

ACT OF COMMITMENT

ELDERS DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

Minister: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus...preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. IITimothy 4:1,2.

Candidate: With God's help, I will strive to forcefully declare the message of our Christian hope, to carefully guide those with whom I am charged toward a discovery of the truth which is in Jesus Christ, and to reverently administer the sacred symbols of our Christian faith.

Congregation: We, too, acknowledge our responsibility to declare the hope and truth of our faith within this world. We will endeavor to prepare ourselves for this task through study and worship as the gathered body of Jesus Christ.

Minister: I appeal to you, therefore, sisters and brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1,2.

Candidate: I joyfully assume the responsibility of leadership within the community of faith, and declare my awareness that the quality of our life together is to be an example for our strife-torn world community. Trusting God for courage and honesty, I assume my responsibility to "speak the truth in love" to make clear to this congregation and to this community the judgment of Christ on injustice and falsehood wherever it occurs.

Congregation: We are aware that insofar as we succeed in living together in peace with this congregation, we give to our world an example of the love of God which is in Jesus Christ. May God help us.

Leader: Are you devoting yourself daily in prayer, reading of the Scriptures and to such other studies that deepen your faith and increase your love in reverence and service to God?

Minister: Having thus covenanted with us before God. (**I name of candidate**), come forward and kneel before the alter of the Lord.