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Worship Responsibilities of a Presbytery Moderator

David Gambrell
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Overview of Workshop

- General guidelines for planning worship
- Worship at presbytery meetings
- Services of ordination and installation

General Guidelines

- *Presbyterian Worship Beyond the Local Congregation: Guidelines for Planning Worship at Meetings of Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assembly, and at Special Gatherings*
- approved by the 214th General Assembly (2002) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- will be available online at pcusa.org/worship (click “Resources and Publications”)

General Guidelines

Principles of Worship

- “Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God.”
(Directory for Worship W-1.1001)
- God is the only source and object of our worship; worship is initiated by God and directed to God
- Worship is about the gospel: God’s redemptive action in Jesus Christ; it must not be instrumental to other purposes, agendas, or programs

General Guidelines

Principles of Worship (continued)

- Worship should shape the way we relate to God, each other, and the world; doesn't merely sanctify existing cultural or personal values
- Worship is a corporate event, the action of the body of Christ; should always engage us in personal ways, but is primarily a communal act

General Guidelines

Authority for Planning

- Authority for planning resides with the presbytery, may be designated to a particular group or team of leaders
- The presbytery authorizes sacramental celebrations, oversees planning process, evaluating services, addresses financial matters (budget, offering)

General Guidelines

Time, Space, Matter

- **TIME:** liturgical year, time of day, civic calendar; practical matters, e.g. coordinating with meeting and allowing sufficient time for worship
- **SPACE:** pulpit, font, and table as central symbols; accessibility, community, reverence before God
- **MATTER:** material in worship should direct attention to God; appropriate to use local communion elements, art forms

General Guidelines

Offering

- Self-offering is always a part of Reformed worship, though not always a monetary offering; council decides how to collect, who will receive; offering is about our gratitude for God's grace, not a philanthropic gesture

General Guidelines

Necrologies

- A necrology is an appropriate way to recognize recent deaths in worship; see *Book of Common Worship* pp. 121–122

General Guidelines

Planning Worship

- Worship planning is a corporate responsibility, should be shared by a group representing the diversity of the presbytery, and including all who will contribute to the service: preachers, readers, leaders of prayer, presiders, musicians, artists
- Must be guided by the Directory for Worship, drawing on Scripture, Reformed tradition, cultural context, and communal concerns
- Scripture is always central, anchoring worship

General Guidelines

Worship Leaders

- Leaders in worship should represent the full diversity of the presbytery, excluding no one
- Leaders should be those who have spiritual gifts, skills, and training for effective leadership

General Guidelines

Shape, Structure, and Flow of Worship

- Pay attention to the whole structure and flow of the service, not just individual parts
- Worship should be a dynamic, organic movement, not just a checklist of one thing after another
- Not merely the reading of texts, but prayerful action empowered by the Spirit

General Guidelines

Full Participation of All

- Encourage the full, active, conscious participation of all worshipers
- Leaders should model full participation, singing, praying, moving, engaging, etc.
- Be aware when teaching is needed so people can participate fully (but don't over explain)

General Guidelines

Language in Worship

- Choose language carefully to reflect the integrity of the gospel and the experiences of worshipers
- Language in worship should be authentic (reflecting biblical witness) and appropriate (can be claimed by the community)
- Inclusive language for humanity, expansive language for God
- Make use of silence for prayerful reflection

General Guidelines

Music and Art in Worship

- Music should be integrated with all of liturgy
- Should reflect our Reformed tradition and the diversity of cultures in the church
- Pay attention to theological content, ease of singing, concerns about language, and compatibility of text/tune

General Guidelines

Music and Art in Worship (continued)

- Use of music and other art forms should awaken us to God's presence; when they only seek to call attention to themselves, they are idolatrous
- The selection and creation of music and art for worship must be subject to the same scrutiny and guidelines that apply to every aspect of worship

