

A Service of Induction of a Minister of the Word

(Approved in its present form by the Assembly Standing Committee on 13 March 2016)

Notes

- 1 The induction of a minister of the Word into a placement within the bounds of a presbytery is an act of the presbytery which has oversight of the minister of the Word. (Regulation 2.7.19 (a))
- 2 The service is conducted at a time and place determined by the presbytery, normally in the congregation/s where the minister is to be inducted, and in the presence of members of the presbytery, and of the congregation/s.
- 3 The induction of a minister of the Word into a placement or appointment other than a congregational placement is performed by a presbytery, a synod or the Assembly, as appropriate, at a time and place determined by the body responsible for the induction. This order of service should be adapted to suit the circumstances. (Regulation 2.7.19)
- 4 For the induction of a minister of the Word of the Uniting Church in Australia into an ecumenical appointment or a united/joint congregation, the service may be led by the chairperson of the presbytery with oversight of the minister, an appointee of the synod or assembly, or, with the approval of the presbytery, synod or assembly, a person appointed by the ecumenical body. The act of induction should be performed by the appropriate officer of the Uniting Church in Australia. (Regulation 2.7.19 (b)(c) and (d))
- 5 The chairperson of presbytery, or another of its members appointed by the presbytery, or the moderator of the synod or the president of the assembly or his/her nominee, presides at the Service of Induction and shall put the questions to the minister to be inducted, offer the Induction Prayer and make the Declaration of Induction.
- 6 Appropriate persons may be invited by the presbytery, synod or assembly, to lead other parts of the service.
- 7 The chairperson should consult with the minister to be inducted in the planning of the service.
- 8 Before the service commences the minister to be inducted may be escorted to a front pew, or other convenient place, where s/he may be joined by family members and friends.
- 9 If clergy or representatives of other churches are to be present, they should be asked prior to the service if they are willing to participate in the way suggested in section 19.
- 10 If liturgical colours are used, the colour for a service of Induction is red. Alternatively, the minister being inducted and others may wear a Uniting Church blue scarf. It is appropriate for the chairperson of presbytery to wear a scarf of

office if s/he is wearing liturgical dress. The minister of the Word wears the stole around the neck and hanging freely in front. If the Uniting Church blue scarf is adopted, it is worn in the same manner.

- 11 A local or congregational choir or other musical group may contribute to the service both by leading in the singing of the hymns and by an anthem. Depending on the content of the anthem, it may be sung at section 10 or after the offering at section 21.
- 12 The body responsible for the induction determines the use of the offering money. It is recommended that this be for ministerial training or for the work of the presbytery, synod or assembly.
- 13 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper may be included in an induction service.
- 14 Bible readings appropriate both for an ordination service and an induction service are set out in note 15 before the service of Ordination.

An Outline of a Service of Induction of a Minister of the Word

The Gathering of the People of God

- 1 ▶ Call to Worship
- 2 Hymn/Song of Praise
- 3 ▶ Welcome and Greeting
- 4 ▶ Prayer of Confession
▶ Declaration of Forgiveness

The Service of the Word

- 6 First Reading
- 7 Psalm
- 8 Second Reading
- 9 ▶ Gospel
- 10 Hymn/Song or Anthem
- 11 ▶ Preaching of the Word
- 12 ▶ Nicene Creed

The Service of Induction

- 13 ▶ Questions to the Minister of the Word
- 14 Hymn/Song
- 15 ▶ Induction Prayer
- 16 ▶ Declaration of Induction
- 17 ▶ The Presbytery
- 18 ▶ The People
- 19 ▶ Church Council/Elders
- 20 Other Churches and Faiths
- 21 ▶ The Minister of the Word
- 22 Offering
- 23 ▶ Prayers of the People

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

If The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated, the service continues with The Peace. A Great Prayer of Thanksgiving shall follow; if the Great Prayer in SLD-1 is used, the special thanksgiving on p. 176 may be included.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

- 24 Hymn/Song
- 25 ▶ Dismissal and Blessing

A Service of Induction of a Minister of the Word

The Gathering of the People of God

1 ►CALL TO WORSHIP

The minister or an elder of the local congregation says: *Let us worship God*; and announces the hymn. The people stand. Those who are leading worship enter the church during the singing of the hymn.

