

Interfaith Christian Church

Rites of the Seven Sacraments

with Form I: In Person and Form II: By Electronic Means

Prepared for liturgical and ecclesiastical use

Authorized forms for Holy Baptism, Holy Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick.

Note: In this Church, the Eucharistic elements are bread and water. The electronic forms herein are to be used only by episcopal or pastoral direction, with live audio and video, reverence, and due entry in the register of the Church.

General Directions

This book provides authorized rites for the seven sacraments of the Interfaith Christian Church. Each sacrament is set forth in two forms: Form I, for use in person, and Form II, for use by live electronic means when grave cause, distance, infirmity, pastoral necessity, or other sufficient reason prevents physical presence.

In every electronic form, the minister shall ensure that the communication is live, direct, and sufficient for the words and actions of the rite to be seen and heard clearly. Where possible, at least one witness should be present with the candidate or communicant, or otherwise connected to the same service.

Where a sacrament requires material signs - such as water, bread, water for Communion, oil, rings, or vestments - the same shall be prepared beforehand and used reverently according to the directions of the rite. The minister may direct a deacon, priest, household member, sponsor, or other appointed assistant to place or present such matter when the rite is conducted electronically.

Every sacramental act shall be entered afterward in the proper register of the Church, noting the place, date, minister, witnesses when customary, and, if applicable, that the rite was performed by electronic means.

Nothing in these rites is intended to diminish the due authority of the Presiding Bishop, the Constitution and Canons of the Church, or the pastoral discretion required for the good order and edification of the faithful.

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I. Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which a person is born anew of water and the Holy Spirit, received into the Church, and, according to the polity of this Church, acknowledged in the diaconal ministry that belongs to all the baptized faithful.

Form I: In Person

The people standing, the candidate shall be presented by sponsors, parents, or other lawful presenters.

The Minister says: Dearly beloved, we are gathered in the presence of Almighty God that N. may receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism, be incorporated into Christ's Holy Church, and be acknowledged among the baptized as a deacon in the Interfaith Christian Church according to its doctrine, discipline, and order.

The Minister says to the candidate or sponsors: Dost thou renounce Satan and all evil, and turn unto Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour?

Answer: I do.

Minister: Dost thou believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, and desire to continue in the Apostles' faith and fellowship?

Answer: I do.

Minister: Wilt thou live as a faithful Christian and uphold the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Interfaith Christian Church?

Answer: I will, by God's help.

Then the Minister blesses the water, saying:

Sanctify this water, O merciful Father, that thy servant, now to be baptized therein, may be cleansed from sin, born again in Christ, and continue thy faithful servant unto life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Minister pours water upon the candidate, or immerses the candidate, saying:

N., I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the Minister says:

We receive this person into the congregation of Christ's flock, and, according to the order of this Church, acknowledge this baptized Christian as a deacon in the Interfaith Christian Church, called to serve, to bear witness, and to minister among the People of God. Amen.

A prayer may follow:

Heavenly Father, we thank thee that by water and the Holy Ghost thou hast bestowed upon this thy servant the forgiveness of sin and raised them to the new life of grace. Strengthen them, we beseech thee, for service, worship, and holy obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Form II: By Electronic Means

This form may be used when the minister judges that grave cause exists. The vessel of water shall be prepared and visible. The minister may direct a sponsor or assistant physically present with the candidate to pour the water at the appointed words, or the minister may instruct the candidate, if of age and able, to receive the water reverently.

The Minister says: Dearly beloved, though separated in place, we are joined before Almighty God that N. may receive Holy Baptism and be received among the baptized faithful of the Interfaith Christian Church.

The interrogatories are asked as in Form I, and the candidate or sponsors answer likewise.

Then the Minister blesses the water and says the baptismal prayer as in Form I.

At the appointed moment the Minister says:

N., I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The water is then poured or received, as directed.

The Minister then says:

We receive this person into the congregation of Christ's flock, and, according to the order of this Church, acknowledge this baptized Christian as a deacon in the Interfaith Christian Church, called to serve Christ in humility and love. Amen.

The concluding prayer may be said as in Form I.

