**Order of Diaconal Ministries**

**Service of Designation**

The service of designation shall be conducted by the presbytery in which the diaconal minister resides and/or is appointed to work. The designation is included in a Service of the Word and follows the sermon. Since it includes a confession of faith, no other creed is required.

The moderator of presbytery presides at the designation and may be assisted in leading the people by another presbyter or a member of the diaconal order who will lead in the confession or read the Scripture. It is appropriate for member(s) of the Order of Diaconal Ministries to present the insignia and give the charge.

An Outline

*The designation, which follows the sermon, is outlined as follows.*

**Preamble**

**Confession**

**Vows**

**Prayer of Designation**

**Declaration**

**Presentation of Insignia**

**Right Hand of Fellowship**

**Charge to Diaconal Designate**

**Hymn**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Order of Diaconal Ministries**

**Service of Designation**

An Order

*Following the sermon, the Moderator of Presbytery, assisted by a reader, will lead the service. The congregation stands and the person to be designated stands before the Moderator.*

*The Moderator shall say*:

Beloved in the Lord;

the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is meeting to designate to the Order of Diaconal Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

who has completed the training required by the Church and has been certified by the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Let us declare now those things which The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes concerning the church and ministry.

**Preamble**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is bound only to Jesus Christ, the King and Head. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the written Word of God, testifying to Christ the living Word, are the canon of all doctrine, by which God rules our faith and life. We acknowledge our historic continuity with the Holy Catholic Church and our doctrinal heritage in the ecumenical creeds and the confessions of the Reformation. Our subordinate standards are the Westminster Confession of Faith, as adopted in 1875 and 1889, the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation of 1954, Living Faith (Foi Vivant) as adopted in 1998 and such doctrine as the

Church, in obedience to Scripture and under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, may yet confess in the continuing function of reformulating the faith.

**Confession Of Faith**

*The leader and people read responsively.*

The church is created by God.

**The church is Christ**

**together with his people called both**

**to worship and to serve him in all of life**.

The church is one.

**It is one family under God whose purpose it is to unite all people in Jesus Christ.**

The Church is holy.

**It is set apart by God through the Holy Spirit to be a chosen people in the world**.

The church is catholic.

**It is universal, including all people of all time who affirm the Christian Faith.**

The church is apostolic.

**It is founded in Christ and the apostles and is in continuity with their teachings.**

The church is in constant need of reform because of the failure and sin which mark its life in every age.

**The church is present when the Word is truly preached,**

**the sacraments rightly administered,**

**and as it orders its life**

**according to the word of God.**

Christ continues his ministry in and through the church.

**All Christians are called to participate in the ministry of Christ.**

As Christ's body on earth we all have gifts to use in the church and in the world.

ALL **In the oneness of Christ**

**we seek to serve God.**

*Living Faith 7.1-7.2.1; 7.2.6.*

*The Moderator says*:

Through the church, God orders this ministry by calling some to special tasks in equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

Specialized ministries are recognized as through the designation of people to the Order of Diaconal Ministries.

Those designated to the Order of Diaconal Ministries join with the ordained and laity to enable the whole people of God to participate in the reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ.

**Questions**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, God has called you by the voice of the church to serve Jesus Christ. You know who we are and what we believe, and you understand the work for which you have been chosen.

Being assured of your faith in Christ and your love for people, the Presbytery is prepared to designate you in the name of the Triune God, to the Order of Diaconal Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Declare now your faith in the presence of God and the people of God by answering the appointed questions.

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 our Church, promising to be guided by them as you lead the people of God?

**I do.**

3. Do you accept the government of this Church by sessions, presbyteries, synods and general assemblies, and do you promise to be subject to these courts and to work for the unity and peace of Christ within the church and throughout the Holy Catholic Church?

**I do.**

4. Do you promise, in the strength and grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, to govern the way you live as becomes the gospel, and do you promise to serve the people with compassion, energy, intelligence, imagination and love for the furtherance of God's reconciling mission in the world?

**I do.**

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

**Prayer Of Designation**

God, our creator and guide:

we marvel that you have made us to be your church,

co-workers in your divine purposes

and instruments of your gracious love.

We rejoice in the means of grace

by which we celebrate the life, death

and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the Spirit who descended at Pentecost to abide in the church forever,

filling earthen vessels with heavenly treasures.

Hear our prayers, for your servant, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

as in your name we designate *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  to the Order of Diaconal Ministries.

May the truth of your gospel shine forth so that the gifts of service may flourish. Bestow upon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ compassion and humility uncorrupted by self-seeking and boastfulness.

Spirit of God, enhance \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ education as teacher, enabler and leader that all knowledge may be applied with an understanding, diligence and integrity which is faithful to your gospel.

Spirit of God, fill \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ministry with creativity, vision and honesty that your church may flourish. May the grace, love and peace of Christ reflect your image in all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relationships.

Spirit of God, enrich \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with good health of body, mind and spirit. Endow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with strength and gladness, patience and courage, common sense and laughter.

Spirit of God, save \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from pride and hasty judgment, from apathy and despair.

O saving Christ, dwell in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart. By your passion, sustain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in times of betrayal, discouragement and disillusionment. By your cross, uphold \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through times of loneliness, dislocation and darkness.

**Living Christ, by the power of your resurrection, may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be continually renewed to live and work with you for the reconciliation of your world.**

**Receive our offerings of prayer, Holy God, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Declaration**

*The Moderator says:*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, the only king and head of the church, and by the authority of this Presbytery, I now declare you to be designated to the Order of Diaconal Ministries.**

**Presentation Of Insignia**

*The Moderator will invite the representative of the Order of Diaconal Ministries to present the insignia of the Order*.

**Right Hand Of Fellowship**

*The Moderator and members of Presbytery and all members of the Order present shall extend the right hand of fellowship.*

**Charge**

*A charge to the newly designated shall be given*. *This may include a charge to the appointing body*.

HYMN

**Prayers Of Thanksgiving And Intercession**

**Dismissal**