

A Service of Recognition for those authorized as lay people to preside at the Lord's Supper

INTRODUCTION

All Methodist congregations should have reasonably frequent access to a celebration of The Lord's Supper.

Where there is an established case of a congregation or a group of congregations being deprived of regular celebrations of the Lord's Supper, through lack of an ordained presbyter, the Methodist Conference grants an authorisation to a named individual to preside at The Lord's Supper, within a specified circuit, for a period of time determined by the Conference.

The occasions, within a circuit, when those so authorised preside at The Lord's Supper is determined each quarter by the superintendent minister.

NOTES

- 1 In the case of probationers for presbyteral ministry, the public recognition of an authorization is dealt with in paragraph 14 of the service for *The Welcome of Ministers*. This service is intended for use in all other cases.
- 2 The Recognition Service should be part of a circuit celebration of Holy Communion at which the circuit superintendent or a deputed presbyter presides.

Any appropriate ***Order of Holy Communion*** from the ***Methodist Worship Book*** may be used.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- 1 Greeting or scripture sentence
- 2 Hymn
- 3 A prayer of confession and declaration of forgiveness may be said.
- 4 The collect should be that of the day, or the first or second collect for Maundy Thursday which relate to the gift of Holy Communion.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 5 Either two or three readings from scripture follow, the last of which is the Gospel.

The readings should relate to the season of the Christian Year or to the significance of Holy Communion. Suggested readings on

the theme of Holy Communion include John 6.52-58 and 1 Corinthians 11.23-26.

There may be psalms, canticles, hymns, songs or periods of silence between the readings.

6 Sermon.

It is appropriate for the sermon to deal with some aspect of the gift of Holy Communion.

7 A hymn is sung.

THE RECOGNITION OF AUTHORISATION

8 The presiding minister says:

Sisters and brothers,
in order that none of our people should be deprived
of the frequent and regular celebration of the sacrament of the
Lord's Supper,
the Methodist Conference authorises **NN.**, to preside at Holy
Communion
within the life of this Circuit.

9 The person whom the Conference has authorised
is invited to the front of the church.

All stand.

10 The presiding minister says to the authorised person:

N.,
we recognize the joy and privilege
that will be yours as you preside at the Lord's Supper.

As you receive your authorisation I ask:

Will you exercise your presidency at the Lord's Supper
under the direction of the Superintendent Minister?

Answer With God's help I will.

Will you be prayerful and diligent in your preparation
for each service of Holy Communion at which you preside?

Answer: With God's help I will.

11 The presiding minister says to the Congregation:

Since *N* has been authorised to preside at the Lord's Supper in
this Circuit, will you support *him/her* with your prayers?

Answer With God's help, we will.

12 **The presiding minister says:**

Let us pray:

Gracious God,
we give you thanks that on the night in which he was betrayed
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, gave to the church
the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Bless your servant, N., in the duty and privilege now granted to
her/him and strengthen *her/him* with the gift of the Holy Spirit;
through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

13 **The presiding minister reads out and
presents the Conference's authorisation**

14 **The Service of Holy Communion continues
with the prayers of intercession.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

15 **It is appropriate that the newly authorised person assists
with the distribution of the elements.**