Notes

- The minister shall verify the identity and readiness of the candidate, and shall confirm that the appointed matter for the sacrament is present and plainly visible.
- The minister may appoint a sponsor, spouse, witness, deacon, priest, or other suitable assistant physically present with the candidate to handle material elements at the minister's direction.
- The minister shall record in the register that the sacrament was celebrated by electronic means.

II. Holy Confirmation

Holy Confirmation is the rite by which the baptized Christian publicly reaffirms the baptismal covenant, receives strengthening by prayer and laying on of hands, and, in this Church, is acknowledged as a full sacramental priest.

Form I: In Person

The Bishop or Priest says: Dearly beloved, we are assembled that N., already baptized, may make public profession of faith, be confirmed in the grace of God, and be acknowledged in this Church as a priest with authority to preach, teach, minister, and celebrate the sacraments according to the doctrine and discipline of this Church.

The Minister says to the candidate: Dost thou here renew the solemn promises and vows made in thy name at thy Baptism, ratifying and confirming the same?

Answer: I do.

Minister: Dost thou profess the faith, doctrine, and discipline of the Interfaith Christian Church?

Answer: I do, by God's help.

Then the candidate says:

I profess the faith, doctrine, and discipline of the Interfaith Christian Church, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the Minister lays hands upon the candidate and says:

Defend, O Lord, this thy servant N. with thy heavenly grace, that they may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until they come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Then the Minister says:

We acknowledge and declare thee to be a priest of the Interfaith Christian Church, with authority to preach the Word of God, to teach in his Name, to minister unto his people, and to celebrate the sacraments according to the doctrine, discipline, and usages of this Church, with the full authority of the Presiding Bishop, as the same may lawfully and canonically be exercised. Amen.

The Minister may add:

The Lord bless thee and keep thee in faithful priestly ministry. Amen.

Form II: By Electronic Means

When this form is used by live electronic means, the candidate shall be visible and audible, and the Minister may direct the candidate to place a hand upon the breast while the confirming prayer is said. If an appointed assistant is present, the assistant may lay a hand upon the candidate's shoulder at the Minister's direction.

The exhortation and interrogatories are as in Form I.

After the profession, the Minister says:

The Lord receive thy profession and establish thee in the faith once delivered to the saints. Amen.

Then the Minister stretches forth a hand and says:

Defend, O Lord, this thy servant N. with thy heavenly grace, that they may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until they come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Then the declaration of priestly recognition is said as in Form I, with the words, 'I acknowledge and declare thee to be a priest of the Interfaith Christian Church.'

Notes

- The minister shall verify the identity and readiness of the candidate, and shall confirm that the appointed matter for the sacrament is present and plainly visible.
- The minister may appoint a sponsor, spouse, witness, deacon, priest, or other suitable assistant physically present with the candidate to handle material elements at the minister's direction.
- The minister shall record in the register that the sacrament was celebrated by electronic means.

III. Holy Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, in which the people of God offer thanksgiving and receive Holy Communion under the forms of bread and water according to the usage of this Church.

Form I: In Person

The Minister says: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

A suitable Collect, lessons, sermon, and intercessions may precede the Great Thanksgiving.

Then the Minister says:

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up unto the Lord. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord...

The Minister continues with the Words of Institution over the bread and the cup of water, and concludes:

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts of bread and water, that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, may be partakers of his blessed life and saving grace. Amen.

Then the Minister and people communicate.

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

The Cup of salvation in Christ, given for the people of God. Amen.

After Communion, the Minister says a prayer of thanksgiving.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, that thou dost feed us in these holy mysteries with spiritual food; and we humbly beseech thee so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Form II: By Electronic Means

Bread and water shall be prepared beforehand in each place. The entire rite shall be celebrated live, with the Great Thanksgiving, Words of Institution, and Communion made in one continuous act of worship.

The opening acclamation, Collect, lessons, sermon, and prayers may be used as in Form I.

At the Great Thanksgiving the Minister says the appointed dialogue and thanksgiving as in Form I, while the bread and water in each place are plainly visible.

At the Words of Institution, the Minister takes bread and water and says the appointed words. All communicants hold or place their elements before them in reverent silence.

Then the Minister says:

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ feedeth thee by grace, and be thankful.

The communicants then partake of the bread and water.

A concluding thanksgiving is said as in Form I.

