

## THE ORDINATION OF ELDERS

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### PRESENTATION OF ELDERS

Secretary of Conference:

Esteemed Bishop, I present unto you these persons to be ordained as Elders.

*(The Bishop or Chairman shall then address the congregation, saying:)*

Brethren, these are the persons whom we purpose, by divine approval, to ordain Elders. For, after due examination, we find nothing contrary to the belief that they are divinely called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But, if any of you know any crime or impediment in any of them for which he should not be ordained, let him come forth, in the name of God, and show what such crime or impediment is.

*(Should any crime or impediment be charged, the person concerned shall not be ordained until such charge shall have been removed.)*

*(Then shall the Bishop pray, as follows:)*

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, who by Your Holy Spirit, has appointed divers orders of ministers in Your Church, mercifully behold these, Your servants, now called to the office of Elder, and replenish them so with the truth of Your doctrine; and adorn them with innocence and holiness of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve in this office, to the glory of Your name and the edification of Your Church, through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Head and Glory of the Church, world without end. Amen.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:7 & 8; 11-13

“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: ‘When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.’

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Scripture: John 10:1-4

“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all of his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

### EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

Bishop:

You have heard, brethren, in your private examination, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel and the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity and importance this office is whereunto you are called. And now again we exhort you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep in remembrance the dignity and weight of your calling: to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord’s family; to gather the outcasts; to seek the lost; and to be ever ready to spread abroad the glad tidings of reconciliation with God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have this confidence in you, brethren, that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves many times, and that you have clearly determined by the grace of God to give yourselves wholly to this office, whereunto it has pleased God to call you; so that as much as lies in you, you will apply yourselves without reserve to this one thing, and concentrate all your cares and studies upon the same, and that you will continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of Jesus Christ our only

Savior, for the blessed indwelling of the Holy Spirit; that by the daily reading and study of the Scriptures you may be thoroughly furnished, rightly dividing the Word of Truth; and that you so conduct yourselves that you may be wholesome and godly examples for the people to follow.

And now, that the congregation here assembled, in the name of Christ, may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this, your promise, may the more move you to do your duty, you shall answer plainly to the things which we, in the name of God and His Church, shall ask of you.

*Question:* Do you believe in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the office of an Elder?

*Answer:* I DO BELIEVE SO.

*Question:* Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrine essential to eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

*Answer:* I AM SO PERSUADED, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

*Question:* And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge and to teach nothing as essential to eternal salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be contained in and proved by the Scriptures?

*Answer:* I HAVE SO DETERMINED, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

*Question:* Will you then give faithful diligence to administer the sacraments, preach the doctrines of Christ, and observe and execute the *Discipline* of the Church as the Lord has commanded you?

*Answer:* I WILL DO SO, BY THE HELP OF THE LORD.

*Question:* Will you be ready by all faithful diligence to disprove and banish all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word and to use both public and private admonitions and exhortations as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

*Answer:* I WILL, THE LORD BEING MY HELPER.

*Question:* Will you be diligent in prayers and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as are helpful to the knowledge of the same?

*Answer:* I WILL ENDEAVOR SO TO DO, THE LORD BEING MY HELPER.

*Question:* Will you be diligent to fashion yourself and your family according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourself and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

*Answer:* I WILL THERETO APPLY MYSELF, THE LORD BEING MY HELPER.

*Question:* Will you, to the extent of your ability, cultivate and maintain harmony, peace and love among all people, especially among all Christian persons and preeminently among them that are committed to your care?

*Answer:* I WILL DO SO, THE LORD BEING MY HELPER.

*Question:* Will you reverently submit to your superiors in office, unto whom is committed the charge over you following with a ready heart and willing mind their godly counsels and admonitions?

*Answer:* I WILL DO SO, THE LORD BEING MY HELPER.

*(Then shall the Bishop, or the presiding officer, say:)*

God Almighty, who has given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you fulness of ability to perform, that He may accomplish His work begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Having duly examined the candidates to be ordained elders, we are now ready to proceed with the ordination of these brethren/persons.)*

*The wives of those to be ordained as elders will please join their husbands at the altar, standing at their left.*

*All candidates with their wives will kneel at the altar and remain kneeling until the closing prayer and benediction.)*

ALL SING THE HYMN: *(Choices for tunes: Duke Street; Maryton; Hamburg; Truro; Mendon)*

Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire.  
And lighten with celestial fire.  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
Who dost Thy seven-fold gifts impart.  
Thy blessed unction from above  
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.  
Enable with perpetual light  
The dullness of our blinded spirit:  
Anoint and cheer our soiled face,  
With the abundance of Thy grace;  
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;  
Where Thou art Guide no ill can come.  
Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
And Thee of both to be but ONE;  
That through the ages all along,  
This theme may be our endless song;  
Praise to Thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, who, of Your infinite love and goodness toward us, has given to us Your only and dearly loved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and the author of everlasting life; who, after He had perfected our redemption by His death and resurrection and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world His apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors, by whose labor and ministry He gathered together multitudes in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of Your holy name: for these unspeakable benefits of Your eternal goodness and that You have vouchsafed to call these Your servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto You most hearty thanks; we praise and worship You through Your dear Son, our Savior, and we humbly beseech You that they may ever continue to show forth Your praise and that they may daily increase in knowledge and all goodness by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Grant that through these Your ministers, as well as through those over whom they shall be appointed shepherds, Your holy name may be forever glorified and Your kingdom enlarged, through Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **ORDINATION OF ELDERS**

*(Then the Bishop, or the Presiding Officer, shall hand each of them a Bible and with assisting Elders, laying their hands upon the head of each candidate shall say:)*

The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an Elder in the Church of God, now committed unto you by authority of the Church, through the imposition of our hands. Be a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of the Holy Sacraments; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture - Matthew 28:18-20

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Let us pray.

Most merciful Father, we beseech You to impart unto these Your servants the riches of Your grace and the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, that, with clearness of discernment and readiness of

utterance, they may declare unto all to whom they are sent the whole counsel of God and that, through their ministrations, the Church may be quickened and moved to higher attainments in godliness and the lost be converted and gathered in the fold of Christ. Grant that in all things they may seek Your glory alone and the increase of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. O merciful Father, our hope is in You. Fill us with Your gracious presence and favor in all our lot, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You, we may worthily glorify Your holy name and, finally by Your mercy, inherit eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Benediction

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.