**Chaplain in A Public Institution**

**A Service of Recognition**

This service shall be conducted by the authority of the presbytery in which the chaplaincy exists, the moderator presiding, and in cooperation with the administrative officers of the institution, ecumenical partners and others who are responsible for the work of the chaplaincy. It is assumed that the service will be held in the institution in which an ordained minister of Word and Sacraments serves as chaplain and at a time when members of the presbytery as well as colleagues in the chaplaincy and in the institution can be present. If used to recognize the appointment of a diaconal or lay chaplain, the service would need to be adapted accordingly.

In planning a service of recognition or installation for a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada who has been appointed to a special ministry, such as chaplain in an institution that is under the control of the state or another authority, it is important to be sensitive to the fact that the institutional chaplain works under two authorities and is responsible to both. It is also important for the service to demonstrate the fact that the primary accountability of the minister is to the presbytery which has oversight and grants permission for the minister to undertake this special ministry. The person in a special ministry must not be isolated from the support and pastoral care of the presbytery. The dual role of church and state must be recognized together with the differing human rights of persons who are on the staff of public institutions and the people who are served by such institutions. It is necessary to respect the religion of those who are not Christian. It is also appropriate to make a statement that is clearly from a Christian perspective.

**A Service of Recognition**

An Order

**Welcome**

*An administrator of the institution or other representative will welcome the people and make any announcements necessary for the occasion.*

**Narration Of Steps**

*The moderator of presbytery or other representative will say:*

Friends, we meet here with the support of *(the governing board of the institution is named)*

and of *(the ecumenical or interfaith chaplaincy committee is named)*

and by appointment of The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to recognize \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a chaplain within *(the institution is named)*.

*Here may be given a brief description of the steps that led to the appointment in this special ministry.*

In commending this minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to the care of God, let us offer to God our prayers and praise.

**Prayer Of Invocation**

HYMN

**Scripture Readings**

**Sermon**

HYMN

*The people remain standing as the moderator leads them saying:*

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.**

Together we are the body of Christ,

**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.

*The people may be seated. The person to be inducted is presented to the moderator by the clerk who says:*

Moderator, I now present to you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ask you to proceed with the recognition.

*The person to be recognized stands before the moderator who says:*

Listen to what The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes concerning Christian ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it is this to which you have given your pledge as a minister of Word and Sacraments.

**The Preamble**

*Approved, 1970 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 Presbyterian Church in Canada is bound only to Jesus Christ, the Church’s 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 Christ 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 Church’s continuing function of reformulating the faith.

**The Questions**

*Addressing the one to be recognized, the moderator shall say:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that your faith may appear in the presence of God and these people, we now ask you the appointed questions.

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

**I do.**

2. As a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 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.**

3. As a chaplain with ecumenical responsibilities, do you advocate the right of all members of legitimately recognized religions to have access to their religious leaders and to engage in the worship and rites of their religion in as far as this is reasonably possible?

**I do.**

4. Do you promise in the strength and grace of Jesus Christ, to conduct yourself in your private and public life as becomes his gospel, and do you promise to discharge faithfully and diligently all the responsibilities of this office to which you have been appointed?

**I do.**

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

**Questions To The People**

You have heard the promises of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who has been appointed to be a chaplain among you. I therefore ask you, the staff and residents of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: are you prepared to receive, recognize and honour this person as an agent of reconciliation and a mediator between God and all people; and to support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the ministry to persons related to these facilities?

**We do.**

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to keep these vows.

**Prayer**

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you, O God everlasting;

your loving kindness endures from generation to generation

and you remain faithful to the covenant you made with your children.

Loving God,

you called into being a church to minister to your people everywhere. We thank you that you have provided chaplains and workers with many different gifts to serve in this institution and in the total community of faith. Enrich \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with your grace; guide with your wisdom; strengthen with your healing presence so that your servant may faithfully fulfil this ministry.

**Hear our prayer and bless your servant.**

O God our redeemer;

hear our prayers for all those who are drawn into the struggle of life within the community that is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*name hospital, prison, institution*). May they find sanctuary in the peace and assurance of Christ who has drawn together life and death in the new life of resurrection. By your Holy Spirit, grace all who are in this place with your healing presence, providing love and hope for all.

**Hear our prayers and bless your servants. Amen.**

As our Lord taught, let us pray:

**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 forever. Amen.**

**Declaration**

*The moderator says:*

Upon the solemn promises made before God by these people and by the authority of The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I now declare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recognized in the office of chaplain (or other designation as appropriate) to which they has been appointed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the name of the institution) and with the approval of The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Right Hand Of Fellowship**

*The moderator says:*

As a sign of the prayerful support we pledge to you, we greet you in this new position and offer the right hand of fellowship.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*The moderator, followed by representatives of the presbytery, ministerial association and others as appropriate may offer the right hand of fellowship or other sign of friendship and Christian peace.*

**Signing The Formula**

*The moderator says:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in signing The Formula, you testify that you adhere to those things declared in the Preamble and Questions put to you today.

**The Charge**

*A brief charge may be given, preferably by one who is or has been a chaplain in a similar situation.*

HYMN

**The Benediction**

**Postlude**