

# A Service of Induction of a Deacon

(Approved in its present form by the July 2013 Assembly Standing Committee)

## Notes

- 1 The induction of a deacon into a placement within the bounds of a presbytery is an act of the presbytery which has oversight of the deacon. (Regulation 2.7.19 (a))
- 2 The induction of a deacon into a congregational placement is conducted at a time and place determined by the presbytery and in the presence of members of the presbytery, the congregation/s and representatives of those among whom the deacon will work.
- 3 The induction of a deacon into a placement or appointment other than a congregational placement is performed by a presbytery, a synod or the Assembly, as appropriate, at a time and place determined by the body responsible for the induction. This order of service should be adapted to suit the circumstances. (Regulation 2.7.19 (b), (c) and (d))
- 4 For the induction of a deacon of the Uniting Church in Australia into an ecumenical appointment or a united/joint congregation, the service may be led by the chairperson of the presbytery with oversight of the minister, an appointee of the synod or the assembly, or, with the approval of the presbytery, synod or assembly, a person appointed by the ecumenical body. The act of induction should be performed by the appropriate officer of the Uniting Church in Australia. (Regulation 2.7.19 (b), (c) and (d))
- 5 The chairperson of presbytery, or another of its members appointed by the presbytery, or the moderator of the synod, or the president of the Assembly or another person nominated by that leader, presides at the service of Induction and shall put the questions to the minister to be inducted, offer the Induction Prayer and make the Declaration of Induction.
- 6 Appropriate people may be invited by the presbytery, synod or assembly, to lead other parts of the service.
- 7 The chairperson or leader should consult with the minister to be inducted in the planning of the service.
- 8 Before the service commences the minister to be inducted may be escorted to a front pew, or other convenient place, where s/he may be joined by family members and friends.
- 9 If clergy or representatives of other churches are to be present, they should be asked prior to the service if they are willing to participate in the way suggested in section 19.
- 10 If liturgical colours are used, the colour for a service of Induction is red. Alternatively, the minister being inducted and others may wear a Uniting Church

blue scarf. It is appropriate for the chairperson of presbytery to wear a scarf of office if s/he is wearing liturgical dress. The deacon wears the stole diagonally over the left shoulder, and fastened at the right hip. If the Uniting Church blue scarf is adopted, it is worn around the neck and hanging freely in front.

- 11 A local or congregational choir or other musical group may contribute to the service both by leading in the singing of the hymns and by an anthem. Depending on the content of the anthem, it may be sung at section 10 or after the offering at section 21.
- 12 The body responsible for the induction determines the use of the offering money. It is recommended that this be for ministerial training or for the work of the presbytery, synod or assembly.
- 13 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper may be included in an induction service.
- 14 Bible readings appropriate both for an ordination service and an induction service are set out in note 15 of the Service of Ordination.

# **An Outline of a Service of Induction of a Deacon**

## **The Gathering of the People of God**

- 1     ▶ Call to Worship
- 2     Hymn/Song of Praise
- 3     ▶ Welcome and Greeting
- 4     ▶ Prayer of Confession
- ▶ Declaration of Forgiveness

## **The Service of the Word**

- 6     First Reading
- 7     Psalm
- 8     Second Reading
- 9     ▶ Gospel
- 10    Hymn/Song or Anthem
- 11    ▶ Preaching of the Word
- 12    ▶ Nicene Creed

## **The Service of Induction**

- 13    ▶ Questions to the Deacon
- 14    Hymn/Song
- 15    ▶ Induction Prayer
- 16    ▶ Declaration of Induction
- 17    ▶ The Presbytery
- 18    ▶ The People
- 19    Other Churches and Faiths
- 20    ▶ The Deacon
- 21    Offering
- 22    ▶ Prayers of the People

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

If The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated, the service continues with The Peace. A Great Prayer of Thanksgiving shall follow; if the Great Prayer in SLD-1 is used, the special thanksgiving on p. 175 may be included.

