**Candidates for Ministry**

**A Service to Receive Under Care**

At the time when candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacraments or candidates for diaconal ministries are received under the care of a presbytery, a brief service may be appointed to recognize the occasion. The service should be conducted at a stated meeting of presbytery.

Such a service fulfils many purposes. Following the interviews and decisions required in receiving a candidate, it is appropriate to offer prayers of intercession and thanksgiving at the beginning of the period of preparation as well as to enter into a mutual covenant of care and prayerful support. Obligations of the candidate and the presbytery are identified with promises of a continuing relationship until the candidate is ready to apply for trials for ordination or is otherwise removed as a candidate from the care of presbytery. Mutual responsibilities are recognized more readily when candidates and presbyters participate in making a covenant before God and in the presence of each other.

The service is conducted by the moderator of presbytery.

**An Outline**

 Presentation of Candidates

 Statement of Polity and Promise of Presbytery

 Questions

 Prayer

 Declaration

**Candidates for Ministry: A Service to Receive Under Care**

**An Order**

*Normally, a service to receive a candidate for ministry under the care of presbytery will be conducted at a stated meeting of the presbytery*.

**Presentation Of Candidates**

*The convenor of the appropriate committee will address the moderator.*

Moderator, in presenting this (*these*) candidate(*s*) for ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, I report that *\_\_\_\_\_\_* has been examined by the Committee on (*Students and Colleges*). The Presbytery, being satisfied as to *\_\_\_\_\_\_* potential gifts for ministry, ability to undertake theological studies, and motivation and sincerity of purpose, has agreed to approve *\_\_\_\_\_\_* as a suitable candidate(*s*) for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments (and/or The Order of Diaconal Ministries) and to certify *\_\_\_\_\_\_*to the college named.

*The convenor will then call each candidate forward, announcing the full name, the home session and congregation, and the college to which the candidate is to be certified. The convenor will continue saying:*

Moderator, I now request you to proceed with the Service to Receive Under Care for this (*these*) candidate(*s*) for ministry.

**Statement Of Polity And Questions**

*The moderator shall address the candidate(s).*

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, having agreed to certify you as a suitable candidate for The Ministry of Word and Sacraments (and/or The Order of Diaconal Ministries):

 - will keep you within its care, discipline and

 prayer during the period of your preparation;

 - will forward a letter of certification to your college;

 - and will interview you annually for the purpose

 of evaluating your progress.

When you have completed the academic and practical preparation required by the Church, you will request the Presbytery to examine you to determine whether you are qualified to exercise those gifts of the Spirit that are necessary for an effective ministry. With the approval of your Presbytery, you will be eligible to seek a call or appointment to ministry. Following the reception of a call or appointment, the appropriate Presbytery will then arrange for your ordination to The Ministry of Word and Sacraments (and/or your designation into The Order of Diaconal Ministries).

As a Christian, you have been baptized into the death and new life of Christ Jesus. Through the waters of baptism you have been set apart as a member of the people of God and a disciple of our Lord. Now, as you come, believing that you have been called to The Ministry of Word and Sacraments (The Order of Diaconal Ministries) through

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we ask you to declare your intentions before God and this court of Christ's Church.

Do you re-affirm your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour?

**I do.**

Depending on the grace of God, do you willingly engage in the program of preparation and theological study as required by The Presbyterian Church in Canada?

**I do.**

Do you accept the care, guidance and discipline of The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as you prepare for ministry, and do you promise to cooperate fully with its appointed officers whose task it is to offer you counsel and support?

**I do.**

In order that you may be assured of the support of this Presbytery in your endeavours, I ask the members of the court to stand and give answer to the question I put before them.

Members of Presbytery, as a court of the Church, it is our responsibility to monitor the progress of the candidate(s) being received at this time, offer guidance and counsel as needed, and to keep *\_\_\_\_\_\_*in our prayers during the time of preparation to enter ministry.

Do you promise to give *\_\_\_\_\_\_* your prayerful support?

**We do.**

May the Lord bless you and keep you faithful in this covenant.

Let us pray.

**Prayer**

Almighty God, we praise and glorify your name.

In your great love for the world

 you sent your Son, Jesus Christ,

 who took the form of a servant and lived among us.

In obedience to your will,

 Christ accepted death for our sake,

 is exalted as Lord over all,

 and forms the church,

 calling its members to be servants and priests in his name.

And now we give you thanks for your servant(*s*) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

For offering to be trained as (*a*) pastor(*s*) and teacher(*s*) in the church.

As *\_\_\_\_\_\_* take(*s*) this step toward ordination as (*a*) minister(*s*) of Word and Sacraments, (and/or, towards designation as a member(*s*) of the Order of Diaconal Ministries) be present with *\_\_\_\_\_\_* by the power of your Spirit. Give to *\_\_\_\_\_\_* we pray,

 keenness of mind and integrity of life,

 a growing capacity to understand

 and love all people,

 the assurance of your sustaining presence

 in times of light and darkness, joy and pain,

 faith and doubt,

 the gifts of wonder and of laughter.

Protect *\_\_\_\_\_\_* from pride,

 self-righteousness, cynicism or despair.

 Grant *\_\_\_\_\_\_* courage and joy

 in the journey of faith.

 May *\_\_\_\_\_\_* discern your will and respond

 in faith and obedience.

God of Wisdom, pour out your Spirit of Truth on all who teach and study in the colleges of the Church, that they may be sustained by your love and instructed by your lively Word.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be praise and glory forever. **Amen**.

*The Lord's Prayer may be said if it has not been said earlier.*

**Our Father in heaven,**

 **hallowed be your name,**

 **your kingdom come,**

 **your will be done,**

 **on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

 **as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

 **and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours**

 **now and for ever. Amen.**

**Declaration**

*The moderator shall say*:

In the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I do now accept you under the care of this Presbytery as (a) candidate(s) for ministry, to be certified to the college named for your theological education and ministerial training.

**Blessing**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  **Amen.**

*The moderator will offer each candidate the hand of fellowship*.