

## **The Constitutional Questions**

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 Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? (I do.)

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? (I do and I will.)

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? (I do.)

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 do.)

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 do.)

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.)

*To deacons:*

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? (I will.)

*To elders:*

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.)

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

## **To the Congregation**

Do we, the members of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, accept these as deacons and elders, 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, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? (We do.)

## **The Prayer of Ordination**

Leader: Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you all thanks and praise. Throughout the ages you have been faithful to your covenant people whom you have called out of bondage and redeemed to be your own. In every time and place you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation.

**People: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your servants whom you have called and marked as your own through baptism. Grant them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Give them a spirit of truthfulness that they may show the compassion of Christ in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people. Give them the gifts of your Holy Spirit to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision. In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give to your servants gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence. Amen.**

The Welcome and Charge

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## Service of Ordination and Installation

### The Sentences of Scripture

Leader: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

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

Leader: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

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

### The Statement on Installation and Ordination

We are all 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.

Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the session of Bedford Presbyterian Church now ordains Jessica Cunningham, Sarah Ryan, Rebecca Rivard to the office of deacon, and Brian Hiller-Dupont to the office of elder, and we install them to active service on their respective boards. The session also installs to active service those who have been previously ordained:  
deacon Don Hiller-Dupont and elder Alan McDougall.