rom. 12:3-18 or 21 Mk.4: 14-20*

*Isa. 55:1-11 or 13 1 Cor. 4:1-7 Mk.10:35-45*

*Isa. 61:1-6b 1 Cor. 9:13-23 Lk.4:14-22*

*Jer. 1:4-10 I Cor. 12:4-11 or 13 Lk. 5:1-11*

*Jer. 15:16-17b,19 2 Cor. 4:1-6 or 7-15 Lk. 9:1-6*

*Ezk. 2:1f.,8-3:4 2 Cor. 5:10-20 Lk. 9:57-62*

*Ezk. 3:16-21 2 Cor. 12:1-10 Lk. 10:1-12*

*Joel 2:23-32a Eph. 3:7-21 Lk. 10:38-42*

*Amos 7:10-15 Eph. 4:1-16 Lk. 15:1-7*

*Jon. 3:1-10 Eph. 6:10-18 Jn. 1:6-18*

*Phil. 2:1-16 Jn. 1:19-29*

*I Tim. 1:1-7 or 12-17 Jn. 1:29-37*

*1 Tim. 3:1-7 Jn. 3:25-36*

*1 Tim. 4:8-16 Jn. 13:1-17*

*1 Tim. 6:3-12,20f. Jn.15:1-11 or 17*

*2 Tim. 1:1-14 Jn. 20:19-23*

*2 Tim. 2:1-13 or 15-26 Jn. 21:4-17 or 19*

*2 Tim. 3:10-17*

*2 Tim. 4:1-8*

*Tit.2: 11-3:8*

*I Pet. 4:6-11*

*1 Pet. 5:1-9*

*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 else invites the preacher Presbytery has appointed to deliver them.*

*The ordinand 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 ordinand stands for the charge to him/her, the preacher then 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.

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,**

**and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory**

**to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

**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.*

**ORDINATION**

**Preamble to the Ordination**

*The congregation is seated.*

*The Moderator stands at the Holy Table with the ordinand 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 of faith

and of the knowledge of the Son of God. *Eph 4:11-13*

Brother/Sister [*name*],

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

to ordain you to the ministry of Word and sacrament,

and induct/appoint you to this charge

that you may pastor and teach its people.

Let us hear then hear the record of procedure.

*The Clerk reads the appropriate Narrative of Procedure.*

**Declaration of Standards**

*The Clerk reads the UPCSA’s Declaration of Standards:*

Listen also to the Church's Declaration of its Standards.

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa shares the faith

that the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church has always held.

It believes and trusts in Jesus Christ

as the Lord and Redeemer of the world

in whom God saves us by grace through faith.

In line with what God has revealed in Jesus Christ

it worships one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This Church accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments

as inspired by the Holy Spirit

to be the uniquely authoritative witness to Jesus Christ

and as such the Word of God and the final rule of faith and life.

It accepts the ecumenical creeds

commonly called the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds

as subordinate standards that witness to, and safeguard,

the faith that was committed to the disciples of our Lord.

It recognizes as witnessing to the Reformed faith

the Westminster Confession of Faith and

the Twenty-four Articles of the Faith, with their Appendix,

and affirms as its own confessions of faith and subordinate standards

the Confession of Faith of the UPCSA

and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa

The Uniting Presbyterian Church affirms its right to formulate, adopt,

modify and interpret its doctrinal statements,

always subject to the Word of God,

under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit

and in accord with the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith.

Of this accord this Church itself shall be the sole judge.

This Church recognizes liberty of opinion

on all points of doctrine not fundamental to the faith.

But it retains the right in every case

to judge what falls within this description

and to guard against any abuse of this liberty

that may injure its witness, unity or peace.

**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 ordinand.*

*The ordinand 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 enter this ministry**

**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 UPCSA**

**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 ordaining me**

**the Uniting Presbyterian Church authorizes and commissions me**

**to serve as a Minister of Christ's Church.**

**My ordination thus establishes a covenant**

**between the Uniting Presbyterian Church 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 ordinand to sign the copy of the Vow on the Holy Table. After this the Moderator says:*

May God accept your Vow and grant you grace and power to keep it

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

**Hymn**

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

**Act of Ordination**

*The Moderator requests the congregation to stand, the ordinand to kneel facing him/her, and the other Ministers to gather around the ordinand.*

*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 says to the congregation:*

To symbolize that Christ ordains through his Church

I invite you all to stretch out your hands toward the ordinand,

while we, as Ministers, lay hands on him/her

and we pray the Ordination Prayer.

*The Moderator and the other Ministers lay hands on the ordinand, and the Moderator leads the Ordination Prayer*:

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.

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*],

for the grace you have shown him/her,

for the way you have led him/her,

for what you have taughthim/her

and for the particular gifts you have given him/her.

We pray that you will pour out your Spirit uponhim/her

and ordain him/her now to that ministry.

