

A SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF A CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

This liturgy may take place as part of worship during a meeting of presbytery within which the educator serves, following the preaching of the Word.

Introduction by Presbytery Certification Advisor

The Educator Certification Council recommends that **[name]** should be accorded the status of Certified Associate Christian Educator. **She/he** has successfully demonstrated proficiency in biblical interpretation, reformed theology, religious education theory and practice, human development and Presbyterian polity, program and mission. It is our privilege today to offer our congratulations, to charge her/him to continue in faithful ministry, and to pray God's blessing upon **her/his** ministry.

Listen to the Word of God as it is written in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 13 through 35. This resurrection day account teaches us much about what Jesus showed the role of the teacher to be. **[Read Luke 24:13-35]**

[Name], Christ charges you by his own example. Walk along side those you are called to minister to. Listen to hear what is on their hearts and discover what understanding they already bring to those concerns. Remember that even Jesus seemed frustrated by the disciples' slowness to comprehend, yet he offered them the scripture that would illuminate their search. Jesus was willing to leave them to themselves to work out their answers, or to stay with them into the simple daily rituals of life, waiting for the Spirit to open their eyes. When Jesus knew they had been empowered by their knowledge, he withdrew and let them go to teach others. This is the model for you to live out for others to follow: Teach us to walk beside our students. To listen to their needs, to share with them the Word of God, then to stand back and watch their eyes open and their own calls materialize.

[The Moderator of the Presbytery will then ask the following constitutional questions from W-4.4003 as instructed in G-14.0730]

Moderator: **[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.

Moderator: 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.

Moderator: 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.

Moderator: 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.
 Moderator: 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.
 Moderator: 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.
 Moderator: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
 Educator: I do.
 Moderator: Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and
 love?
 Educator: I will.
 Moderator: 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.
 Moderator: Recognizing the action of the General Assembly Educator Certification Council,
 and on behalf of the **[name]** Presbytery, we welcome you as a certified Christian
 educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Moderator of the Presbytery presents the official certificate.

Let us pray: (based on selections from James 1 & 3)
 Lord God of Wisdom and Truth,
 every good and perfect gift comes from you.
 We praise you for the gifts revealed in your servant **[name]**,
 and for her/his willingness to nurture those gifts
 and to offer them to your Church in love.
 Remind **her/him** always that wisdom is yours to give to all who ask.
 Let **his/her** wisdom be shown by a life well-lived,
 by deeds done in the humility that comes from true wisdom.
 Your wisdom is pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and
 truth.
 A person with such wisdom sows peace and then reaps a harvest of
 righteousness.
 Pour out your blessing upon **[name]** and upon your church,
 that all of us would be good stewards of your gifts to us,
 and continually seek to know you, even as we are known.
 For we ask these things in the name of the Great Teacher, our Lord and Savior,
 Jesus Christ. Amen.

Suggested Hymn: Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 343
 "Called As Partners in Christ's Service"