

SUGGESTED SERVICE OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF A CERTIFIED 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 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.

Opening Sentences - Psalm 78:1-4

One: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable...proclaiming the things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

All: *We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that God has done.*

Hymn – Stanzas 1 & 2

Give Heed to God's Word
Tune: Hanover 10.10.11.11

John A. Dalles

Give heed to God's Word! Come listen, come learn
the wonders of God and tell them in turn!
Bear light to the peoples, illumine the way,
proclaiming the Good News of Jesus this day!

Give heed to God's Word! Come, share all you know!
God's tenderness tell, God's majesty show!
Bear light to the peoples with nurturing care
imparting Christ's story of joy everywhere!

Litany of Preparation and Affirmation of Faith

One: Our Lord Jesus was an educator. Jesus taught all who came to him. He taught of things above, of the love of God for the children of humanity, of the tender compassion in God's heart for creation, of the way we should live and grow and bear fruit for God's realm, like seeds planted in rich soil and nurtured by the gentle rains from on high.

All: *What is an educator, if not a mirror in which we may receive the divine image in the soul?*

One: What is an educator, if not a sower of seed and a cultivator of young gardens?

All: *What is an educator, if not a shaper of souls and guide who gently shows the right path for the journey?*

One: What is an educator, if not the most helpful of all dreamers, who plans and

nurtures and sees the bright destiny and harvest of the work even when the learner cannot?

All: *What is an educator, if not a shepherd watching over the flock and leading it to abundant pastures?*

One: On this occasion of recognition and celebration, let us say what we believe:

***We believe in
the strength and grace of love from God,
the revelation of love in Jesus Christ,
the nurturing of love through the Holy Spirit.***

***We give ear to your teaching, O God,
that we may believe in your Word.***

***We believe Your Word is alive among us,
in the lives and stories of our ancestors,
in the hearts and minds of believers today,
in the hopes and dreams of children and youth.***

***We believe the realm of our Lord is brought closer
when hearts and minds are transformed by God,
when actions and decisions are conformed to God,
when the ways of the world are reformed with God
to bring about justice and mercy for all.***

***Then generation after generation will recount God's praise
and give thanks forever.***

Hymn – Stanzas 3 & 4

**"Give Heed to God's Word"
Tune: Hanover 10.10.11.11**

John A. Dalles

Give heed to God's Word! Come roar with delight,
With love that will last, with faith that takes flight!
Bear light to the peoples, take part in the thrill
of greeting and claiming and doing God's will.

Give heed to God's Word! God's welcome prepare,
Come offer your hands, your places, your chair!
Bear light to the peoples, receiving each one,
extending the kindness of Jesus, God's Son!

Presentation of the Educator

[Name] has completed all the requirements necessary to be recognized as a Certified Christian Educator. The Educator Certification Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has granted this certification. **[Name]**, would you please come forward?

Questions to the Educator

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

- Leader: **[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.
- Leader: 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.
- Leader: 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.
- Leader: 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.
- Leader: 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.
- Leader: 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.
- Leader: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- Educator: I do.
- Leader: Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- Educator: I will.
- Leader: 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.

Prayer of Dedication

One: Holy God, bless this educator who, with patience and hard work and commitment has glorified your name and increased the light that dwells in our midst. By your grace may we all become as those who are taught: open, alert, and attentive to the unfolding revelation of your love, that we may be learners in your realm. This day is a celebration that from generation to generation the story of your love is retold, passed down from master to disciple, from teacher to learner, from parent to child, until all the families of the earth shall be full of your knowledge.

All: **All praise and honor and glory be to God who makes us a people, and who gives us a story to tell, who pours love and light and truth upon us until the heart sings and the soul dances. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Recognition of Certification

[Name], recognizing the action of the General Assembly Educator Certification Council we welcome you as a certified Christian educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Hymn – Stanza 5

“Give Heed to God’s Word”
Tune: Hanover 10.10.11.11

John A. Dalles

Give heed to God’s Word! So others may heed!
God’s flock to enfold! God’s people to lead!
Bear light to the peoples! Intelligent, live!
Love, energy, imagination to give!

Charge to the Educator

Charge to the Congregation

Hymn – Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 522

“Lord, When I Came Into This Life”

Tune: Land of Rest CM

Charge and Blessing (To be offered by the Educator)

Resources:

Hymn: “Give Heed To God’s Word!” was written for the 1996 APCE annual event by the Rev. John A. Dalles, Pastor, Wekiva Presbyterian Church, Longwood, FL. Permission for use granted to APCE in perpetuity.

The Litany of Preparation and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from Litanies for All Occasions by Garth House. 1989: Judson Press.

Affirmation of Faith was written by Barbara L. Bowman, Director of Christian Education, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Peoria, IL. Used by permission.