

Protestant Women of the Chapel Installation Ceremony

Preparations: *Set up a small table at the front of the sanctuary. Cover the table with a white cloth. Place on it one large candle to symbolize the light of Christ. Also place on a tray one candle for each executive board member. These candles should have a sleeve for protection against dripping wax. If desired you may decorate the candles. A ribbon tied in a bow is simple yet effective. Also place matches on the table. Print out copies of the installation ceremony for the board members to review beforehand and for the officiating chaplain. Make sure ladies know where to stand, etc. The ceremony is written so that participants will be prompted by the Chaplain Advisor (as much as possible) at each point as he reads the words in bolded print.*

Directions: *The Chaplain Advisor stands in the middle of the stage. When he calls the executive board members to come up front, the incoming board will line up to the right of the Chaplain Advisor and the outgoing board to the left. The executive board members (President, 1st V.P. Spiritual Life, 2nd V.P. Programs, Administrative Coordinator, and Financial Liaison) will pick up one of the candles as they take their places. The executive boards will form two diagonal lines, each officer facing her counterpart as they take their places in order of office. The outgoing president will light the large candle at this time, light her candle from the large candle, and pass the flame to her executive board. As the ceremony progresses the outgoing board members will each pass in front of the Chaplain Advisor and approach the incoming board members, using their candles to light the candles of their corresponding incoming board members. After lighting the candles, each outgoing board member will blow out her candle and step back into line. When dismissed by the Chaplain Advisor board members may place their candles back on the tray.*

Chaplain: We are gathered together today to install the newly selected officers of the Protestant Women of the Chapel. Within this ceremony we desire to extol the importance of the work of Christian women like yourselves. The gifts, deeds and prayers of Christian women in the Bible such as Anna, Tabitha and Lydia have furthered the cause of Christ throughout the history of the Church. We are grateful for the vision and the faithfulness of Christian women who, in the past, have served gladly. Today we come together to express our gratitude to God for giving us these women on our board who have faithfully and creatively set an example of working together for Christ.

(Chaplain Advisor will point to the large candle)

This candle will serve as a symbol of the light of Christ who is our inspiration and our guide. During this ceremony the outgoing board members will symbolically pass on this light to their counterparts on the incoming board.

Will the outgoing and incoming officers please come forward?

(Outgoing and incoming board members come forward. The President (or Chaplain or Titus 2) lights the large candle, then lights her candle from the large candle and passes the flame to her executive board)

(Charge to the outgoing board)

You on the outgoing PWOC board have served faithfully for the past year as the leaders of this chapter. You have given much and received much. You have grown in strength and stature to meet the responsibilities. I now challenge you to search your lives for ways to use the experience you have gained in stepping out boldly to serve in your chapel and community.

(Charges to the incoming officers)

_____ , as President you have been set apart by these women and by God to do what is in His plan. You are set apart, not for glory or honor, but for humble servant leadership. Two precious gifts are yours: the grace and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and a specific task in the Church, His body on earth today. Do you accept your duties as president of the _____ PWOC Chapter and offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, pleasing to Him and dedicated to His service? If so say, "I do."

(The outgoing President lights the incoming President's candle and blows out her own)

_____ , as 1st Vice President in charge of Spiritual Life it is your responsibility to pray for and assist the President and to act in her place whenever necessary. You should be prepared to assume the office and responsibilities of the President should she no longer be able to perform her duties. Additionally, it is your duty and responsibility to set the spiritual tone for this PWOC chapter by providing opportunities for spiritual development through prayer, devotions, and Bible study. Do you promise to remain in Christ and to use the knowledge and experience with which He has blessed you to impart spiritual fruit to this organization? If so say, "I do."

(The outgoing 1st Vice President lights the incoming V.P.'s candle and blows out her own)

_____ , as 2nd Vice President in charge of Programs it shall be your duty and responsibility to plan and implement programs that will inspire, encourage, and grow the women of this organization in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Do you promise to use your gifts in God's service, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit? If so say, "I do."

(The outgoing 2nd Vice President lights the incoming V.P.'s candle and blows out her own)

_____ , as Administrative Coordinator it shall be your duty to coordinate communication within and for this PWOC chapter by keeping records of all board meetings and writing correspondence on behalf of the President as

needed. Will you accept this responsibility to show God's excellent work in a spirit of dedication and humility? If so say, "I do."

(The outgoing Administrative Coordinator lights the incoming Administrative Coordinator's candle and blows out her own)

_____ , this PWOC chapter is a ministry serving under and supported by our Chaplains. As Financial Liaison you will coordinate all monetary transactions according to Chapel financial procedures and keep all financial records, as well as promote good stewardship among the women of this PWOC. Will you accept these responsibilities and promise to serve the Lord in this manner with the highest level of grace, integrity, and wisdom? If so say, "I do."

(The outgoing Financial Liaison lights the incoming Financial Liaison's candle and blows out her own)

At this time members of the outgoing board may take their seats.

(The outgoing board members place their candles on the tray and take their seats)

As you on this incoming board take up your duties, bear in mind the advice of Paul in the 12th chapter of Romans:

"For because of God's gracious gift to me, I say to all of you: do not think of yourselves more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, each of you judging himself according to the amount of faith that God has given him."

Will all the participants of this chapter please stand? It is the responsibility of each of you as PWOC members to see that your new board members are supported in the work of this chapter. The PWOC motto is, "We are workers together for Christ." As such, you will be asked to perform many tasks which will contribute to the functioning of the whole body. As you share in this work, you will foster love and understanding within this fellowship. You will have a Christ-like influence on those around you. Will you promise to pray for the women on this board, to work together with them, and to be a reflection of Christ's love and devotion? If so reply, "I promise."

As workers together for Christ, listen to the word of God for you taken from Romans 12: 3-11...

Ladies, you may all be seated.

(Incoming board will blow out their candles, place them on the tray, and take their seats)

(Closing comments and prayer by Chaplain Advisor)