*Moderator*: That he/she may keep the holy vows he/she has made this day,

that true instruction may be in his/her mouth

and no wrong be found onhis/her lips,

*Ministers*: **anoint him/her with your Spirit, Lord**.

*Moderator*: That he/she may be endued with a spirit of wisdom and understanding,

a spirit of counsel and power,

a spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

*Ministers*: **anoint him/her with your Spirit, Lord**.

*Moderator*: That he/she may faithfully preach the gospel of Jesus Christ,

in the power of the Spirit make many disciples

and shepherd your people with love and patience,

*Ministers*: **anoint him/her with your Spirit, Lord**.

*Moderator*: That in the face of praise and blame, success and failure,

he/she may have the mind that is in Christ Jesus

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

*Ministers*: **anoint him/her with your Spirit, Lord**.

*Moderator*: That he/she may be 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,

*Ministers*: **anoint him/her with your Spirit, Lord**.

*Moderator*: That, when his/her work is finished,

he/she may stand before his/her Master,

hear him say, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’

and so enter into the joy ofhis/her Lord,

*Ministers*: **anoint him/her with your Spirit, Lord**.

*Moderator*: All this we pray for Jesus Christ’s sake.

**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 Moderator and the Ministers then lower their hands.*

*The Ministers return to their places, and the congregation is seated*.

**Commissioning to the Word and Sacraments**

*The Moderator takes the new minister to the pulpit.*

*The Moderator invites the new minister to take up the Pulpit Bible with both hands and then says:*

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. *Col.3:16*

Before God and before Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead,

and in view of his coming appearance and reign, I solemnly charge you:

preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season,

convince, rebuke, and exhort,

be unfailingly patient in teaching,

do the work of an evangelist,

fulfil your ministry. *2 Tim. 4:1-5*

Cut a straight path with the word of truth. *2 Tim. 2:15*

Be ever mindful that you are called to preach and teach

not human opinions and philosophies

but the true Word of God and faithfully interpret it.

*The new Minister places the Bible on the pulpit.*

*The Moderator takes the new minister to the font.*

*The Moderator invites the new minister to lay both hands on the font and says*:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus

were baptized into his death?

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that,

just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,

we too might walk in newness of life. *Rom. 6:3f.*

Baptize the people of God, then,

and faithfully teach them what their baptism means.

*The Moderator takes the new minister to the Holy Table.*

*The Moderator lifts up the paten and chalice with both hands, hands them to the new Minister and says*:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? *1 Cor.10:16*

Through the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Christ gives his people communion with his body and blood,

unites them in one Body

and strengthens them for their work and witness in the world.

Celebrate this sacrament with God’s people regularly and joyfully.

*The new Minister places the paten and chalice on the Holy Table.*

*The Moderator and the new Minister return to their places*.

*The Moderator declares to the new Minister*:

[*Name*]*,* in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church,

and by the authority committed to his Church

I declare you to be an ordained Minister of the Word and sacraments

in the holy catholic Church.

Serve God’s people with joy,

build them up in faith,

bring them to grateful and loving obedience to him

and equip them for their particular ministries.

As you cannot do this in your own strength,

pray earnestly for the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

May that Spirit be with you always,

sustain you in all your ways

and continue to equip you with all the gifts you need for the ministry.

*The congregation is seated.*

**Robing and Gifts**

*The Moderator calls for the new minister to be robed.*

*The Moderator gives the new Minister the bands of office*.

*The Moderator or Clerk may present a gift to the ordinand from the Presbytery.*

*If the gift is a Bible, it is suitably inscribed and given with the words:*

Receive this Bible from the Presbytery as a memento of this day

on which God has given you authority to proclaim the gospel

and adMinister the sacraments.

*If the congregation or any group within it is to present the ordinand with any gifts, the Moderator calls for these to be presented.*

**INDUCTION/APPOINTMENT**

**Act of Induction**

*The new Minister faces the Moderator.*

*If the new 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 those who believe 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,

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 supporthim/herinhis/her ministry,

encourage him/her and pray forhim/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 new Minister is to be appointed 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 those who believe 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,

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 duly appointed Minister,

And do you undertake to support him/her inhis/her ministry,

encouragehim/herand pray forhim/her?

If you do, please stand now.

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

To show our fellowship with [*name*] in his 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’s Family**

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

*They remain at the new 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 into this ministry with joy.

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 ordinand 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 this Presbytery.

*The new Minister takes his/her place with the members of Presbytery.*

**GOD’S SACRAMENT**

*The new Minister (assisted, if he/she desires, by the Moderator or a colleague) 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 and Intercession and Self-Offering**

*The new Minister leads a 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 BENEDICTION**

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

Jesus said: ‘Peace be with you!

As the Father has sent me, I am sending 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**.

May the God who gives us peace make you completely his,

and keep your whole being, spirit, soul and body,

free from all fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Th. 5:23*

**Recessional Hymn**

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

**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.*