

Consecration of a Presbyter



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(The candidate is seated in the congregation until the presentation.)

We greet you as we join with our Savior in the consecration of _____ as a presbyter in the Moravian Church.

(The congregation stands for a hymn of praise.)

We praise you, O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; your saving work shines through all the ages.

You have never turned away from us, even when we have turned away from you; but in your covenant of salvation, you call us through the law and the prophets to be your holy people.

We thank you for fulfilling your covenant through the eternal ministry of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior.

Christ freely accepted our human nature to live, teach, suffer, die, and rise again for the forgiveness of sins, that we might share in eternal life.

We thank you for the ministry committed by Christ to the whole church to proclaim the gospel.

Through the gifts of your Holy Spirit, you call each of us into the church and empower us to make the saving work of Christ visible on Earth.

We thank you that you call individuals from among us to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament.

They serve among us to lead, strengthen, challenge, and nourish our ministry together in Christ.

Especially on this day we thank you for your call to _____ and for *his/her* dedication to serve in your name.

To you be glory, praise, adoration, and thanksgiving, both now and forever. Amen.

(Sitting)

(The Scripture lessons are read. The bishop then preaches a sermon on the Christian ministry.)

(A representative of the Provincial Elders' Conference and two other representatives, one from the clergy and one from the laity, escort the candidate to the chancel as the following hymn is sung. According to tradition, this text was written for the ordination of the first Moravian ministers in 1467.)

FREUEN WIR UNS

Come, let us all with glad-ness raise
God gave us faith-ful ones to lead
Fa-ther in heav'n, ful-fill your word,

a joy-ous song of thanks and praise
and help us in our time of need;
grant us the Spir-it of our Lord;

to God, who rules the heav'n-ly host,
but, Lord, all pow'r is yours a-lone,
that through your truth, which can-not fail,

God, Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost,
and you the work must car-ry on,
we may o'er ev-'ry ill pre-vail.

(The representative of the Provincial Elders' Conference addresses the bishop:)

On behalf of this province of the Moravian Church, we request that be consecrated as presbyter.

We believe this deacon has shown *him/herself* to be sound in doctrine and faith and has demonstrated a sincere intention to serve Christ and the church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(The bishop responds:)

In response to your request, it is my joy to carry out this ministry of consecration on behalf of the whole church.

(The representatives return to their seats.)

(Opportunity may be given for the candidate to offer brief testimony concerning God's call and faithfulness in the candidate's life.)

(The bishop addresses the candidate.)

_____, do you reaffirm the solemn promise which you made at your ordination as a deacon?

I do.

Do you trust that you have been brought by divine grace to know Jesus Christ as your Savior?

This is my humble trust.

Do you believe in the truth of the Old and New Testaments, as inspired by the Holy Spirit?

I do.

Do you freely accept the obligations of an ordained minister to study, pray, care for souls, preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in Christ's church?

I freely accept them.

Do you accept the commission to evangelize and give witness to the saving grace which is found in Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you solemnly promise, as you serve in our Unity, to give obedience to the faith and order of the Moravian Church as these are formulated under Scripture and the Holy Spirit by our Synods and constituted authorities?

I solemnly promise obedience to them.

(The bishop addresses the congregation:)

Brothers and sisters, as representatives of the Body of Christ, will you uphold, affirm, and encourage _____ in this ministry?

We will.

(The bishop continues:)

In the presence of God and this congregation, I acknowledge these testimonies with gratitude and praise to our Savior.

(The candidate kneels as the "Veni, Creator Spiritus" is sung. This hymn has been used at ordinations in the Christian church since the 9th century.)

VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS (220)

Come, Ho - ly Ghost, our soul in - spire, and
 Thy bless - ed unc - tion from a - bove is
 A - noint each heart and cheer each face with
 Teach us to know the Fa - ther, Son, and

light - en with ce - les - tial fire; thou the a - noint - ing
 com - fort, life, and fire of love. En - a - ble with per -
 the a - bun - dance of thy grace; keep far our foes; keep
 thee, with both to be but one, that through the a - ges

Spir - it art, who dost thy seven-fold gifts im - part.
 pe - tual light the dull - ness of our blind - ed sight.
 peace at home: where thou art guide, no ill can come.
 all a - long thy praise may be our end - less song.

(The bishop offers the prayer of consecration.)

Eternal God, in wisdom you govern all things, and from the beginning you have chosen faithful people to serve you in ministry, calling some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip all your people for the work of ministry and for the building up of the Body of Christ. Now bless and sanctify by your Holy Spirit, your servant _____, whom we, in your name and in obedience to your will, by prayer and with the laying on of hands, consecrate for the ministry of the church.

(The congregation stands and the bishop lays hands
on the candidate and continues to pray.)

Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon _____; fill *him/her* with grace and power, and make *him/her* a presbyter in your church.

O Lord, give to this your servant the grace and power needed to serve you in this ministry. Bless *his/her* proclamation of the word and administration of your sacraments so that your church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service. Make *him/her* a wise pastor, a patient teacher, and a faithful witness. Grant that in all things *he/she* may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed, and that your name may be glorified in the church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

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

(539 B)

In the name of Je - sus. A - men.

The musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both in 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef and the accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

(Sitting. The choir may sing the following consecration doxology.)

Christian I. Latrobe (c. 1795)
Ed. Margaret Leinbach Kolb

Choir

Glo - ry, glo - ry be to your most

[Organ]

ho - ly priest - hood, Christ, the Lamb of

God, for you were slain, for you were slain, were slain for us,

and by one of - f'ring have per - fect - ed for - ev - er them,

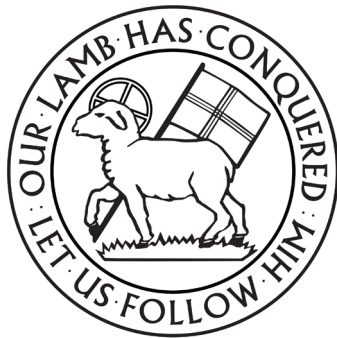
them that are sanc - ti - fi - ed. A - men, hal - le - lu -

All
jah, hal - le - lu - jah. A - men, hal - le - lu - jah!

(The newly consecrated minister stands, and the officiating bishop gives *him/her* a personal charge.)

(A hymn may be sung as the officiating bishop greets the newly consecrated minister with the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the church.
Family and friends greet the minister after the service.)

(The newly consecrated minister leads the congregation in the Festal Doxology, page 252. The officiating bishop pronounces the benediction or may invite the newly consecrated minister to do so.)



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