## **The Sending Forth of the People of God**

- Hymn/Song
- ▶ Dismissal and Blessing

# A Service of Induction of a Deacon

## The Gathering of the People of God

### 1 ► CALL TO WORSHIP

The minister or an elder of the local congregation says: *Let us worship God*; and announces the hymn.  
The people stand. Those who are leading the worship enter the church during the singing of the hymn.

### 2 HYMN OF PRAISE

### 3 ► WELCOME AND GREETING

The chairperson of the presbytery says:

The Presbytery of .....  
has resolved to induct NNN  
to serve as a deacon in.....

N, we rejoice that God has called you  
by the voice of the Church  
to serve Jesus Christ in this placement and presbytery.

I welcome you all to this joyful occasion,  
and greet you in the name of God:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

[2 Corinthians 13:13](#)

### 4 ► PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In baptism we are claimed by God,  
and given the gift of the Holy Spirit  
that we may live as witnesses to Jesus Christ  
and share his ministry in the world.

We have not always lived as Christ's disciples.  
Let us confess our sins:

We have failed to live out our baptism:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have been blind to the vision of a renewed world:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We have been indifferent to the suffering of others:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In your mercy, pardon and restore us,  
that bound together in the ministry of Christ  
we may serve you with joy  
all the days of our life.

**Amen.**

► DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,  
not counting our sins against us,  
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5:19

The chairperson says:

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:  
'Your sins are forgiven.'

Mark 2:5

**Thanks be to God.**

Through baptism, the sign of the cross is upon you.  
Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**As members of Christ's body, the Church,  
we will live out our baptism,  
serving together in Christ's name.**

## The Service of the Word

If only two Bible readings are used, an Old Testament or epistle reading and a Gospel reading shall be read.

If a psalm is used, it may be printed in the order of service, to be said or sung by the people.

6 FIRST READING

7 PSALM

8 SECOND READING

9 ► GOSPEL

The following may be used after the final reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

10 HYMN OR ANTHEM

11 ► PREACHING OF THE WORD

12 ► NICENE CREED

*The people stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## The Service of Induction

13 ► QUESTIONS TO THE DEACON

*The chairperson addresses the minister:*

N, my brother/sister in Christ,  
you are called to be a servant and shepherd in .....

The following statement may be adapted to suit the specific ministry into which the minister is being inducted.

It is your work to proclaim Christ's gospel,  
to share in the conduct of worship,  
to encourage God's people in their ministry,  
to care for those in need,  
to stand with those who suffer,  
and to pray and act for justice.

You will take Christ the Servant as your example,  
ministering to his people and serving with them  
in their witness to the world.

In view of this solemn trust,  
we ask you to reaffirm  
the declaration of faith and obedience  
that you made at your ordination  
and to show that you desire, by God's grace,  
to continue your ministry in .....

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

**I do so confess.**

Do you embrace the faith and unity of the holy, catholic and apostolic Church,  
as set forth in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,  
expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds  
and described in the Basis of Union?

**I do.**

Do you accept the discipline of the Uniting Church  
and the oversight of this presbytery?

**I do.**

Do you affirm and commit yourself to the covenant made between the Uniting Aboriginal  
and Islander Christian Congress and the Uniting Church and accept the obligation to serve  
both First and Second peoples?

**I do**

Will you take part in the work of this presbytery  
and other councils of the Uniting Church,  
and will you share in the life and witness  
of the wider Church?

**I will.**

A group of people, representing those amongst whom the minister will serve, comes forward. They bring a Bible, and water, bread and wine, along with a bowl and towel. Other symbols related to the field of service may also be brought.

One of them says:

We are the people of God.  
We bring the holy Bible,  
and water, and bread and wine  
as signs of the ministry to which you were ordained.

Another says:

We are the people of God.  
We bring the symbols of our common life and service.

The minister takes the Bible, opens it and places it on the lectern or pulpit; takes the jug and pours water into the font; and takes the bread and wine and places them on the communion table. S/he then takes the bowl and towel and any other symbol/s and places them in front of the communion table.

