

ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

After the sermon has been preached, appointed representatives and the pastor may gather in the chancel for confirmation. An elected leader of the church may invite all who have indicated willingness to affirm their baptism by confirmation to come forward, using the following or similar words.

LEADER

We invite to come forward *the one/those* who wish(es) to affirm *his/her/their* baptism by being confirmed.

The name(s) of individual(s) may be read, and the candidate(s) may be invited to come forward and stand.

LEADER

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. *This person has/These people have* found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study *she/he/they has/have* been lead by the Holy Spirit to affirm *her/his/their* baptism and to claim in our presence *her/his/their* covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. *He/She/They is/are* here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

SENTENCES

One of the following or other passages from scripture may be read.

A LEADER

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.⁵³

B LEADER

God's message is near you, on your lips and in your heart, that is, the word of faith that we preach. If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved.⁵⁴

C LEADER

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.⁵⁵

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

These questions parallel the questions asked of candidates for baptism. If there is more than one candidate, they may be asked together to respond in unison.

The first question includes words for candidate(s) being baptized as well as one(s) affirming baptism. With more than one candidate, it may be necessary to address the question using each set of words.

PASTOR

Name(s), do you desire to *affirm your baptism/be baptized* into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

CANDIDATE(S)

I do.

PASTOR

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

CANDIDATE(S)

I do.

PASTOR

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

CANDIDATE(S)

I do.

PASTOR

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

CANDIDATE(S)

I promise, with the help of God.

PASTOR

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

CANDIDATE(S)

I promise, with the help of God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The congregation may be invited to stand. The responses are made in unison by each worshiper, including the candidate(s).

PASTOR

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

A PASTOR

Do you believe in God?

PEOPLE

I believe in God.

B *An ancient baptismal creed, another creed, a statement of faith, or the local church covenant may be used in full or in an abbreviated version. (See 881–887.)*

PASTOR

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE

I believe in Jesus Christ.

PASTOR

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

If there is a candidate for baptism, use the Order for Baptism, beginning with the prayer of baptism on page 35. Following the act of praise on page 36, return to this point of the Order for Confirmation.

If no one is to be baptized, the service continues with the prayer of the candidates which follows.

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATE(S)

The candidates may be invited to stand or kneel.

PASTOR AND CANDIDATE(S)

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.⁵⁶

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

PASTOR

Let us pray in silence.

A period of silent prayer follows.

PASTOR

Let us pray together.

ALL

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

If the Lord's Prayer is not to be said elsewhere in the service, it may be said at this time.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Parents and baptismal and/or confirmation sponsors, if any, may come forward and stand near the confirmands. Candidates may be invited to kneel. The pastor and other leaders of the local church may place hands upon each candidate individually. One of the following or similar words may be said.

A PASTOR

Name, the God of peace sanctify you.
I pray that you will be preserved

B PASTOR

Name, the God of mercies multiply
grace and peace in you, enable you

blameless to the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

CANDIDATE(S) AND PEOPLE

Amen.

truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you to the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting.

CANDIDATE(S) AND PEOPLE

Amen.

C PASTOR

Strengthen, O God, this your servant name with your heavenly grace that *he/she* may continue yours for ever; and daily increase in *him/her* your Holy Spirit, until you receive *him/her* at last in your eternal home.

CANDIDATE(S) AND PEOPLE

Amen.

D PASTOR

O God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted this your servant name through the water of baptism. Nourish in *her/him* the power of your Holy Spirit that *she/he* may serve you in the world.

CANDIDATE(S) AND PEOPLE

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

PASTOR

We rejoice, O merciful God, with *this person/these people* in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life.

We give you thanks that *she/he/they has/have* been moved to affirm *her/his/their* baptism. Help *him/her/them* to live not for *himself/herself/themselves* but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep *her/him/them* steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

CANDIDATE(S) AND PEOPLE

Amen.

The newly confirmed individual(s) may rise and stand in place.

ADDRESS

PASTOR

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

PASTOR

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

CANDIDATE(S)

I promise, with the help of God.

WELCOME

Members of the local church may be invited to stand and say the following or other words of welcome.

PASTOR

Let us, the members of local church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

PEOPLE

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

The congregation may be seated. The pastor and representatives of the local church may greet each newly confirmed person individually with these or other words and may offer the hand of Christian love.

PASTOR AND REPRESENTATIVES

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of local church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

PRAYER

PASTOR

Let us pray.

A PASTOR

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us *this believer/ these believers* that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

ALL

Amen.⁵⁷

B PASTOR

Almighty and ever-living God, may your hand ever be over your servant(s) confirmed today. May your Holy Spirit ever be with *her/him/them*. So lead *him/her/them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that *he/she/they* may serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ.

ALL

Amen.⁵⁸

C PASTOR

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

ALL

Amen.⁵⁹

BENEDICTION

PASTOR

Go in the peace of Christ.

PEOPLE

Thanks be to God.

Those who have participated in the Order for Confirmation may return to their places in the congregation.

At the conclusion of this order, a Service of Word and Sacrament or a Service of the Word continues, omitting the affirmation of faith.