

**ORDER FOR THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION  
MICHELLE PARADIES TO THE OFFICE OF DIACONATE**

The ecclesiastical duties of elders and deacons are set forth in the *Book of Church Order (BCO)*, Chapter 1, Part I,

**PRESENTATION**

Beloved in the Lord,  
we have come to ordain and install Michelle as a deacon in Christ's holy church.  
Christ alone is the source of all Christian ministry,  
through the ages calling men and women to serve.

By the Holy Spirit all who believe and are baptized receive a ministry  
to witness to Jesus as Savior and Lord, and  
to love and serve those with whom they live and work.  
We are ambassadors for Christ, who reconciles and makes whole.  
We are the salt of the earth; we are the light of the world.

Following Christ's resurrection and ascension,  
God has given the church apostles, prophets, and teachers,  
deeds of power, gifts of healing, forms of assistance and leadership.

We stand within a tradition where God calls and empowers  
deacons, elders, and ministers of Word and sacrament.

The elder vice president of consistory invites the candidate forward, saying:  
This congregation has elected Michelle Paradies  
to be ordained and installed to the Office of Deacon.

The candidate shall remain standing; the presiding minister continues:  
Deacons and elders are called to serve as Christ served.  
We look to them to be people of spiritual commitment, exemplary life,  
compassionate spirit, and sound judgment.

Deacons are set apart for a ministry of mercy, service, and outreach.  
They gather gifts and offerings, care for them faithfully,  
and distribute them with wisdom and compassion to persons in need  
and for purposes that advance God's kingdom on earth.  
Deacons visit and comfort the distressed, provide for whatever necessities may arise, and  
assist the congregation at services of worship.

Elders and deacons, together with the minister/s, form the consistory  
to lead God's people in proclaiming good news to the poor,  
righteousness to the nations, and peace among all.  
The consistory provides for the welfare of the church,  
stewardship of property and finance, and

the spiritual benefit and growth of all Christ's people.

As the three offices of deacon, elder, and minister of Word and sacrament, are united in Christ, so also in the church one office is not separate from the others.

The minister of Word and sacrament does not serve without the elder and neither without the deacon.

Together they enable the whole mission of the church.

Everything in the church will be done decently and in order when faithful persons are called to office, and responsibly fulfil their charge.

The presiding minister addresses the deacon elect:

*Michelle*, before almighty God, and in the presence of this congregation, answer sincerely these questions:

Do you confess together with us and the church throughout the ages your faith in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**Yes, truly, with all my heart.**

The presiding minister shall invite the congregation to stand:

Let us all stand with our sister, confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The congregation is seated; the candidate remains standing; the presiding minister addresses the candidate:

Do you believe in your heart that you are called by Christ's church, and therefore by God, to this office?

**Yes, truly, with all my heart.**

Do you believe the books of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and the perfect doctrine of salvation, rejecting all contrary beliefs?

**Yes, truly, with all my heart.**

Will you be diligent in your study of Holy Scripture and in your use of the means of grace? Will you pray for God's people and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you accept the church's order and governance, submitting to ecclesiastical discipline should you become delinquent in either life or doctrine?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you be loyal to the witness and work of the Reformed Church in America, using all your abilities to further its Christian mission here and throughout the world?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

The presiding minister shall address the candidate for the Office of Deacon:

As a deacon, will you faithfully, diligently, and cheerfully manifest Christ's love and care, gather and distribute the offerings of God's people, visit and comfort the distressed, minister to the poor and needy, and strive to advance God's reign of justice and peace?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

#### ORDINATION

Those who are to be ordained shall kneel individually before the presiding minister for prayer with the laying on of hands. The great consistory may join in the laying on of hands during the prayer. When all have come forward and are in place, the presiding minister shall say:

Let us pray. God of grace, pour out your Holy Spirit, gentle as a dove, burning as fire, upon *Michelle* and fill *her* with grace and power for this ministry of *diaconate* in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When the ordinand has received prayer with the laying on of hands, the presiding minister continues:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only head of the church, I declare that *Michelle* is ordained to the Office of Deacon.

#### INSTALLATION

Elders and deacons of the great consistory extend the right hand of fellowship to the new deacon before returning to their places.

Deacon *Michelle*, be faithful in performing the duties of your office, magnify the One who has called you to these high and holy offices, be zealous for the church of Christ, hospitable, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. Love goodness, holding always to the mystery of the faith.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation:  
Members of *the New Utrecht Reformed Church*, please rise to affirm your covenant with  
the deacon whom God has given us.

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, do you receive in the name of the Lord,  
Michelle as a duly elected and ordained servant of Christ?  
**We do.**

Do you promise to respect her for the sake of the office  
for which she has been chosen and ordained?  
**We do.**

Do you promise to encourage and pray for her, to labor together in obedience to the  
gospel for the unity, purity, and peace of the church, the welfare of the whole world, and  
the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ?  
**We do.**

Beloved people of God, receive this deacon, Michelle, Christ's own servant.  
Support her in love, that her work may bear fruit.  
In the name and by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
I declare that this *sister* is a duly installed deacon in this church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy and perpetual  
the communion of saints, the real, bodily resurrection of the  
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, amen.

The congregation is asked to affirm its covenant with  
Michelle as a duly elected and ordained servant of Christ.  
Do you believe in your heart that you are a member of  
the church of Christ, the body of Christ, the community of  
the communion of saints, the real, bodily resurrection of the  
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, amen.

Do you believe the books of the Old and New Testaments  
perfect doctrine of salvation, rejecting all contrary  
Yes, truly, with all my heart.

Will you be diligent in your study of Holy Scripture and in your use of the means of  
grace? Will you pray for God's people and bear witness by your own example to  
service and holy living?