**Certification of Candidates for Ordination To the Ministry of Word and Sacraments**

On completion of the required course of studies, a candidate for ministry applies to the Presbytery to be certified for Ordination. This certification is the act of the Presbytery which deems an individual suitable to be a minister of Word and Sacraments within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Certification as a candidate for ordination shall take place only after certification from the senate or Board of Governors of one of the Church’s theological colleges that:

1. The applicant has completed the course prescribed or assigned or approved by this Church.
2. The applicant has given satisfactory evidence of the requisite practical gifts and skills of the ministry; and
3. The applicant’s character and conduct are suitable to the position of a candidate for the ministry. An applicant having completed studies in a college other than one of this Church shall present an equivalent certificate from that theological college.

The candidate also remains under the care of the certifying Presbytery and is to be informed of meetings.

Certification as a candidate for ordination is an act of the Presbytery and may be conducted at a stated meeting of the court. When examination for certification as a candidate for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacraments has been sustained, the presbytery proceeds to certify the applicant, the moderator presiding. The clerk issues an extract of the decision to certify to the candidate and may wish to present it as part of this service. The certification may follow the decision of the presbytery or may be included as a part of the worship of a subsequent meeting. The procedure may be outlined as follows.

**An Outline**

The Preamble to the Ordination Vows

The Questions Prescribed for Certification

Prayer

Declaration

Presentation of an Extract of Certification

**Certification as a Candidate for Ordination**

**An Order**

*The candidate will stand before the moderator of presbytery who will say:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, having sustained your examination is now prepared to certify you as a candidate for ordination. Hear what The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes concerning ministry. It is to this preamble and questions that you must give assent now and at such time as you seek ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacraments.

**Preamble**

(*See section Minister of Word and Sacraments A Service of Ordination and Induction for text of preamble.*)

**Questions For Certification**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

All these things you have examined and are ready to accept. Being assured of your faith in Christ and your love for people, the Presbytery is prepared to certify you as a candidate for ordination. That your faith may appear in the presence of God and God’s people, we now ask you the appointed questions in terms of this preamble.

1. Do you believe in God the Father, made known in his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do.

2. Do you accept the subordinate standards of this Church, promising to uphold its doctrine under the continual illumination and correction of the Holy Spirit speaking in Scriptures?

**I do.**

3. 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?

**I do.**

4. Do you promise in the strength and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to conduct yourself in your private and public life as becomes his gospel, and do you give yourself diligently and cheerfully to the service of Christ's Word, sacraments and discipline, for the furtherance of his reconciling mission in the world?

**I do.**

5. When the time comes, are you willing to sign the formula, giving your assent to the preamble and questions required of those being ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacraments?

**I am willing.**

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to fulfil these vows. **Amen.**

**Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of wisdom, truth and love:

we give you thanks that through the church

you have formed a people to praise and serve you in the world;

that through baptism you have called each one by name and commissioned us to be disciples of Jesus Christ;

that by your Spirit you give to all

gifts to be used in the service of others.

Hear now, our prayers for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

who has prepared to serve you in the church.

By the power and presence of your Holy Spirit,

may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the church

rightly discern the ministry that you intend for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and the grace to serve you faithfully

in whatever place or service you assign.

We pray through Jesus Christ,

who came to the world,

not to be served but to serve

and gave himself for our redemption. **Amen.**

**Declaration**

*The moderator says to the candidate:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, and by the authority of this Presbytery, I certify you as a candidate for ordination.

*The clerk will give to the candidate an extract of the certification. On behalf of the presbytery, the moderator and clerk may offer the right hand of fellowship.*