

Ordination/Installation Vows

Please select 2 of the 9 questions on the following page and write a half-page response to each question (total = one page). Use the question-bullets as a guide to your answer. It is not necessary to answer each bullet point.

- 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?*
 - What does it mean to you to trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior?
 - What does it mean to you that Jesus Christ is Lord of all? Head of the Church?
 - What does it mean to you to say that God is one yet made up of three persons?
 - What is the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?*
 - What role does the Holy Spirit play in our interpretation of the Scriptures?
 - In what way are the Scriptures the "unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ"?
 - How are the Scriptures "God's Word to you"?
- 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?*
 - List some of what you understand to be the "essential tenets" of the Reformed faith.
 - Do you find any of them in conflict with what you think that "Scripture leads us to believe and do"?
- Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?*
 - What does it mean to you to be obedient to Jesus Christ?
 - What does it mean to you to be under the authority of Scripture?
 - What does it mean to you to be guided by our confessions?
- Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline.*
 - What does it mean to you "to be guided by our church's polity"?
 - What does it mean to you "to abide by our church's discipline"?
 - How does the church "discern the will of Christ"?
- Will you in our own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?*
 - What is the hardest part of keeping this vow for you?
- Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?*
 - What is your role as a minister to further the peace, unity and purity of the church? Is that role different from that of any other member of the church?
 - What do you do when these three (peace, unity and purity) are in tension?
- Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?*
 - What does it mean to you to "serve the people"?
- Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in the government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*
 - How do you see your role as minister (teaching elder) in this particular church?
 - If appropriate, how will you balance your service to the larger church to that of the congregation?
 - How do you balance showing "the love and justice of Jesus Christ"?