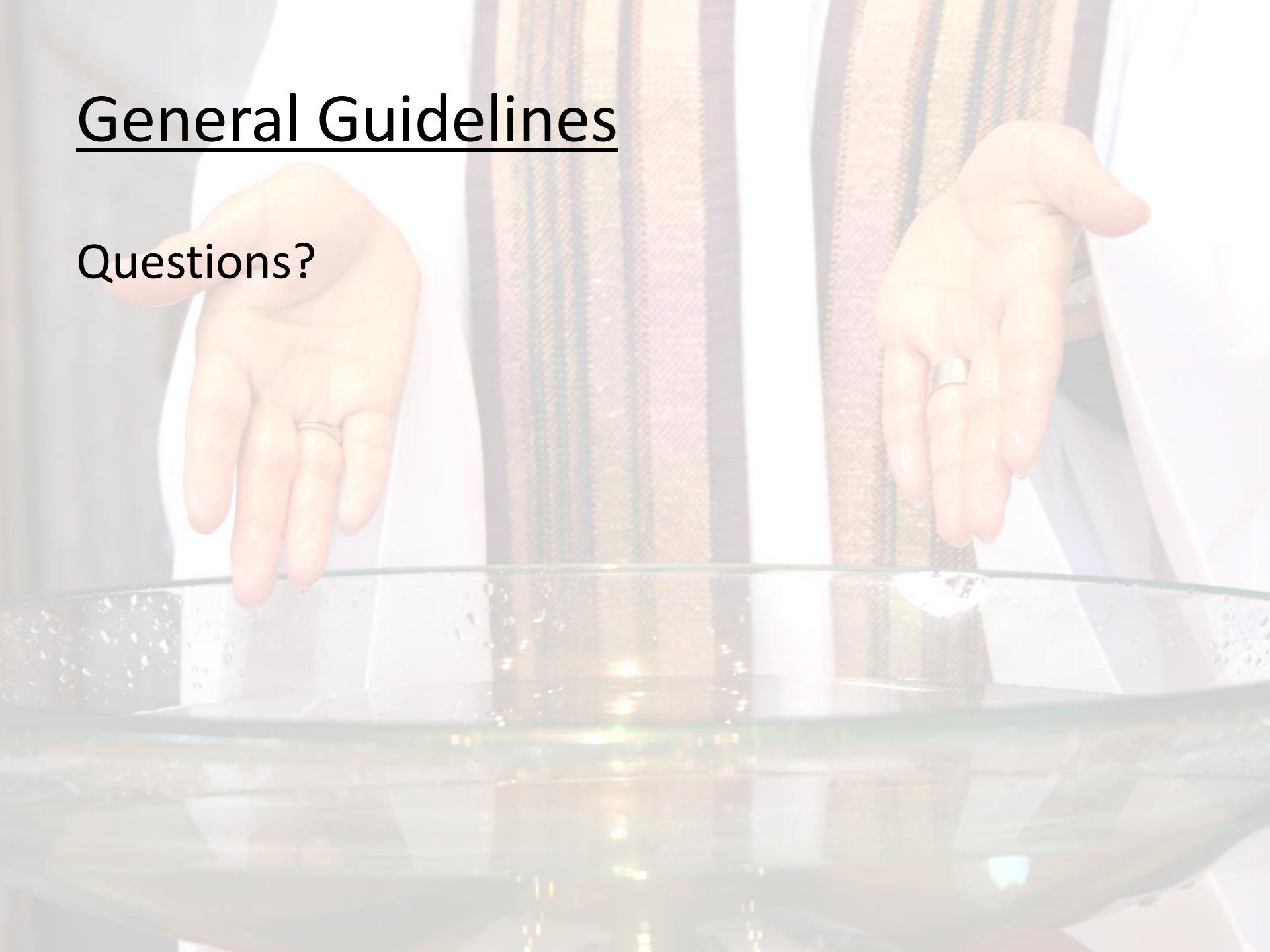
General Guidelines

Copyright, Licensing, Permissions

- Copyright and licensing: authors and composers deserve appropriate credit and compensation for their work; infringement of copyright law can result in substantial fines
- “The Church Musician and Copyright Law”
Presbyterian Association of Musicians
(presbysmusic.org)
- Licensing Organizations: GIA/OneLicense, CCLI, OCP/LicenSing, Presbyterian Publishing Corp.

