

FORM FOR THE PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

Beloved congregation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we and our children are privileged to live by the covenant of grace. Through Holy Baptism the members of the church are assured of their inclusion in this covenant of grace. In terms of this covenant God adopts the believers as children and heirs: He regenerates and renews them by His Holy Spirit. By the merit of Jesus Christ He does not count their sins against them. Through this covenant God furthermore calls them to acknowledge Him as God in everything, to live in the communion of the saints, to worship and praise Him, to be His witnesses in the world and to proclaim the death of Jesus Christ in Holy Supper until He comes. As we proceed now, we direct ourselves to those who will now publicly profess their faith.

Address to the person/s publicly to profess his/her/their faith.

Brother and sister in Christ Jesus, you impressed your desire personally to profess your faith here in this service that you may obtain admission to and share in the Lord's Supper, and be accepted in the full communion of the congregation and assume joint responsibility for the upbuilding of the church. As you have satisfied the Church Council of your adequate knowledge of the Scriptures of the church and also of your personal faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Council gladly grants you the opportunity now publicly to profess your faith.

Therefore I call upon you. . . N.N., to answer sincerely, before God and His church, the following questions:

Firstly, do you believe the Word of God as it is contained in the Old and New Testament, as it is confessed in the articles of the Christian faith and as it is taught in this Christian church? Do you accept this as the true and complete doctrine of salvation? Do you declare this to be your personal conviction of faith and do you thereby confess Jesus Christ as your God and Saviour?
Secondly, do you promise, as member of the church of Christ on earth, by His grace, to continue the confession of this doctrine to the end of your life and to reject all false doctrine deviating from it?
Thirdly, do you confess that you love the Lord and do you promise to serve Him as prescribed in His Word, to contend against sin, to put yourself at God's disposal and to be faithful in the confession of His Name before people, and actively to participate in the activities of your church?
Fourthly, do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church?
Every new member should answer individually and aloud to these questions, saying "I do".
The group could say the Apostles' Creed together.

Declaration as member

1 Pet. 5 : 10-II On ground of the covenant of grace sealed by baptism and by virtue of your profession of faith, which we have just heard, we declare you communicant member(s) of the . . . congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church. You now have access to the sacraments.

Charge

1 Tim. 6 : 12
Heb. 10 : 24
John 13 : 35 Be faithful in searching the Scriptures, in the practice of your faith and in sharing in the activities of the church. Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. And you, beloved congregation, attend to these new members, receive them as part of the body of Jesus Christ. Encourage them to live in love and to do good works. Pray for them. Live together in love because our Saviour said: "If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."