

**A SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF A
CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR BY THE PRESBYTERY**

This liturgy is suggested as part of worship during a meeting of the presbytery within which the educator serves, following the preaching of the Word. It could also be part of a separate committee report.

Opening Sentences - Psalm 78:1-4

One: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable...proclaiming the things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

All: We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that God has done.

Introduction by Presbytery Certification Advisor

[From the PC(USA) *Book of Order* G-2.1103. This is an opportunity for awareness and education.]

What is a Certified Christian Educator? According to our constitution/Book of Order "Certified Christian educators are persons certified and called to service in the ministry of education in congregations or councils. They shall have skills and training in biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, worship and sacraments, human development, faith development, religious educational theory and practice, and the polity, programs, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The presbytery shall establish minimum requirements for compensation and benefits for Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators and shall provide access to the area of presbytery that oversees ministry (G-3.0307). During their term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery, Certified Christian Educators are entitled to the privilege of the floor with voice only at all presbytery meetings, and in the case of Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders, the privilege of voice and vote at all its meetings."

[The Presbytery Certification Advisor or Moderator invites the Educator, along with his pastor, session representatives, family members and other Certified Christian Educators to come forward. In this, the educator is surrounded with a cloud of witnesses and support.]

[The Moderator of the Presbytery will then ask the following constitutional questions from W-4.4003]

Moderator: Joshua Archey, 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?

Educator: I do.

Moderator: Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Educator: I do.

Moderator: 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?

Educator: I do.

Moderator: Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Educator: I will.

Moderator: Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Educator: I will.

Moderator: Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Educator: I will.

Moderator: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Educator: I do.

Moderator: Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Educator: I will.

Moderator: Will you be a faithful certified Christian educator, teaching faith and caring for people, and will you in your ministry try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Educator: I will.

Moderator: Recognizing the action of the PC(USA) Educator Certification Committee, and on behalf of the Presbytery of Detroit, we welcome you as a certified Christian educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Prayer (led by the Moderator or by the Certification Advisor at the invitation of the Moderator)

Holy God, we give thanks for the gifts for ministry exhibited by Joshua and rejoice that he exercises these gifts in our midst, enriching the life of our presbytery and the congregation in which she/he serves. We ask your continued guidance and blessings in his life.

Sustaining God, bless Joshua who, with patience and hard work and commitment has glorified your name and increased the light that dwells in our midst. Continue to guide and nurture him as he serves as an educator within this presbytery and in the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills.

By your grace may we all become as those who are taught: open, alert, and attentive to the unfolding revelation of your love, that we may be learners in your realm. This day is a celebration that from generation to generation the story of your love is retold, passed down from master to disciple, from teacher to learner, from parent to child, until all the families of the earth shall be full of your knowledge.

All praise and honor and glory be to God who makes us a people, and who gives us a story to tell, who pours love and light and truth upon us until the heart sings and the soul dances. In Jesus' name, Amen.