

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

Sentences of Scripture

1 Cor. 12:4-7, 27

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of service God,
But it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
To be used for the common good.**

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

Statement on Ordination and Installation

We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.
This is our common calling,
to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord.
Within the community of the church,
some are called to particular service
as deacons,
as elders,
and as ministers of the Word and Sacrament.
Ordination is Christ's gift to the church,
assuring that his ministry continues among us,
providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the
world,
ordering the governance of the church,
and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

David Hill speaking:

Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the session of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church now installs to active service: Ben Barber, Angela Hawthorne, and Amy Kiley

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant (pour water)

Responding to the call to serve,
the church invites the community of
faith to renewed commitment,
and reminds us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ
given in the covenant of baptism.

Let us, therefore, reaffirm our baptismal vows,
renouncing all that opposed God and God's rule
and affirming the faith of the holy catholic church.

Renunciations

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ
and accept him as your Lord and Savior,
trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray

Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks.

In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past,
and have blessed us with signs of your grace.

We praise you that through the waters of the sea
you led your people Israel out of bondage,
into freedom in the land of your promise.

We praise you for sending Jesus your Son,
who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was
anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit.

Through the baptism of his death and resurrection
you set us free from the bondage of sin and death,
and give us cleansing and rebirth.

We praise you that in baptism
you give us your Holy Spirit,
who teaches us and leads us into all truth,
filling us with a variety of gifts,
that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations
and serve you as a royal priesthood.

We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism,
and that by your grace we are born anew.

By your Holy Spirit renew us,
that we may be empowered to do your will
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all glory and honor, now and forever.

And now with the confidence of the children of God let us stand together to say what we believe with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Constitutional Questions

Ben, Angela, and Amy: Having been selected by your peers, through prayer and discernment, I will now ask you the following.

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

I do.

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

I will.

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

I will.

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

I do.

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

I will.

Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

I will.

David Hill speaking:

Do we, the members of the church, accept Ben, Angela, and Amy as an elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, servicing Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Laying on of Hands

Now let us join together for the virtual laying on of hands.

God of grace,
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Ben, Angela, and Amy, that they may be your faithful elder in the church.
Give them prudence and sound judgement,
Wisdom and courage to order the life of the church
In obedience to your Word.
Nourish them in the life of the Holy Spirit,
that they may exercise the ministry of discipline
with humility and compassion.
Guide them in governance,
on this session and in every court of the church,
that they may be a servant leader following Christ
who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.

Give them joy in their walk of faith
And a sure sense of your abiding presence for their work of
ministry.
And all God's people said,
Amen.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Ben, Angela, and Amy, you are now an active elder in the
church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and
true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to
the crucified and risen Christ.