Design a profession of faith service for a disabled person

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**PART I: BEFORE THE ELDERS**

At the meeting of the elders, the pastor or the presiding elder shall present each person with disability by name. After the presentation, the order proceeds:

**SCRIPTURE PROMISES**

**Senior Pastor:**

The Scripture says, “Whoever welcomes one of these, my brothers or sisters,

Welcomes me, whoever welcomes me the One who sent me.”

Matthew 25:40

If you confess with your any body gestures and lips

that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart

that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified,

and one confesses with the any body gesture and so is saved.

The Scripture says,

“We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” —from Ephesians 2:10, NRSV

Let us pray.

O Lord, source of all light and life, illumine us with your wisdom,

that what we do at this time may be pleasing in your sight;

that your church may be strengthened and increased; and

that your name be glorified among your people

in both the church and the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**FAITH SHARING**

The elders shall engage in a **conversation with parents of the people with disability,** inquiring concerning their acceptance of the Christian faith and the sincerity of their desire to live as confessing members of the congregation. If personal credos **(Parents written faith statements instead of the people with disability)** have been prepared, their parents or helpers shall be presented at this time.

**THE QUESTIONS**

**The senior pastor continues:**

Dearly beloved in the Lord, in baptism, we are grafted into Christ,

received into the household of faith, and

made inheritors of the covenant of which baptism is the sign and seal.

In grace and mercy, God, by the Holy Spirit,

has implanted faith through Word and sacrament.

You have come now before God and the church

to profess your faith in Christ.

(The senior pastor or presiding elder may ask a question and then address the parents of each person with disability,)

**Senior pastor:** Will you promise to instruct these children

in the truth of God’s Word,

in the way of salvation through Jesus Christ; to pray for them,

to teach them to pray, and

to train them in Christ’s way

by your example,

through worship,

and in the nurture of the church?

**Parents: He/She will, and He/She ask God to help them.**

**BLESSING**

**Senior Pastor:** Gracious God, by water and the Spirit

you claimed us as your own,

cleansing us from sin and giving us new life.

You made us members of your body, the church,

calling us to be your servants in the world.

Renew in [name(s)] the covenant you made in [their] baptism. Continue the good work you have begun in [them].

Send [them] forth in the power of your Spirit

to love and serve you with joy

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**PART II: BEFORE THE CONGREGATION**

**PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION**

The senior pastor addresses the congregation from the font:

**Senior pastor:** Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and

teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

The faith we together affirm today is the faith of the whole church,

throughout time and space.

With all God’s people, let us profess our faith in the triune God.

**PRESENTATION**

(An elder shall present the candidates for baptism and/or profession of faith, using the following statements as appropriate; **the parents of candidates (people with disability)** shall come forward as their names are read.)

**Senior pastor:** The elders of (name of congregation) have welcomed these persons who

appeared before them and made profession of their Christian faith.

(Naming all candidates for baptism and initial profession of faith:

**Senior pastor:** Names (using full names), come before us to make public this profession of faith and to receive the sacrament of baptism

**Senior Pastor:** We ask them now to declare their faith before God and Christ’s church,

that we may rejoice together and welcome them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

(The senior pastor addresses the candidates:)

We believe there is no condemnation

for those who are in Christ Jesus;

for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God,

who are called according to God’s purpose.

We are convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers,

nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39, NRSV

(The congregation may be seated; the senior pastor continues. If baptism is not to be celebrated, proceed to the blessing and welcome.)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Senior pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Senior pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Senior pastor:** 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 for 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. **Amen.**

**THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

(When the people with disability are to receive baptism, the minister may ask the parents of each people with disability)

**Senior pastor:** What is the name of this child?

(The parents of the people with disability shall give the Christian name; the minister may introduce addressing each:)

**Senior pastor:** Name (use Christian name; omit surname),

for you Jesus came into the world;

for you he died and conquered death;

all this he did for you, little one,

though you know nothing of it as yet.

We love because God first loved us.

The baptismal covenant shall be repeated for each person receiving baptism.

(Using Christian name(s), omitting surname(s), the senior pastor shall immerse, pour,

or sprinkle water visibly and generously at the declaration of each name of the

person with disability of the Trinity, saying:)

**Senior Pastor**: Name (use Christian name; omit surname),

I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(The senior pastor may mark the sign of the cross on the forehead, saying to each:)

**Senior Pastor:** Name (use Christian name; omit surname), people with disability of the covenant, in baptism, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ’s own forever. **Amen.**

(When all have been baptized, the minister may make the following declaration:)

**Senior Pastor:** In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the only King and Head of the church,

these people with disability of God are now

received into the visible membership of the holy catholic church,

engaged to confess the faith of Christ, and

to be God’s faithful servant(s) until life’s end.

**BLESSING AND WELCOME**

(The senior pastor may continue by laying hands on the heads of all those being received, offering the prayer of blessing. The elders may join in the laying on of hands.)

**Senior Pastor:** Defend, O Lord, this your servant, Name

(use Christian name; omit surname),

with your heavenly grace,

that he/she may continue to be yours forever, and

daily increase in your Spirit more and more,

until he/she comes to your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The senior pastor invites the congregation to stand)

**Senior Pastor:** Welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you.

Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

(The following blessing may be said or sung by the congregation while the elders greet the new confessing members)

**Senior Pastor**: The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you,

and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,

and give you peace. Amen. - Numbers 6:24-26