



Ordination of New Elders

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton
Sunday, February 3, 2019

ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS:

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ELDERS:

OPENING SENTENCES:

There are varieties of gifts, **but the same Spirit;**

There are varieties of services, **but the same Lord;**

There are varieties of activities, **but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.**

To each one is given a gift by the Spirit, **to use it for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ, **and individually members of it.**

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.**

THE PREAMBLE:

Listen to what The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes concerning the ministry of ruling elders.

All ministries of the church proceed from and are sustained by the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Prophet, Priest and King, 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 Father the worship and service that are due to the Creator from the creation, through Christ, the only Mediator, until he 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,

ORDINATION PRAYER

We praise and glorify you, Lord God Almighty, for you have created us and called us to yourself; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ your Son; you sustain our lives and our works through the presence and power of your Holy Spirit.

Almighty God: in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word and lead your people.

We thank you for these men and women whom you have called to serve you as ruling elders.

By the power of your Spirit, develop in them the gifts of ministry; may they have the same mind that was in Christ, serving you in the world as long as they shall live; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

[The congregation shall say the following prayer:]

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

DECLARATION

Jean Bradshaw, Robert Hakim, Mark Nicol, Paul Willoughby and June Young, in the name of Jesus Christ, the only king and head of the church, and by the authority invested in me by the Presbytery of Brampton, I now declare you to have been ordained as a ruling elder and admit you to the session of this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or action, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God through him. Amen.

THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

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 King and 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.

THE VOWS:

Jean Bradshaw, Robert Hakim, Mark Nicol, Paul Willoughby and June Young 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.

1. 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?

I do.

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?

I do.

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?

I do.

4. 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 the church and to strengthen the church's mission in the world?

I do.

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to keep these vows.

The congregation shall stand, and the minister shall say:

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.

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

We do.

2. Do you receive **Jean Bradshaw, Robert Hakim, Mark Nicol, Paul Willoughby and June Young** as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead you in the way of Christ?

We do.

3. 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.

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to keep these promises. Amen.