

A SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF A CERTIFIED 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

[From the Book of Order G-14.0710 through G-14.0732. This is an opportunity for awareness and education.]

What is a Certified Christian Educator? The Book of Order states “Christian Educators are persons called by God to a ministry of education who demonstrate their faith in and love for Jesus Christ, are dedicated to the life of faith and are serious in purpose, honest in character and joyful in service.” [G-14.0710]

“In order to provide effective guidance for educational ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the General Assembly shall offer a handbook containing the training and continuing education process for Christian Educators . . . The handbook shall provide an accrediting process that evaluates the educator’s academic preparation and work experience and examines competency in the following knowledge and skill areas:

- Biblical Interpretation
- Reformed Theology
- Human Development
- Religions Education Theory and Practice
- Polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Program and Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Worship and Sacraments” [G-14.0720-14.0721]

The presbytery shall:

- ° Support the certification process by encouraging educators to seek certification, providing guidance through certification advisors, and encourage sessions to make continuing education funds and time available to educators seeking certification
- ° Provide a service of recognition that shall include the constitutional questions, establish minimum requirements for compensation and benefits, and access to the committee on ministry
- ° Grant the privilege of the floor to the certified Christian educator at all its meetings with voice only, and, in the case of certified Christian educators who are ordained elders, voice and vote.

[The Presbytery Certification Advisor or Moderator invites the Educator, along with her/his pastor, session representatives, family members and other Certified Christian Educators to come forward. In this, the educator is surrounded with a cloud of witnesses and support. Once all are gathered, the following prayer, or one written specifically for this recognition service, may be offered. Prayers may be written/offered by the Executive Presbyter or the Associate responsible for education in the Presbytery, or the Moderator, or the Pastor of the church where the educator is working.]

Almighty God, in every age you have chosen leaders to teach your truth and your ways. Our Lord commissioned us to teach all people to obey all that you have commanded. Your Spirit continues to call women and men to serve you by teaching and by helping others to teach your ways to each succeeding generation. We thank you this day that you have called (name) for this special work within our church. We ask you to continue to guide and nurture her/him as she/he serves as an educator within this presbytery and in the (name) Presbyterian Church. Fill her/him with the wisdom and love that comes from knowing you, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, so that all that she/he does is done to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

[The Moderator or Pastor of the Educator's church may read one of the following scripture passages]

Romans 12:4-8

I Corinthians 12:4-11

Ephesians 4:4, 5:11-12

[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 presents the official certificate. This is also an appropriate time for the presentation of a small gift given to the educator from the presbytery or employing body.]

Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 522

Lord, When I Came Into This Life

LAND OF REST, CM

[This portion of the service of worship should conclude with a prayer and congratulations offered to the educator by all who are leading worship.]