

## ***Presbytery Service to Receive Representative Elders***

Following a motion that accepts the Commission from the session(s) of the congregations of the Presbytery, the following Service of Acceptance could take place. It could also be included in a regular Presbytery Service of Worship.

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 Presbyterian 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.

Moderator: The following person (s) who has(ve) been appointed representative elder to the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ And whose commission(s) has(ve) been received and accepted by the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ is (are) invited to come forward.

You have been appointed Representative elder from your congregation by the session and your commission has been accepted by the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Do you now accept the call and responsibility as an elder of this Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

Let us confess our faith together in the words of **The Apostle's Creed**  
**#539 – The Book of Praise (1997)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

### **Prayer**

Lord God who chooses persons to share in the ordering of your son's church,  
accept, we pray these persons who have been appointed to participate in the  
work and witness of this Presbytery and grant that they may be diligent in  
carrying out the many tasks that will be presented to them. In Jesus Name we  
pray. **Amen**