

Preamble for Ordination & Induction

- ⁴¹² All ministries of the Church proceed from and are sustained by the ministry of our Saviour Jesus Christ. He is our Prophet, Priest and Ruler, the Minister of the covenant of Grace. By the operation of God's Word and Spirit, the Church is gathered, equipped, and sent out to participate in this ministry. All members of the Church are called to share the Gospel with the world, and to offer to the Creator the worship and service that are due from the creation, through Christ, the only Mediator, until Christ comes again. That the Church may be continually renewed and nurtured for ministry, Christ furnishes the Church with officers, among whom are ruling elders.

The form of Presbyterian Church Government of the Westminster Assembly reminds us that Christ has furnished some in the Church, beside Ministers of the Word, with gifts for government and with commission to execute the same, when called thereunto, who are to join with the Minister in the government of the Church, which officers Reformed Churches commonly call elders.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is bound only to Jesus Christ, the Church's head. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the written Word of God, testifying to Christ the living Word, are the canon of all doctrine, by which Christ rules our faith and life. We acknowledge our historic continuity with the Holy Catholic Church and our doctrinal heritage in the ecumenical creeds, and the confessions of the Reformation. Our subordinate standards are the Westminster Confession of Faith as adopted in 1875 and 1889, the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation of 1954, Living Faith (Foi Vivante) as adopted in 1998, and such doctrine as the Church, in obedience to Scripture and under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, may yet confess in the Church's continuing function of reformulating the faith.

That your faith in God and your integrity of purpose may be declared before God and all people, you are required in terms of this preamble to answer the questions appointed for all who would enter the office of ruling elder.

Questions to Elders

- ^{412.1} Do you believe in God the Holy One, made known in Jesus Christ, to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?
- ^{412.2} Do you accept the subordinate standards of this church, promising to uphold its doctrine under the continual illumination and correction of the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures and to be guided thereby in fostering Christian belief, worship, and service among the people?
- ^{412.3} Do you accept the government of this Church by sessions, presbyteries, synods, and general assemblies, and do you promise to share in and submit yourself in all lawful oversight therein, and to follow no divisive course but to seek the peace and unity of Christ among your people and throughout the Holy Catholic Church?
- ^{412.4} In accepting the office of Elder, do you promise to perform your duties in the grace of Jesus Christ, striving to build up the Church and to strengthen the Church's mission in the world?

Questions to the Congregation

1. Do you confess your faith in God as creator and ruler of the world, in Jesus Christ as your saviour and head of the church, and in the Holy Spirit as your inspiration and strength?

We do.

2. Do you receive Katharine Sisk, Alison Williams, Patti Talbot, Lateh Mbelem, Colin Macdonald, and Toubba Katebi as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead you in the way of Christ?

We do.

3. Do you promise to encourage them, to respect their leadership and guidance under Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church?

We do.