

## THE EXHORTATION AND EXAMINATION

### *The Archbishop:*

A bishop is called to maintain the Church's witness to the resurrection of Christ, to protect the purity of the gospel, and to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

As a chief minister and pastor in Christ's Church, you are to guard its faith, unity and discipline, and promote its mission in the world.

You are to ensure that God's word is faithfully proclaimed, Christ's sacraments duly administered, and Christ's discipline applied justly, with mercy.

You are to lead and guide the priests and deacons under your care, and be faithful in the choosing and ordaining of ministers.

You are to watch over, protect and serve the people of God, to teach and govern them, and to be hospitable.

You must, therefore, know and be known by them, and be a good example to all.

These are the duties of a bishop, and they are weighty. Are you willing to perform them?

### *The Bishop-elect:*

**I am willing: may God guide and help me.**

### *The Archbishop:*

The Scriptures and ancient canons of the Church require that we should not be hasty in the laying on of hands to admit anyone to an office of government in the Church. Therefore, I ask you these questions, so that all present may hear how you are determined to act in the Church of God.

Are you convinced that the holy Scriptures contain all doctrine necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Will you instruct from them the people committed to your care, teaching nothing as essential to salvation which cannot be demonstrated from the Scriptures?

**I am convinced, and will do so, with God's help.**

Will you then be faithful in prayer, and diligent in the study of the holy Scriptures, so that you may be equipped to teach and encourage with sound doctrine?

**I will, seeking to discern the mind of Christ by the Spirit of God.**

Will you proclaim the Gospel to all, especially those among whom you live? Will you lead those in your care to obey our Saviour's command to make disciples of all nations?

**I will, gladly bearing witness to Christ in the power of God.**

Will you administer with mercy the discipline of this Church? Will you correct and set aside teaching that is contrary to the mind of Christ, both privately and publicly urging all to live according to God's Word?

**I will, endeavouring to apply the law of Christ with the grace of God.**

Will you put aside all ungodly and worldly behaviour, and live modestly, in justice and godliness, so that by your life and example you may commend Christ's truth?

**I will, seeking in all I do to demonstrate the love of God.**

Will you maintain and promote quietness, peace and love among all people? Will you correct and discipline, according to the authority you have by God's word? Will you strive to build up the body of Christ in unity, truth and love?

**I will, commending to all the peace of God.**

Will you be faithful in ordaining and commissioning others for ministry? Will you encourage those committed to your care to fulfil their ministry?

**I will, in all things striving to set forward the kingdom of Christ.**

Will you show compassion to the poor and the stranger, be gentle with the abused and needy, and defend those who have no helper?

**I will, striving to be merciful in the name of Christ.**

May God who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them. Amen.