

Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
15 – 17 July 2005

SERVICE OF RECOGNITION OF AN INTERN

Notes

- 1 The service of recognition of an intern preparing for ministry as a minister of the Word/deacon/youth worker is an act of the Presbytery which has taken oversight of the intern, normally held within the congregation or gathering of people amongst whom the intern will minister.
- 2 Should the placement be with a Synod or the Assembly, suitable rewording of the service and consultation between the Presbytery and the other council should be undertaken.
- 3 This Service of Recognition will normally follow the Preaching of the Word and the Affirmation of Faith.
- 4 This service is written with the assumption that the receiving presbytery and the presbytery from which the candidate has come (the candidating presbytery) are different. In this case, the secretary or chairperson of the candidating presbytery may present the candidate to the chairperson of the receiving presbytery. The receiving presbytery may also wish to invite the candidating presbytery to participate in other ways, e.g., by reading the Gospel or preaching the Word.
- 5 The chairperson of the presbytery, or another of its members appointed by the presbytery, presides at the service and shall ask the required questions and lead the prayer. It is appropriate that holy communion be celebrated. The chairperson or another presbytery representative should preside at holy communion; the intern should not preside, even if he/she has been given permission to preside at holy communion during the intern ministry phase. If this permission has been granted, it is appropriate for the intern to assist at holy communion.
- 6 It is not appropriate for the laying on of hands to occur in this service. The laying on of hands should wait for the ordination service. Neither is it appropriate for the symbols of ministry to be brought forward, as in an induction service.
- 7 The Scripture readings used may be the lectionary readings for the day or a selection taken from those recommended for ordination, induction, commissioning or welcoming services.
- 8 If liturgical colours are used, white, the colour of baptism, is appropriate. The intern may wear the ecumenical alb and the UCA blue scarf which is always placed around the neck and hanging freely in front. The presider may wear an appropriate scarf of office.

Service of Recognition of an Intern

1 PRESENTATION

The chairperson of the receiving presbytery says:

The Presbytery of
has agreed to receive NNN as an intern
in the congregation of/ *in*

In this intern phase,
N will combine the practice of ministry
with significant periods of study and reflection
in preparation for service as minister of the Word/deacon/youth worker.

The certificated candidate is invited to stand before the chairperson of the receiving presbytery by the secretary or chairperson of the presbytery from which the candidate has come. If this is impracticable, the secretary of the receiving presbytery issues the invitation.

The secretary or chairperson says,

N, I present NNN,
who has completed the requirements
of the second phase of ministerial education
to be recognised as an intern in the congregation of/ *in this place*.

A description of the ministry that the intern will undertake follows. The wording will vary, depending upon the situation and the permissions given by the presbytery; the following is by way of example only.

The chairperson of the receiving presbytery continues:

As an intern, you will

*preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ
preside at the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism
lead the people of God in worship
give pastoral care to the people of God
offer leadership in the Church's caring ministries
work for justice and peace in the world
encourage young people to grow in faith and discover their gifts*

2 QUESTIONS

The candidate remains standing.

The chairperson says,

N, are you willing to be recognised as an intern in this Presbytery?

The candidate says,

I am.

The candidate may make a brief statement concerning his/her faith and sense of God's leading to this point.

The secretary of the receiving presbytery invites the intern's supervisor to come forward, and says to the chairperson:

I present N,
who will give supervision to N

during his/her internship.

The chairperson asks the supervisor,

Will you, in faith and obedience to Christ,
provide guidance and support for N in his/her intern phase of ministry?

With God's help, I will.

The secretary invites those who have been designated to support the intern to come forward. These may include someone from the home presbytery; the ministry reflection group; and a faculty advisor.

The chairperson addresses them:

Will you advise, support, counsel and reflect with N
as he/she engages in the responsibilities of the intern ministry phase?

With God's help, we will.

The chairperson then addresses the candidate as well as the supervisor and others appointed:

I ask all of you these questions as you commence this ministry together:

Do you confess Jesus Christ as Lord?

We do so confess.

Do you receive the books of the Old and New Testaments
as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony
in which the Church hears the Word of God?

We do.

Do you embrace the faith and unity of the holy catholic and apostolic Church
as described in the Basis of Union?

We do.

In your life and work within the Uniting Church
will you be guided by its Basis of Union,
and will you submit yourself to the Church's discipline and the oversight of the Presbytery of?

With God's help, we will.

Relying on God's grace,
do you promise to carry out your duties and responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

The people stand. The chairperson says:

Will you accept N as an intern preparing for service
as minister of the Word/deacon/youth worker?

We will.

Will you encourage him/her in love
and support him/her in this ministry,
serving with him/her the one Lord Jesus Christ?

With God's help, we will.

The people sit.

3 PRAYER

In this prayer, M, M, ... refers to the supervisor and others involved in supporting the intern.

The candidate, supervisor and others designated remain standing.

The chairperson says:

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
we thank you for your faithful children called to serve you.
We pray that you will empower and strengthen N,
and give M, M, ... the grace to support and guide him/her.
May they have the same mind which was in Christ Jesus,
looking not to their own interests
but to the wellbeing of your Church,
to the glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[See Philippians 2:4, 5](#)

The people respond:

Amen.

The Aaronic Blessing (*Together in Song* 776; *Australian Hymn Book* 572) or other blessing may be said or sung by the people.

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you:
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.**

[Numbers 6:24-26](#)

The chairperson continues:

N, I welcome you as an intern preparing for service
as minister of the Word/deacon/youth worker;
M, M, ... I welcome you to this new role.
On behalf of the people of God in this congregation/*place*, I greet you.

The people may applaud.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated, it commences from The Peace on page XX (SLD-1) or page XX (SLD-2).