

ALTERNATIVE - FORM FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, since no lawful objections have been brought against the doctrine or conduct of this/these brother(s) who was/were chosen to be elder(s) and deacon(s), we are now to install him/them in his/their office(s).

Ex. 3 : 16; 24 : 1, 9
Num. 11 : 16 ff
Tit. 1 : 5 ; Phil. 1 : 1
1 Pet. 2 : 25; 5 : 1
John 10 : 11 ff; 21 : 16
James 5 : 14; Jude 20
1 Thess. 5 : 14
Matt. 16 : 19; 18 : 15 ff
1 Cor. 5 : 1 ff; Acts 20 : 28
1 Tim. 4 : 6; 1 Cor. 12 : 28
Tit. 1 : 7 ff; 1 Tim. 3 : 5
1 Cor. 14 : 33, 40
1 Tim. 4 : 14; 2 Cor. 5 : 14
Luke 14 : 23; John 10 : 16
Matt. 28 : 19; Mark 16 : 15
1 Tim. 3 : 1 ff; Tit. 1 : 6 ff
1 Pet. 5 : 2 ff; 1 Thess. 5 : 24

Elders

The office of elder was instituted by Christ in His church after the example of the elder or leader in the Old Testament. The elders as overseers should supervise the congregation after the example of Christ. They should care for the congregation spiritually, and see to it that everyone, both in doctrine and in walk, conducts himself as a living member of the church of Jesus Christ. The elders should visit the members, nourish their faith, pray for the sick, admonish the unruly and indifferent and take action according to the discipline of the church against the impenitent, so that they may be led to amend their ways. The elders should supervise the purity of the ministry of the Word and ensure that the sacraments are not profaned. They should also exercise supervision over the doctrine and conduct of the minister of the Word, and also care for one another. They should, moreover, ensure that good order is upheld in the church, and as stewards they should watch over the maintenance of public worship. They should also participate in the extension of the Kingdom of God. The office of elder requires a living faith as well as the ability to teach, admonish and comfort.

Deacons

The office of deacon has its origin in the example of Christ, the most excellent Deacon, Servant of the Lord, and in His work of redemption. He is the Lamb of God who bears away the sins of the world, but He is also the Servant of the Lord who took our griefs upon Himself, and bore our sorrows. He truly loves us and supports us in our deepest need. The deacons should serve at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The deacons, especially, should extend the love and charity of God in Christ to every sphere of church and society, to alleviate distress and suffering in all its forms. The deacons should gather in the means for the comprehensive care of fellow believers and neighbours. Indeed, the congregation should constantly be exhorted to give in Christian charity to those who are in material and spiritual need. The deacons should constantly provide the necessary information concerning the service, of benevolence. They should also assist with the collection for the maintenance of public worship: The gifts given for the service of benevolence they should spend with great wisdom and discretion, and in the proper spirit of Christian love. Where assistance is rendered the gospel should also be brought. Not only should the deacons relieve distress, they should also help to eliminate the conditions which are the cause of such distress. The office of deacon requires a blameless character and exemplary conduct. The deacons are, moreover, required to be filled with the Spirit of God, and be equipped for the work.

Heb. 13 : 17;
1 John 1 : 9
Is. 25 : 8; Is. 53
1 Pet. 2 : 25 ;
Heb. 2 : 17 ff
Mark 10 : 45
Acts 6 : 1-6
John 13 : 1-6
Gal. 6 : 10
Phil. 1 : 1
Acts 6 : 1-6
1 Tim. 3 : 8 ff
Acts 6:3

Installation

Beloved brothers, you are to answer sincerely to these questions, so that everyone may hear that you are prepared to accept this/these service(s):

Firstly; are you convinced that God Himself through His church has called you to this holy service?

Secondly, do you accept the Old and the New Testament as the infallible Word of God and as the complete doctrine of salvation, and do you reject all doctrines in conflict with it?

Thirdly, do you promise to discharge your office, as stated to you, faithfully in accordance with this doctrine; the elders in the government of the church together with the ministers of the Word, and the deacons in the service of charity and the maintenance of public worship? Do you jointly promise to walk in all godliness and do you submit yourselves to the supervision and the discipline of the church?

The Minister: What is your reply to this?

Answer: Yes.

Minister: Dear congregation, receive these men as servants of God, work together with them, follow their guidance and pray for them.

Prayer:

Lord, our God; we thank You that You continue to care for Your church, and that You employ men in the offices of elder and deacon to that end. We thank You that You called these men and made them willing to accept the office(s). Bless them and equip them for their task. Bless the

congregation in which they are called to serve. Let all things serve to the extension of Your Kingdom, and to the glory of Your great Name. Amen.