



Commissioning Service for Leaders and Learners

An important worship ritual for fall is a service of commissioning for leaders and learners. The following liturgies can be used to frame your service.

PRAYER FOR TEACHERS AND LEADERS (one voice)

God who led the Israelites through the wilderness, we thank you for leading us still today. Teaching others about our Christian faith is a wonderful privilege. We learn as much as we teach. Help us to lead in a way that is faithful to you. Give us new eyes and ears so we may teach with freshness and sincerity. Grant us serenity that we may prepare carefully and thoughtfully. Give us imagination to share truth with others so it will be relevant. Grant us humility as we teach and help us to be sensitive to our own limitations. May we lean on you for insight, wisdom, and courage. Amen.

From Course A: Teaching Skills,
Session 1, Meditation and Prayer
Opening Doors to Discipleship,
Presbyterian Reformed Educational Partners, 2007

PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR LEARNERS (all voices)

Loving God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Your Word is precious in our lives, yet challenging to understand. We admit our limits in understanding and our blinders in recognizing your truth even when we read the words. We admit our misuse of Scripture to support our beliefs instead of letting your Word lead us to a new way of seeing. Grant us respect, wisdom, humility, and an open spirit as we read and study the Bible. Help us learn to live as your disciples in today's world. Amen.

From Course A: Teaching Skills,
Session 4, Meditation and Prayer
Opening Doors to Discipleship,
Presbyterian Reformed Educational Partners, 2007

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear and proclaim the good news!
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL LITANY IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Based on Deuteronomy 6:1–9)

All voices:

Hear this, you who are called to teach,
you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.

These words that I command you
shall be upon your heart.

You shall teach them to your children.
You shall talk of them in your home.
You shall remember the Lord your God.

Reader one:

I am a child. I am a person.
I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me.
See how I'm jumping, jumping like a ball.
I'm hiding, I'm hiding and no one knows where.
The world is so full of a number of things.
Painting, skipping, playing, running, laughing.

I am a child! I am a person! I am alive!
I feel wonder and awe as I live in God's world.
I ask all kinds of questions. I'm enthusiastic, curious,
and persistent.

You, who are called to teach,
help me to worship God,
help me to grow in faith,
help me to explore my world and find answers
to my questions.

All Voices:

Let the little children come to me . . .
Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child

shall not enter it.
Let the little children come.
Let them come.

Reader two:

I am a youth. I am a person.
I search and seek, asking countless questions about life.
I wonder who I am and why I am here.
Why are my parents my parents and why do I live at this
particular time?
I am full of energy and life.
Help me to discover my identity.
Help me to know my worth.
I am a youth. I am a person. I question what you say. Are
you telling me the truth?
You, who are called to teach, help me to know the truth.

All voices:

Remember now your creator in the days of your youth.
Remember your creator.
How shall they hear without a teacher?

Reader three:

I am a young parent.
I am a person, living in a perplexing world, delighting in my
children and worrying about their future.
My family gives me joy.
I want the best for them, but my children are sensitive,
vulnerable, and innocent.
I have to teach them integrity, responsibility, and faith in God.
I have to help them grow.

You who are called to teach, help me to lead them. Show
me how to teach my children.

All voices:

When your child asks you, then you shall say,
we were slaves in Egypt and the Lord saved us.
When your child asks you then you shall say,
Jesus Christ is the truth and the life.

Reader four:

I am an adult. I am a person.
More than half my life is over. How many days are left to me?
They pass very quickly, like a weaver's shuttle.

You who are called to teach, speak to me about the meaning
of life.
What is faith? Does God exist?
Help me with my doubts and help me to pray.

All voices:

Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks
you about the hope that is in you.
Christ died for sins once and for all, that he might bring
us to God.
Our hope is in Jesus Christ.

Reader five:

I am a senior adult.

I am a person.
Grow old along with me.
The best is yet to be.
I am growing older, very old.
I often think of my childhood days and my childhood friends.
I still feel young in my head but my body betrays my will.
Sometimes it seems like no one needs me and that they are
waiting for me to die.
The days are long and I am lonely.
My family lives far away.
I have time to think.
I wonder what it is like to die.
You who are called to teach: show me your friendship and
lend me your strength.

All voices:

When I was a child, I spoke like a child.
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.
When I became an adult, I put away childish things.
Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we shall see face
to face.

Hear this, you who are called to teach.

Reader 1: These words that I command you shall be upon
your heart.

Reader 2: You shall teach them to your children.

Reader 3: You shall talk of them in your home.

Reader 4: You shall remember the Lord your God.

Reader 5: You shall love the Lord your God with all your
heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

All voices:

Hear this, you who are called to teach.

From Course A: Teaching Skills,
Session 1, Resources for Session 1,
Opening Doors to Discipleship,
Presbyterian Reformed Educational Partners, 2007

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Let us remember all those whose ministry has brought
us this far in our faith.

All: We remember and rejoice!

One: Let us thank God for those who taught us with
patience and heard us with joy!

All: We thank God and rejoice!

One: Let us become the light and strength for others on
their journeys of faith.

All: We humbly ask your guidance for such a wondrous
task! As the Spirit empowers us, we can do all things
with God who loves us! AMEN!

Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching (POINT),
Opening Worship, February 2007.

1. Permission is granted to use items from Presbyterians Organized in
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