Notes

- The minister shall verify the identity and readiness of the candidate, and shall confirm that the appointed matter for the sacrament is present and plainly visible.
- The minister may appoint a sponsor, spouse, witness, deacon, priest, or other suitable assistant physically present with the candidate to handle material elements at the minister's direction.
- The minister shall record in the register that the sacrament was celebrated by electronic means.
- The electronic form of the Eucharist shall only be used by pastoral direction and with clear teaching concerning reverence, unity, and due preparation.

IV. Reconciliation of a Penitent

This rite may be used for the confession of sins, counsel, absolution, and restoration of peace in Christ.

Form I: In Person

The Priest says: The Lord be in thy heart and upon thy lips, that thou mayest truly and humbly confess thy sins: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the Penitent says:

Bless me, for I have sinned. I confess to Almighty God, and before thee, father/mother in God, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone.

The Penitent may make particular confession. The Priest may then give counsel.

Then the Penitent says:

I am heartily sorry, I firmly purpose amendment of life, and I ask God for mercy and forgiveness.

Then the Priest says:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive thee thy offences; and by his authority committed unto me, I absolve thee from all thy sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

A prayer of thanksgiving or a psalm may follow.

Form II: By Electronic Means

This form may be used when privacy, pastoral necessity, and security of communication can be reasonably ensured.

The Priest begins as in Form I.

The Penitent makes confession live and directly. The Priest offers counsel and may appoint an act of thanksgiving or restitution.

Then the Priest pronounces absolution as in Form I.

The Priest shall urge the Penitent to maintain suitable confidentiality and reverence.

Notes

- The minister shall verify the identity and readiness of the candidate, and shall confirm that the appointed matter for the sacrament is present and plainly visible.
- The minister may appoint a sponsor, spouse, witness, deacon, priest, or other suitable assistant physically present with the candidate to handle material elements at the minister's direction.
- The minister shall record in the register that the sacrament was celebrated by electronic means.
- The minister shall take reasonable care that the confession is not overheard or recorded without consent.

V. Holy Matrimony

Holy Matrimony is the covenant whereby two persons enter into lifelong union before God and the Church.

Form I: In Person

The Minister says: Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this congregation, to join together this Man and this Woman / these persons in holy Matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God.

The Minister says to the parties: Wilt thou have this person to thy wedded spouse, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love, comfort, honour, and keep them in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto them, so long as ye both shall live?

Each answers: I will.

Then the parties join hands and say after the Minister:

I, N., take thee, N., to my wedded spouse, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

The rings are blessed and exchanged.

Bless, O Lord, these rings, that they who give and wear them may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favour unto their life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the Minister says:

Forasmuch as N. and N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, and have declared the same by giving and receiving rings, I pronounce that they are married, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Those whom God hath joined together let no one put asunder.

Form II: By Electronic Means

The parties, Minister, and witnesses shall be live and visible. Rings shall be prepared beforehand. This form is to be used only where permitted by the discipline of the Church and the civil law applicable to the marriage.

The declarations of intention are made as in Form I.

The parties make their vows live, directly, and audibly.

The Minister blesses the rings and directs the exchange.

After the exchange, the Minister pronounces the marriage in the same form as in Form I, provided all canonical and civil requirements have been met.

Notes

- The minister shall verify the identity and readiness of the candidate, and shall confirm that the appointed matter for the sacrament is present and plainly visible.

- The minister may appoint a sponsor, spouse, witness, deacon, priest, or other suitable assistant physically present with the candidate to handle material elements at the minister's direction.
- The minister shall record in the register that the sacrament was celebrated by electronic means.
- No electronic celebration of Matrimony shall be used unless the marriage is valid according to applicable civil law and the canons of the Church.

VI. Holy Orders

Holy Orders is the sacrament by which the Church sets apart deacons, priests, and bishops for ordained ministry. In this Church, baptism is joined to the diaconate and confirmation to the priesthood according to the Church's order; this rite is chiefly used for the ordination and consecration of bishops and for any solemn setting apart directed by the Presiding Bishop.

Form I: In Person

The Presiding Bishop says: Dearly beloved, the Church is the household of God, and in every age the Holy Spirit hath raised up ministers for the building up of the Body of Christ. We are now assembled that N. may be ordained and consecrated as Bishop in the Interfaith Christian Church.

