

THE WELCOME OF PRESBYTERS, DEACONS AND PROBATIONERS STATIONED TO PIONEERING APPOINTMENTS

NOTES

A pioneer is someone who can imagine new possibilities and has the ability to bring them into being, seeking to connect with those who are not engaged in the life of the Church to help them encounter God and explore what it might mean for them to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. They are creative and resourceful, community oriented and kingdom focused. Pioneers may work to build Christian communities which in time become churches in their own right.

It will be appropriate that relevant ecumenical, inter-faith, community and civic representatives are invited to attend this service.

This material is for welcoming a presbyter, deacon or probationer stationed to a pioneering appointment. The welcome service in the *Methodist Worship Book* (p355) is used and the following replaces the Presentation, Promises and Welcome (nos. 13 to 20) in that service.

FOR PRESBYTERS AND PROBATIONERS FOR PRESBYTERAL MINISTRY

1. All stand.

The presiding minister says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, whom the Conference has appointed to serve in this circuit/district/other context, working particularly with theproject.

Here those involved in creating the project/appointment should share with the congregation the vision and aims. It may be appropriate to use videos, images and multimedia presentations as part of this.

2. The presiding minister says to the newly-appointed presbyter or probationer for presbyteral ministry:

N,
will you hold before all people
the story of God's love and mercy,
above all, the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and will you seek every opportunity
to speak and live the word of God,
to reveal the sacramentality of life and creation,
to administer Baptism *and preside at the Lord's Supper,
to help others to grow in faith,
and to know God's care?

Answer:

I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in proclaiming the Gospel of life and hope.
Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

(* This phrase is omitted for a probationer unless the Conference has granted an Authorisation to preside at the Lord's Supper. When necessary, this question is put separately to such a probationer.)

Will you be a sign of God's call to holy living
and seek new and compelling ways
to share our ancient and living faith?

Answer:

I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in commitment to the way of Christ.

**May we reveal Christ's way
through our words and example.**

Will you be a sign of God's commitment to human community,
to our neighbourhoods and all who live within them,
and to the world that God has made?

Answer:

I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in sharing God's all-embracing love.

May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

FOR DEACONS AND PROBATIONERS FOR DIACONAL MINISTRY

3. All stand.

The presiding minister says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, whom the Conference has appointed to serve in this circuit/district/*other context*, *working particularly with theproject.*

Here those involved in creating the project/appointment should share with the congregation the vision and aims. It may be appropriate to use videos, images and multimedia presentations as part of this.

4. The presiding minister says to the newly-appointed *deacon or probationer* for diaconal ministry:

N,
will you always seek to share
the story of God's love and mercy,
above all, the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and will you seek every opportunity
to make the Good News known,
by deeds of loving service?

Answer:

I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in proclaiming the Gospel of life and hope.
Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

Will you remember above all things
God's call to serve the needs of others
and be a living sign of Christ's ministry of love and compassion?

Answer:

I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in commitment to the way of Christ.

**May we reveal Christ's way
through our words and example.**

Will you be a sign of God's commitment to human community,
to our neighbourhoods and all who live within them,
and to the world that God has made?

Answer:

I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in sharing God's all-embracing love.

May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

5. *A Circuit Steward, member of the District Policy Committee or other suitable person says to the people:*

Sisters and brothers,
will you welcome *N*
and will you offer *her/him*
your friendship, support and prayers
in the work to which God has called *him/her*?
With God's help, we will.

6. *A representative of the local church/circuit/district/project with which the Pioneer will be mainly involved may say:*

I welcome you in the name of . . .

7. *Welcomes may then be given by circuit and ecumenical representatives, civic leaders, and other appropriate persons.*

Each newly-appointed presbyter, deacon or probationer may reply briefly in her/his own words and/or as follows:

I thank you for your welcome.
I will work with you and pray for you.

8. *Hymn or a short time of praise*

*The service continues from no. 21 (p361) in the Welcome service in the **Methodist Worship Book**.*