General Guidelines

Questions?



Presbytery Meetings

Models / Options for Ordering Worship

A. Service for the Lord's Day (word and sacrament)
(Directory for Worship, *Book of Common Worship*)

B. Daily Prayer (morning, midday, evening, night)
(Directory for Worship, *Book of Common Worship*)

C. Other Options (special occasions, needs)

1. Commissioning (*Book of Occasional Services*)
2. Ordinations (*Book of Occasional Services*)
3. Healing and Wholeness (*Book of Common Worship*)

Presbytery Meetings

Service for the Lord's Day

gathering praise, confession, peace

WORD reading, proclamation, response

SACRAMENT reaffirm. of Baptism and/or Lord's Supper

sending commitment, going to serve

Presbytery Meetings

Daily Prayer

opening words brief sentences of Scripture

PSALMS singing psalms or other songs

SCRIPTURE reading, silence, Confessions

PRAYER thanksgiving and intercession

dismissal sharing signs of peace

Presbytery Meetings

Other Options

1. Commissioning

see *Book of Occasional Services*, pp. 120–139

2. Ordinations

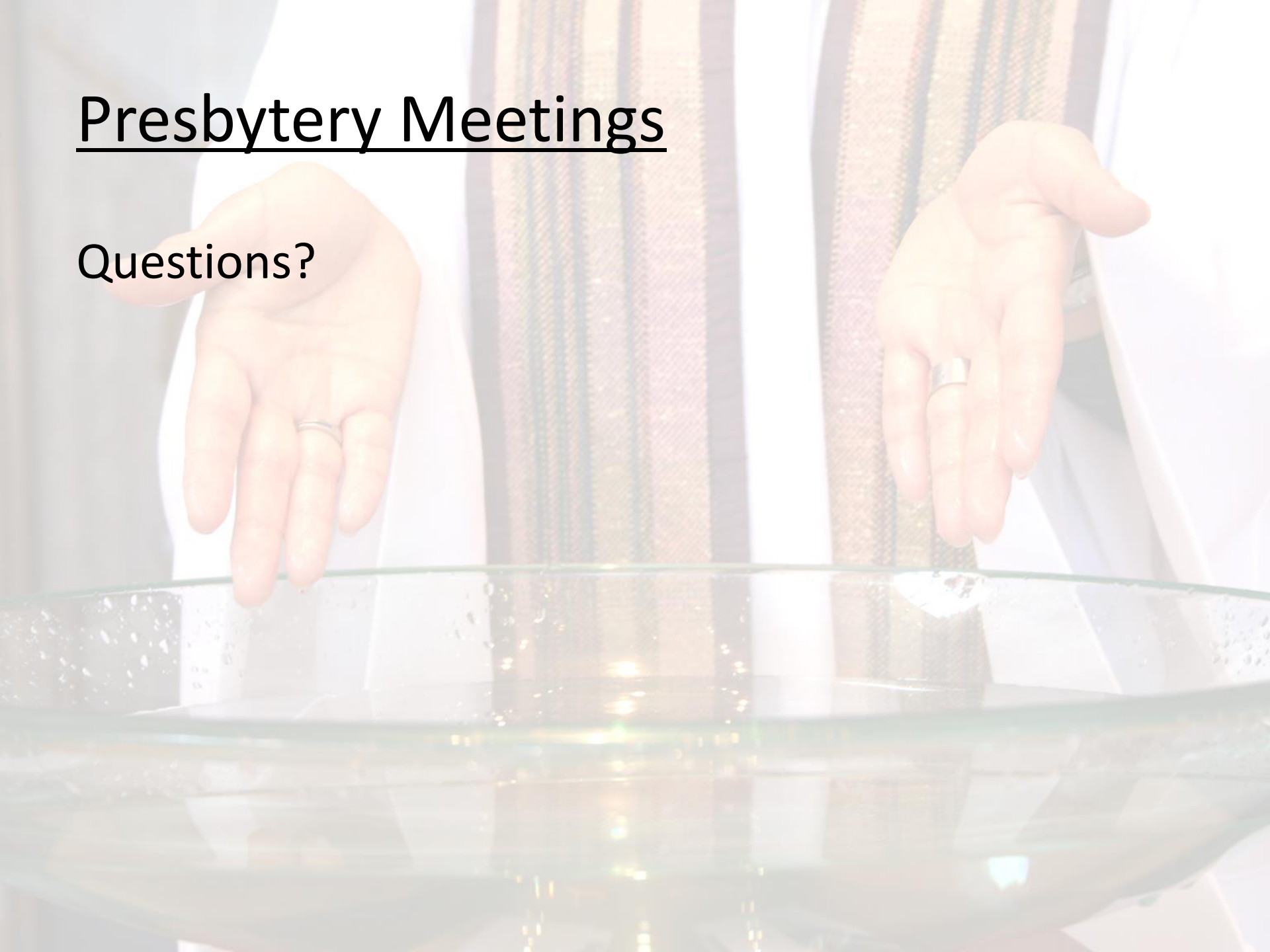
see *Book of Occasional Services*, pp. 6–118

