

This service can be used when a Representative or Equalizing Elder is appointed to Presbytery.

Congregational Commissioning Of a Representative Elder to Presbytery

The Report of the Clerk of Session

The session at its meeting on _____ (date) appointed _____ to be the representative elder(s) to the Presbytery of _____ and the Synod of _____ for the year beginning _____.

OR *the minister may simply report that action of the session.*

The Clerk of session may present the newly appointed representative elder(s) or the minister may call the elder(s) forward.

Moderator, on behalf of the Session, I present to you _____, and
(_____) and request that you now proceed to set him/her apart for this task.

There are varieties of gifts,

but the same Spirit;

There are varieties of services,

but the same Lord;

There are varieties of activities,

but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

to use it for the common good.

and individually members of it.

I Cor. 12: 4-7, 27, adapted.

Though we have different gifts,
together we are called to be the church
with a ministry in the world
which is led by the risen Christ.

A Creed

Let us confess our faith together in the words of The Apostles' Creed:

539 The Book of Praise (1997)

The congregation shall be seated.

The moderator shall say:

Listen to what The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes concerning the ministry of ruling elders.

PREAMBLE *The Book of Common Worship*

Approved, 1971 Revised, 1992, 1998.

All ministries of the Church proceed from and are sustained by the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Prophet, Priest and King, the Minister of the covenant of grace. By the operation of God's Word and Spirit, the Church is gathered, equipped, and sent out to participate in this ministry. All members of the Church are called to share the Gospel with the world, and to offer to the Father the worship and service that are due to the Creator from the creation, through Christ, the only Mediator, until he comes again. That the Church may be continually renewed and nurtured for ministry, Christ furnishes the Church with pastors and teachers. He requires and enables the Church to discern and to confirm by ordination those whom he calls to this pastoral and teaching office. The standards of his Church he entrusts in a special degree of responsibility to their care.

The Form of Presbyterial Church Government of the Westminster Assembly reminds us that Christ has furnished some in the Church, beside the Ministers of the Word, with gifts for government and with commission to execute the same, when called thereunto, who are to join with the Minister in the government of the church, which officers reformed churches commonly call Elders.

When you were ordained and inducted into the eldership of this congregation you answered in the affirmation to the following question.

Do you accept the government of this Church by sessions, presbyteries, synods, and general assemblies, and do you promise to share in and submit yourself to all lawful oversight therein, and to follow no divisive course, but to seek the peace and unity of Christ among your people and throughout the Holy Catholic Church?

Do you now accept the call and responsibility as the representative elder of this (or name of) congregation and do you promise to share in and submit yourself to all lawful oversight therein, and to follow no divisive course, but to seek the peace and unity of Christ among your people and throughout the Holy Catholic Church?

I DO.

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to fulfil this special task.

Prayer