



A SERVICE FOR THE ORDINATION & INSTALLATION
OF DEACONS AND RULING ELDERS

Pastor: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**People: There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

Pastor: God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.
We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism and marked as
Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disci-
ples and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church, some are called to service as Dea-
cons, as Ruling Elders, and as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Ordi-
nation is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues
among us providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the
world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word
and administering the sacraments.

Elder: Representing the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, Highland
Presbyterian Church now ordains and installs to the office of Deacon,
Megan Ayscue, Leslie Craig, Rebecca Schwartz, Jim Wilson and Jim Xu;
and to the office of Ruling Elder, Hannah Duane and Tory Gentry. The
church also now installs to active service those who have been previ-
ously ordained. To the office of Deacon, we install Andy Scott, Carol
Templeton and Steve Zorn; and TR Bowers for the Class of 2026; and
to the office of Ruling Elder, we install Kathy Black, Ken Chalk, Emily
Collins, Richard Howerton, Leslie Kamtman and Elizabeth Skinner, all
of whom you, by the work of the Holy Spirit, have chosen.

*Those preparing to be ordained or installed will present themselves
before the congregation to answer the following questions:*

Pastor: Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all
and Head of the church, and through him believe in one God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and continually be guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

(For a Ruling Elder) Will you be a faithful Ruling Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(For a Deacon) Will you be a faithful Deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*When the Elders and Deacons elect have answered in the affirmative,
an Elder shall stand with them before the congregation
and shall ask the congregation to answer the following questions:*

Elder: Do we, the members of the church, accept these members as Ruling Elders or Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

Those to be ordained will come forward one at a time to kneel for prayer and the laying on of hands by Teaching and Ruling Elders.

Pastor: Loving God, you have chosen for yourself a Church in which your Holy Spirit inspires women and men to serve your purposes of love. We give you thanks that by your grace you have called these, your servants, to lead and care for your people as Deacons and Ruling Elders. Through the gift of your Spirit, grant that their hearts may be set on fire with love for you and for those committed to their care. Give them a vision to discern your purpose for the Church, and for this world that you love.

All the people will join in the following prayer.

People: **God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation: give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us; that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.**

The moderator shall say to the candidates:

Pastor: All those kneeling, please stand.

You are now Ruling Elders and Deacons in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. Amen.

The image on the cover is a vineyard, often used as a symbol or metaphor for the people of God in Hebrew Scripture; in the Gospels it becomes a parable of our connection in the body of Christ.
From *The Book of Common Worship* of the PCUSA.