2 HYMN/SONG OF PRAISE

3 ►WELCOME AND GREETING

The chairperson of the presbytery says:

The Presbytery of
has resolved to induct NNN
to serve as a minister of the Word
in the Congregation/s of

N, we rejoice that God has called you
by the voice of the Church
to serve Jesus Christ in this congregation/*these congregations* and presbytery.

I welcome you all to this joyful occasion,
and greet you in the name of God:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

[2 Corinthians 13:13](#)

And also with you.

4 ►PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In baptism we are claimed by God,
and given the gift of the Holy Spirit
that we may live as witnesses to Jesus Christ
and share his ministry in the world.

We have not always lived as Christ's disciples.
Let us confess our sins:

We have failed to live out our baptism:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have been blind to the vision of a renewed world:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have been indifferent to the suffering of others:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

In your mercy, pardon and restore us,
that bound together in the ministry of Christ
we may serve you with joy
all the days of our life.
Amen.

► DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
not counting our sins against us,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5:19

The chairperson says:

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
'Your sins are forgiven.'
Thanks be to God.

Mark 2:5

Through baptism, the sign of the cross is upon you.
Remember your baptism and be thankful.
**As members of Christ's body, the Church,
we will live out our baptism,
serving together in Christ's name.**

The Service of the Word

If only two Bible readings are used, an Old Testament or epistle reading and a Gospel reading shall be read.

If a psalm is used, it may be printed in the order of service, to be said or sung by the people.

- 6 FIRST READING
- 7 PSALM
- 8 SECOND READING
- 9 ► GOSPEL

The following may be used after the final reading:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

- 10 HYMN OR ANTHEM
- 11 ► PREACHING OF THE WORD

The people stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The people sit.

The Service of Induction

The chairperson addresses the minister:

N, my brother/sister in Christ,
you are called to be a servant and a shepherd in this congregation/*these congregations*.
It is your work to preach Christ's gospel,
to call people to repentance,
to assure them of God's mercy, and to baptise.
You will teach, inspire and encourage,
both by word and example,
the people entrusted to your care.
You will lead them in worship,
and celebrate the Lord's supper with them.

You will take Christ the Good Shepherd as your example,
caring for his people and serving with them
in their witness to the world.

In view of this solemn trust,
we ask you to reaffirm
the declaration of faith and obedience
that you made at your ordination
and to show that you desire, by God's grace,
to continue your ministry in this congregation/*these congregations*.

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you embrace the faith and unity of the holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
as set forth in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,
expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds
and described in the Basis of Union?

I do.

Do you accept the discipline of the Uniting Church
and the oversight of this presbytery?

I do.

Do you affirm and commit yourself to the covenant made between the Uniting Aboriginal
and Islander Christian Congress and the Uniting Church and accept the obligation to serve
both First and Second peoples?

I do

Will you take part in the work of this presbytery
and other councils of the Uniting Church,
and will you share in the life and witness
of the wider Church?

I will.

A group of people representative of the congregation/s and reflecting the diversity of the people for whom the minister will have pastoral responsibility comes forward. They bring a Bible, and water, bread and wine.

One of them says:

We are the people of God.
We bring the holy Bible,
and water, and bread and wine
as signs of the ministry to which you were ordained.

Another says:

We have come representing the Congregation/s of.....
It is your duty to care for the people entrusted to you.

The minister takes the Bible, opens it and places it on the lectern or pulpit; takes the jug and pours water into the font; and takes the bread and wine and places them on the communion table.

The representatives return to their places.

If the minister will be working with colleagues, they come forward.

The chairperson introduces them.

The colleagues say:

N, we welcome you to the Congregation/s of
We offer you our friendship and support
as we join together in this work
to which God calls us,
and as we share with the people of this congregation/*these congregations*
in the wider ministry of Christ.

