

## SUGGESTED SERVICE OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF A CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

This suggested liturgy is designed to take place as part of the service for the Lord's Day within the church that the educator serves, following the preaching of the Word. The educator being recognized might be invited to participate in the planning of the entire liturgy for the day. It is appropriate to invite the following persons to take part in this service: The moderator of the Presbytery or her/his designee, an educator colleague from another congregation, members of the educator's congregation and others who comprised the Certification Reference Group.

*(May be used in congregational worship or by other employing body)*

One: As the Hebrew people prepared to enter the Promised Land, Moses admonished them to be careful and watch closely that they should not forget the things their eyes had seen nor let them slip from their hearts. What they had experienced and received was for their children and their children's children. They were to teach the faith to each other.

**All: *Keep these words that I am commanding you this day in your heart. Recite them to your children.***

One: Talk of them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

**All: *Bind them as a sign on your hand and as an emblem on your forehead; write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.***

One: Teaching the faith is the call of every believer. By our baptism, each of us is ordained to go and make disciples, teaching them to obey all that Christ commanded. But God's wisdom has ordained that some of us shall be called to special responsibilities of leadership according to Christ's gifts.

**All: *The gifts he gave were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.***

One: To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

**All: *Until all of us come to the unity of faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.***

**[Ask the following constitutional questions from *The Book of Order*, W-4.4003 as instructed in G-14.0730]**

One: **[Name]**, 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?

Educator: I do.

One: 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?

Educator: I do.

One: 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?

Educator: I do.

- One: Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
- Educator: I will.
- One: 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?
- Educator: I will.
- One: Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- Educator: I will.
- One: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- Educator: I do.
- One: Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- Educator: I will.
- One: Will you be a faithful certified Christian educator, teaching faith and caring for people, and will you in your ministry try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?
- Educator: I will.
- One: Let us pray: *(the following prayer may be spoken by the leader or read in unison, or a special mentor/colleague may be asked to offer this or their own prayer)*

Faithful God of all wisdom and knowledge, source of all truth and light, we thank you this day for your servant **[name]**, for your call upon **her/his** life and for **his/her** faithful response. We celebrate **her/his** gifts for ministry and **his/her** willingness to diligently prepare to serve your people. Bless **[name]** as **she/he** ministers to your people in new ways. Make us open to **his/her** leadership, as **she/he** remains open to yours. By the power of your Holy Spirit, multiply our gifts and bless our ministry with the fruits of faithfulness. For we ask in the name of the greatest teacher of all, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Suggested Hymn of Commitment:**

*Called As Partners in Christ's Service*  
*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*  
*Lord of All Good*

Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 343  
 Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 426  
 Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 375