The Presiding Bishop says to the ordinand: Art thou persuaded that God hath called thee to the office and work of a Bishop in his Church?

Answer: I am so persuaded.

Presiding Bishop: Wilt thou guard the faith, uphold the doctrine and discipline of this Church, preach the Word, administer the sacraments, bless and govern the clergy and people committed to thy charge, and take part in the ordination of bishops only according to the Constitution and Canons of this Church?

Answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Then the Litany or intercessions may be said. Thereafter the Presiding Bishop and assisting bishops lay hands upon the ordinand.

Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Bishop in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the laying on of our hands: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the Presiding Bishop says:

We consecrate and set thee apart as Bishop in the Interfaith Christian Church, and commit unto thee authority to preach, teach, sanctify, govern, and bless in Christ's Name, with all rights and duties lawfully and canonically belonging unto this office. Amen.

The newly consecrated Bishop may then receive the signs of office.

Form II: By Electronic Means

This form is reserved to extraordinary necessity and to the direction of the Presiding Bishop. The ordinand and assisting ministers shall be live and visible. If the Church determines that laying on of hands is to be represented electronically, the same shall be supplied by the presiding ministers stretching forth their hands together, with any later in-person completion entered in the register.

The examination and promises are made as in Form I.

The Presiding Bishop and assisting bishops extend their hands toward the ordinand and say the prayer of ordination.

Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Bishop in the Church of God; and the Lord perfect in thee that which he hath begun. Amen.

Then the declaration of consecration is said as in Form I, with note made in the register of the manner of celebration.

Notes

- The minister shall verify the identity and readiness of the candidate, and shall confirm that the appointed matter for the sacrament is present and plainly visible.
- The minister may appoint a sponsor, spouse, witness, deacon, priest, or other suitable assistant physically present with the candidate to handle material elements at the minister's direction.
- The minister shall record in the register that the sacrament was celebrated by electronic means.
- No electronic form of Holy Orders shall be used except by express determination of the Presiding Bishop.

VII. Anointing of the Sick

In this sacrament the Church commends the sick to God's mercy, seeks healing, forgiveness, strength, and peace, and, when fitting, anoints with oil in the Name of the Lord.

Form I: In Person

The Minister says: Peace be to this house, and to all that dwell in it.

Suitable Scripture may be read, and prayers of penitence may be offered.

Then the Minister lays hands upon the sick person and says:

N., I lay my hands upon thee in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold thee with his grace and to fill thee with his peace. Amen.

If oil is used, the Minister anoints the forehead, saying:

N., I anoint thee with oil in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain thee by his Holy Spirit, to drive away all sickness of body, mind, and spirit, and to give thee his peace. Amen.

Then the Minister says:

As thou art outwardly anointed with this holy oil, so our heavenly Father grant thee the inward anointing of the Holy Ghost, and of his great mercy restore thee to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Form II: By Electronic Means

Oil shall be prepared beforehand. The Minister may direct a household member or assistant to apply the oil, or, if none is present, may bless the oil and direct the sick person to anoint themselves if able.

The prayers and laying on of hands formula are said live.

The Minister stretches forth a hand toward the sick person and says the prayer for strengthening as in Form I.

At the appointed moment the oil is applied at the Minister's direction, and the anointing formula is said.

Notes

- The minister shall verify the identity and readiness of the candidate, and shall confirm that the appointed matter for the sacrament is present and plainly visible.
- The minister may appoint a sponsor, spouse, witness, deacon, priest, or other suitable assistant physically present with the candidate to handle material elements at the minister's direction.
- The minister shall record in the register that the sacrament was celebrated by electronic means.
- When the sick person is in danger of death, the Minister may combine this rite with confession, absolution, and Holy Communion as circumstances permit.

Concluding Direction

These rites may be adapted by competent authority for pastoral circumstances, provided that the substance of the sacrament, the doctrine and discipline of the Interfaith Christian Church, and the due authority of the Presiding Bishop are maintained.

All ministers shall use these forms reverently, avoiding haste, confusion, or unnecessary novelty, so that the People of God may be edified and the sacraments celebrated decently and in order.