**Installation of Elder and Deacon - Abbreviated version**

**Introduction**

Congregation of Jesus Christ, today we celebrate God’s gift of faithful leadership for his people.

In the officebearers of the church we see the love of Christ for his people. As the Lord of the church he appoints leaders to govern in his name and to promote the spiritual well-being of his people. By his Spirit he equips these leaders so that believers may grow in faith, develop disciplined Christian living, serve others in selfless love, and share with all the good news of salvation. The apostle Paul stated this most clearly when he wrote to the church, “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-13). And Jesus Christ taught us the spirit of true leadership when he said, “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:26-28).

Elders serve by exercising oversight of the church in Christ’s name. The apostle Paul told the elders at Ephesus: “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). Elders must provide for the true preaching of the Word, instruction for faith formation for both youth and adults, regular celebration of the sacraments, and faithful counsel and discipline while keeping in confidence those matters entrusted to them. And they must promote fellowship and hospitality among believers, ensure good order in the church, and stimulate witness to all people.

Deacons serve by leading and equipping the church to minister to its members and the world in a rich diversity of ministries, awakening compassion, demonstrating mercy, seeking justice, and collaborating with God’s Spirit for the transformation of persons and communities.

Deacons teach us to love God, to love our neighbors, and to love the creation. Deacons help us share, show us that everyone belongs, remind us to care for others, and help us take good care of all of God’s gifts. Deacons help us figure out how to make this world a better place for all people. Deacons show us how to be like Jesus.

The deacons and elders, together with the ministers, are responsible for the -general administration of the church.

These tasks of elders and deacons call for believers who are Christlike, who are mature in the faith, and who exercise their offices with prayer, patience, and humility.

**The Vows**

Today we acknowledge Dick’s gift to this congregation by agreeing to extend his term of office as an Elder for an additional two years. We also celebrate Phillip’s willingness to be ordained as Deacon.

**(I’d ask each of the questions separately with a “yes” response from each person)**

Do you believe that you, Dick, as Elder and you, Phillip, as Deacon is God’s idea?

Do you believe that the Bible is God’s Word?

Do you believe that what is taught and practiced at our church is true?

Do you promise to work together with the Council and people of this church?

*[Each delegate responds]:* **I do, God helping me.**

**The Ordination**

*Prayer*

Jesus; look to the interests of others. And in all your ministries help us participate in the renewing of all things even as we anticipate its completion when God’s kingdom comes.

*[To the congregation]*

I charge you, people of God, to receive these officebearers as Christ’s gift to the church.

Recognize in them the Lord’s provision for healthy congregational life. Hold them in honor; take their counsel seriously; respond to them with obedience and respect; accept their help with thanks. Wholeheartedly participate in the ministries into which they lead you. Sustain them in prayer and encourage them with your support, especially when they feel the burden of their office. Acknowledge them as the Lord’s servants among you.

Do you, congregation, pledge to receive them as you have been charged?
*[Answer by the congregation in unison]:* **We do, God helping us.**

**Prayer of Blessing**