

DEDICATION OF THE OFFICE BEARERS (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS) OF THE CHURCH

The priest or bishop shall invite the officers of the Church to stand before Him and, addressing the congregation, shall say:

L: Dearly beloved, we have gathered here in the presence of God to recognize those who have responded to His call to the work of the administration in our Church. As they now present themselves to God for consecration to their various tasks, it is fitting that we, the members of this congregation, should with them consecrate our lives to the work with which they have been entrusted, and that we should publicly assume our obligation to support them by our loyalty and prayers, seeking with them and for them such measure of God's grace as may enable them to discharge their duties with faithfulness and godly fear.

Then the priest may read the names of the officers of the Church. Following this, the priest and the officers shall read responsively, the priest beginning:

W: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

C: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord.

W: For by Grace, you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

C: We have one Master, the Christ.

W: For we are fellow workmen for God; you are God's field, God's building.

C: For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

W: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

C: Who is sufficient for these things? Apart from Him, we can do nothing.

W: Now to Him, who by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

C: To Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

W: I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – This is your spiritual act of worship.

C: O Lord, help us to worship You in spirit and body.

W: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

C: O Lord, help us to have a renewed mind.

Romans 12:1-8 (Responsive Reading)

M: A renewed mind is able to test and approve God's good, pleasing and perfect will.

C: O Lord, equip us to know Your will.

M: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

C: O Lord, help us to be humble and responsible.

M: Just as each one of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many forms one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

C: O Lord, help us to remember that we form one body in Christ and to be respectful of each others' uniqueness and function.

M: We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach.

C: O Lord, help us honor the special gifts given to each of us. Help our Church administration to work diligently. Enlighten us to dutifully utilize our gifts for Your name and glory.

M: If the gift is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently.

C: O Lord, create in us a spirit to encourage, share our blessings, and have respect for leadership.

M: If the gift is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

C: O Lord, help us to cheerfully do everything you expect us to do.

Here let the Church officers kneel. Then the priest will individually bless the Church officers. A song may be sung during the individual blessing.

Hymn: Sowing in the Morning

(Another Suitable Hymn may be substituted)

ALL: Let us pray. O God, who has sent Thy beloved Son to be unto us the Way, the Truth,

and the Life: Give Thy blessing and the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit to these Thy servants, and to us all, that we, looking unto Him, may set forward the serving power of Thy Church, to the nurture of Thy children, the increase of Thy kingdom, and the glory of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.