Addressing the minister to be inducted and the other member/s of the ministry team, the chairperson says:

N and N, you have been called by God
to work together in this congregation/*these congregations*.
Will you promise, in faith and obedience to Christ,
to share this ministry,
supporting one another in love,
and through your harmony of spirit
inspiring God's people
in their common ministry for Christ?

We will, by the grace of God.

14 HYMN

The people remain standing after the hymn.

15 ►INDUCTION PRAYER

The minister to be inducted kneels and the chairperson says:

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
in every age you have chosen servants

to speak your word and lead your people.
We thank you for N
whom you have called to serve you.
Fill him/her with the Holy Spirit
and give him/her gifts for this ministry.
May he/she have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus,
and be a faithful disciple,
being an example to the people of God
and witnessing before the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Aaronic Blessing may be said or sung by the people (Together in Song, 776), or another blessing may be used.

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.**

Numbers 6:24-26

16 ► DECLARATION OF INDUCTION

The minister stands and faces the people.

The chairperson says:

In the name of Jesus Christ,
the sovereign Head of the Church,
and by the authority of the Presbytery of,
we now declare NNN to be inducted
into the Congregation/s of.....

This may be followed by the singing of a doxology e.g. Together in Song, 768-775.

The people sit.

The Response

The chairperson says:

My brothers and sisters in Christ,
the Church declares that its members
shall acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord,
confess the Christian faith,
accept the discipline of the Church
and share in its ministry.

17 ► THE PRESBYTERY

The chairperson requests members of the presbytery to stand and says:

Will you support your brother/sister N
in the discharge of his/her responsibilities
as a minister of the Word within this presbytery?

We will, in the love of Christ.

The chairperson invites members of the presbytery to greet the newly-inducted minister.

Members of presbytery then sit.

18 ► THE PEOPLE

The chairperson or secretary of the church council comes forward, invites the members and adherents of the congregation/s to stand, and addresses the newly-inducted minister:

N, I greet you as our new minister.
I present to you the people of God in this congregation/*these congregations*,
ministers with you in the gospel,
and I commend them to your prayers.

On their behalf, I greet you.

The chairperson of presbytery addresses those standing:

Will you take part
in the public worship of God,
and contribute to the work of God as you are able;
will you endeavour to make a Christian witness
in the community by word and action?

We will, the Lord being our helper.

Will you honour N as your pastor and leader;
will you listen for God's word in his/her preaching;
will you welcome him/her into your homes;
will you provide for him/her that which is necessary
for his/her physical welfare;
and will you at all times support him/her
with your love and prayers?

We will, the Lord being our helper.

19 ► THE CHURCH COUNCIL AND ELDERS

The chairperson of presbytery invites the minister, elders and members of Church Council to stand, and addresses them.

N, these are the Elders and Council members
of the Congregation
You are called to work with them
In building up the body of Christ.

N, Elders and Leaders,
will you work together in harmony and trust
to lead God's people here
to further Christ's mission in this world
We will, the Lord being our helper

The people sit.

20 OTHER CHURCHES AND FAITHS

The chairperson of presbytery may welcome and introduce clergy or representatives of other churches who are present.

The chairperson invites them to come forward and greet the newly-ordained and -inducted minister.

If there are representatives of other faiths present, the chairperson may invite them to come forward and greet the minister.

21 ► THE MINISTER OF THE WORD

The newly-inducted minister makes a brief response.

22 OFFERING

ANTHEM

If not sung at 10 after the gospel reading.

23 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The prayers are led by a member of presbytery or a representative group of people from presbytery and/or congregation.

Intercessions may include:

- *The minister and his/her family
- *The needs of the Church and the world.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper continues, according to SLD-1 or SLD-2. If the Great Prayer in SLD-1 is used, the special thanksgiving on p. 176 may be included.

If there is to be no celebration of the Eucharist the last person to lead in prayer says:

And now let us pray to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The Sending Forth of the People of God

24 HYMN

25 BLESSING

The chairperson says:

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**