

# GUIDELINES FOR ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

## I. A Service of the Presbytery

A service of ordination and/or installation is an important and unique opportunity for congregations to experience the best of Presbyterian worship. **It is a service of the presbytery not the local congregation.** The *Book of Order* provides guidelines for ordination and/or installation. (W-4.4000)

## II. Date and Time of the Service

**Select a date and time in consultation with the presbytery's moderator.** Ordinarily the service should be scheduled when the presbytery can gather, keeping in mind that many teaching elders and ruling elders are not available on Sunday morning.

## III. Worship Service Leaders

The leadership for an ordaining/installing service includes the administrative commission and may include others.

### A. The Administrative Commission

The presbytery's moderator, on behalf of the presbytery, appoints the administrative commission based on suggestions from the person being ordained/installed. The administrative commission is composed of ruling elders and teaching elders from the Presbytery of Cincinnati in numbers as nearly equal as possible. When the commission consists of an odd number, the additional members may either be a ruling elder or a teaching elder. The administrative commission must include at least five commissioners. It may include more. The minimum number may be made up of two teaching elders and three ruling elders or three teaching elders and two ruling elders. There shall not be more than one ruling elder from any one congregation.

The commission selected shall reflect the ethnic, racial, and gender diversity found within the Presbytery. Please consult with the moderator about individuals to fill these roles.

On the day of the ordination and/or installation, the moderator (or designee) shall convene a meeting of the commission prior to the service. This time may be used for prayer, a discussion of the procedural matter (i.e., processional, seating arrangements, liturgical leadership assignments, microphones, etc.) and a review of the information on the presbytery form titled "Administrative Commission." The form is to be completed by the convener of the commission and forwarded to the stated clerk.

### B. Other Participants Leading Worship

The service can be an occasion to witness to the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by including teaching and ruling elders from other presbyteries as worship leaders. With the approval of the administrative commission, they are seated as corresponding members. Corresponding members are not part of the administrative commission.

The service can also be an occasion for ecumenical witness by including clergy persons or officers of other denominations. Such a person may take part in leading the service and may also offer a brief word of ecumenical greeting. With the approval of the administrative commission, he or she may be seated as a corresponding member. Again, corresponding members are not part of the administrative commission.

## IV. The Service of Worship

The service shall focus on Christ and the joy and responsibility of the mission and ministry of the church (W-4.4000)

### A. What Should Be Included in the Order of Worship

The order of worship should be planned according to accepted standards of Reformed worship. The *Book of Common Worship's* Service for the Lord's Day Outline is an excellent resource. **The presbytery encourages service planners to include the Lord's Supper as a celebration of life with the Lord Jesus Christ and the community of faith. If you choose to celebrate the Lord's Supper, notify the presbytery's moderator who may authorize it on the presbytery's behalf.** Those planning the service should consult the *Book of Order* (W-4.4003, W-4.4005, W-4.4006) for the appropriate resources and questions for ordinations and installations.

### B. The Length of the Service of Worship

Planners of these services should not expect "extraordinary endurance" from congregations.

"Extraordinary endurance" means periods of time in excess of one hour and fifteen minutes in length.

The service may include a brief sermon (8-12 minutes); brief charges to the person being ordained and/or installed, and to the congregation; the asking of the required constitutional questions of the candidate and the congregation; the recognition of the family and friends of the person being ordained and/or installed.

### C. The Offering

The service shall include an offering, proceeds from which go into the Presbytery Emergency Fund. The following explanation should be printed in the bulletin (if one is provided).

"The Presbytery of Cincinnati administers its Presbytery Emergency Fund to assist members of Presbytery and their families with emergency loans and grants. Today's offering will directly help members of our Presbyterian family in need. Thank You."

**The treasurer or financial secretary of the congregation or employing agency should forward a check in the amount of the offering to the Presbytery of Cincinnati, 1323 Myrtle Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45206, marked to the attention of the Business Manager.**

### D. Inclusive Language and Copyright

Services for ordination and/or installation shall make use of gender inclusive or gender neutral language in liturgy, prayers, hymns (where appropriate), and reading of the Scriptures.

Concerning copyright, service planners should check with publishers about the legality of reproducing music, music text, scripture, and liturgy in bulletins. Appropriate citations of sources and permission shall be made. Often publishers give blanket permission for the reproduction of "psalm phrases," refrains, or antiphons but not all other music or texts. It is safer to check before using them.

### E. Printed Order of Worship (Bulletin)

The printed bulletin or order of service is to be prepared by the person or persons being ordained and/or installed according to the guidelines above. **It is to be printed by the local church or employing agency, not the presbytery office.**

### F. Final Draft of the Worship Service

**Because this is a service of the presbytery, the service of ordination and/or installation should be available for review by the convener of the commission (normally the moderator or vice moderator of the presbytery or their designee) two weeks before the event.**

### G. What the Newly Ordained and/or Installed Person May Do

The newly ordained and/or installed person may celebrate or assist in celebrating the Lord's Supper, make a brief statement in response to the charge, and pronounce the benediction, thus symbolizing that the pastoral relationship has been established.

## V. Invitations to the Service

### A. Invitations and Mailing

The printing and mailing of invitations is the responsibility of the congregation or employing agency. They should include a statement that the presbytery and the congregation invite the individuals to the service.

If you prefer and if it is timely to do so, you may request that an invitation be e-mailed to the presbytery's e-mail list. Contact the presbytery's stated clerk for details. **Do not send out invitations before the presbytery has taken final action on your call.**

### B. Robes and Stoles

If teaching elders and other participants are to robe and process at the beginning of the service, the invitations should state this, along with the indication of liturgical colors to wear and where they are to gather to form the procession. Red is the color of the day, symbolizing the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and in the ongoing life of the church.

### C. Reception Following Service

Persons being ordained and/or installed along with their families and congregations may wish to receive guests during a time of fellowship following the service. Planning for this occasion is the responsibility of the person being ordained and/or installed or the local congregation or employing agency. It is appropriate to include RSVP information in the invitation.

### D. Child care at Services

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is an inclusive church of children, youth, and adults. Nevertheless, it is understood that additional options for children may be needed during ordinations and/or installations. Child care should be provided when requested by individuals attending or participating in the service. Include an RSVP for child care in the invitation.