

A Service of Ordination

One: There are varieties of gifts,

All: but the same Spirit;

One: There are varieties of services

All: But the same Lord

One: There are varieties of activities

All: But it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

One: To each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

All: To use it for the common good.

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

All: And individually members of it.

One: Though we have different gifts,

Together we are called to be the church

With a ministry in the world

Which is led by the risen Christ.

Apostles' Creed #539

Narration of Steps: Clerk of Session

Elder-Elect Promises

- ▶ *Do you believe in God the Father, made known in His son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?*
- ▶ Do you accept the subordinate standards of this Church and do you promise to be guided thereby in fostering Christian belief, worship and service among the people?
- ▶ *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 to 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?

- ▶ In accepting the office of Elder do you promise to perform your duties in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, striving to build up His Church and to strengthen her mission in the world?

Congregational Promises

The ordination of elders in a congregation, if their leadership and ministry are to be fruitful, involves responsibilities for both the elders and the people of the church. These questions therefore I direct to you, the members and adherents of this congregation, so that you may renew your obligations to this shared ministry.

- ▶ Do you confess your faith in God as creator and ruler of the world, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and the Holy Spirit as your inspiration and strength? **We do.**
- ▶ *Do you receive Diane, Harold and Nancy as elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead you in the way of Christ?* **We do.**
- ▶ Do you agree to encourage them to respect their decisions as they guide you, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church? **We do.**

Unison Prayer:

God of Grace who baptized us into a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ;

We called us to be a priesthood of all believers;

Who entrusted to us the message of reconciliation;

We pray for courage and discipline to follow where your elders rightly lead us, that together we may declare your mighty acts and show your love to the world

Through Jesus Christ who is ruler of all. Amen