

# Installation Service for

BY ROBINA WINBUSH

## Opening Scripture

“I appeal to you . . . sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. . . .

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us; prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness” (*Rom. 12:1–2; 4–8*).

## Remembering Women Who Have Led Before Us

Leader: God has called you through the voice of Presbyterian Women to offer your gifts of leadership at this time.

I remind you of the leadership gifts of women in scripture: Shiphrah and Puah, Miriam, Deborah, Esther, Naomi, Ruth, Elizabeth, Mary, Salome, Mary Magdalene, Lydia, Priscilla, Phoebe and so many other women, named and unnamed, known and unknown—not perfect, but used by God for the perfecting of God’s people.

Remember now the gifts of leadership in women who have touched your life and brought you to this point of faith and service. (Women are invited to name aloud the women who have touched their lives.) Not

perfect, but used by God for the perfecting of God’s people.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: We thank you, God, for calling and using women for your divine purposes throughout history. We remember with grateful hearts the women who have come before us, showing us your love, demonstrating your grace and serving you as they led your people. May we honor their memories and glorify you as we build on the legacy that they have given to us. We ask this in the name of the One who calls us into leadership, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Renewal of Baptism and Installation of Officers

Leader: The grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God’s grace. By God’s grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ.

God has called you to leadership within Presbyterian Women. Show your commitments by answering these questions.

Leader: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Officers: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Leader: Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

Officers: With the help of God, I will.

Leader: Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors and to work on the reconciliation of the world?

Officers: By the grace of God, I do.

# Presbyterian Women

Leader: Will you serve Presbyterian Women with energy, intelligence, imagination and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Officers: With the help of God, I will.

Leader: Do you, the members of Presbyterian Women, confirm the call of God to our sisters in the service of Jesus Christ?

**Congregation:** We do.

Leader: Will you support them and encourage them in ministry?

**Congregation:** With the help of God, we will.

## Commissioning Prayer

Leader: Faithful God, in baptism, you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit, you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading these women to this time and place. Grant them the gifts of discernment and wisdom, compassion and courage, strength and endurance. Surround them with communities of women and men who pray for them, encourage them and support their leadership. May their days of laughter and fulfillment be many and their

seasons of struggle and sorrow be short. As they serve you and your people in faithfulness, may they bring glory, honor and praise to you, the one Triune God, now and forever.

Officers: Holy God, we count it a privilege to be your daughters and to lead Presbyterian Women at this time. We offer ourselves with gratitude and expectation to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May our time of service be a blessing to this organization, the church universal and the world at large. When we are weak, grant us your power. When we fall short, grant us your forgiveness. When we succeed, we will give you the glory. We ask this in the name of the One who calls us friends, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

## Charge and Benediction

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer” (*Rom. 12:9–12*).

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### Try This!

- ✓ Ask your pastor to make the installation service part of a typical Sunday worship service. It's a good visual reminder that PW is a vital part of your congregation.
- ✓ Consider giving each new officer a gift that will support her role in PW—such as a subscription to *Horizons* (if she already has one, you can add 1–3 years onto it!).
- ✓ Invite the moderator of PW in your presbytery or synod to assist with the installation. This is a great way to make stronger connections with other PW sisters.
- ✓ Write an article for your church newsletter about your new officers. Let the whole congregation know how talented PW leaders are!