3. Healing and Wholeness

see *Book of Common Worship*, pp. 1005–1015

Presbytery Meetings

Questions?



Ordination and Installation

Key Principles

- All ordination is rooted in Baptism: every Christian's ordination to ministry in Jesus' name
- Ordination has more to do with the ministry of the whole church than any individual's calling
- Different forms of ministry have different functions, but all related and connected
- Services of ordination should reflect this mutuality of ministry, relational nature

Ordination and Installation

Shape of the Ordination Service

gathering

WORD

Ordination

EUCCHARIST

sending

Ordination and Installation

Act of Ordination (and Installation)

Statement on Ordination (and Installation)

Reaffirmation of Baptism [with Anointing]

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination

Laying on of Hands

Declaration of Ordination (and Installation)

Welcome

Charge to the Newly Ordained

Presentation of Symbols of Ministry

Charge to the Congregation

Ordination and Installation

Roles of the Moderator: Ordination

- Opening words, presenting candidate
- Statement on Ordination/Installation
- Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant
- Constitutional Questions
- Prayer of Ordination
- Declaration of Ordination

Ordination and Installation

Shape of the Installation Service

gathering

WORD

Installation

EUCCHARIST

sending

Ordination and Installation

Act of Installation

Statement on the Ministry of the Church

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Installation

Declaration of Installation

Welcome

Charge to the Newly Installed Pastor

Charge to the Congregation

Presentation of Symbols of Ministry

Ordination and Installation

Roles of the Moderator: Installation

- Opening words, presenting candidate
- Statement on Church's Ministry
- Constitutional Questions
- Prayer of Installation
- Declaration of Installation

Ordination and Installation

Questions?



pcusa.org/worship



Home > [Worship](#) > Pastoral and Occasional Services

Pastoral and Occasional Services

Guidelines and resources for pastoral and occasional services in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Ordination and Installation

Download sample services (Word documents) based on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Occasional Services (Geneva Press, 1999)

Teaching Elder / Pastor

[Ordination Only](#) | [Ordination and Installation](#) | [Installation Only](#)

Download other resources for ordination and installation

[Guidelines](#) | [Scripture Readings](#) | [Hymn Suggestions](#)

Worship Responsibilities of a Presbytery Moderator

[Download Presentation](#)

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Shared Mission Support (Presbyterian Mission Agency)

Gifts to Shared Mission given without restrictions go where they are needed most and fund many parts of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's mission and ministry. [ⓘ](#)

Learn More

- [The Directory for Worship](#) ⓘ
- [The Service for the Lord's Day](#) ⓘ
- [The Word / Preaching](#) ⓘ
- [The Sacraments](#) ⓘ
- [The Christian Year](#) ⓘ
- [Special Days and Emphases](#) ⓘ
- [Pastoral and Occasional Services](#) ⓘ

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