The representatives return to their places.

If the minister will be working with colleagues, they come forward. They say:

N, we welcome you to .....  
We offer you our friendship and support  
as we join together in this work  
to which God has called us.

The chairperson, addressing the minister and the other members of the ministry team, says:

N and N, you have been called by God  
to work together in .....  
Will you promise, in faith and obedience to Christ,  
to share this ministry,  
supporting one another in love,  
and through your harmony of spirit  
inspiring God's people  
in their common ministry for Christ?

**We will, by the grace of God.**

14 HYMN

The people remain standing after the hymn.

15 ► INDUCTION PRAYER

The minister to be inducted kneels and the chairperson says:

Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
in every age you have chosen servants  
to speak your word and lead your people.  
We thank you for N  
whom you have called to serve you.  
Fill him/her with the Holy Spirit



and give him/her gifts for this ministry.  
May he/she have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus,  
and be a faithful disciple,  
being an example to the people of God  
and witnessing before the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The Aaronic Blessing may be said or sung by the people (Together in Song, 776) or another blessing may be used.*

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.**

Numbers 6:24-26

## 16 ► DECLARATION OF INDUCTION

*The minister stands and faces the people.*

*The chairperson says:*

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
the sovereign Head of the Church,  
and by the authority of the Presbytery of .....,  
we now declare NNN to be inducted  
to serve as a deacon in .....

*This may be followed by the singing of a doxology e.g., Together in Song 768-775.*

*The people sit.*

## The Response

*The chairperson says:*

My brothers and sisters in Christ,  
the Church declares that its members  
shall acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord,  
confess the Christian faith,  
accept the discipline of the Church  
and share in its ministry.

## 17 ► THE PRESBYTERY

*The chairperson requests members of the presbytery to stand, and says:*

Will you support your brother/sister N  
in the discharge of his/her responsibilities  
as a deacon within this presbytery?

**We will, in the love of Christ.**

*The chairperson invites members of the presbytery to greet the newly- inducted minister.*

Members of presbytery then sit.

## 18 ► THE PEOPLE

If the minister is being inducted into a congregational placement, the questions to the people at 18 from the Service of Induction of the Minister of the Word should be used.

Otherwise, the chairperson invites those among whom the minister is to serve and members of the congregation to which s/he will be related to stand, and says:

Will you take part in the public worship of God,  
and contribute to the work of God as you are able;  
will you endeavour to make a Christian witness  
in the community by word and action?

**We will, the Lord being our helper.**

Will you welcome N into your midst;  
will you work alongside him/her  
in his/her ministry of service;  
will you care for him/her,  
and will you at all times support him/her  
with your love and prayers?

**We will, the Lord being our helper.**

The secretary of the church council/s of the congregation/s to which the minister is related comes forward and greets the newly inducted minister.

The people sit.

## 19 OTHER CHURCHES AND FAITHS

The chairperson of presbytery may welcome and introduce clergy or representatives of other churches who are present.

The chairperson invites them to come forward and greet the newly-ordained and -inducted minister.

If there are representatives of other faiths present, the chairperson may invite them to come forward and greet the minister.

## 20 ► THE DEACON

The newly-inducted minister makes a brief response.

## 21 OFFERING

### ANTHEM

If not sung at 10 after the gospel reading.

## 22 ► PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The prayers are led by a member of presbytery or a representative group of people from the presbytery and/or congregation and/or those amongst whom the minister will serve.

Intercessions may include:

*\*The minister and his/her family*

*\*The needs of the Church and the world.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper continues, according to SLD-1 or SLD-2. If the Great Prayer in SLD-1 is used, the special thanksgiving on p. 175 may be included.

If there is to be no celebration of the Eucharist the last person to lead in prayer says:

And now let us pray to the Father  
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Sending Forth of the People of God

23 HYMN

24 ► BLESSING

*The chairperson says:*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint-hearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**