

Appointment Service for Elders of the Trilacoochee church of Christ March 31, 2024

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A. We are assembled together this morning as the Trilacoochee church of Christ to worship God, to commune at the table of the Lord, and to edify one another. We have a fourth purpose for our assembly this morning, and that is to appoint Sam Cooper and Dennis Kenaston to serve the Lord and this congregation as elders, and to appoint Terrell Boyett, John Kenaston, and Tom Weatherly to serve the Lord and this congregation as deacons. This will be a solemn, joyful, and rare occasion. Before proceeding with this authorized work of the church, let us ask the Father's blessings upon us all in prayer led by a man who served this congregation for four years as a deacon, Jay Wininger. We will follow this prayer with a reading of three scripture texts by Scott Black.

B. Prayer by Jay Wininger

C. Scripture reading by Scott Black - 1Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1Peter 5:1-4

II. OVERVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF ELDERS AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH TOWARD ELDERS

A. You Have Chosen These Men To Serve As Elders.

1. You have named these men.
 - a. You heard the preaching of truth on the eldership.
 - b. You looked out among you and named them to this task.
 - c. 22 members named seven men to this work.
 - d. Five of them either removed their names from consideration or are not qualified at present, but will continue to work to be so.
 - e. Your letters of recommendation will become part of the permanent records of this congregation.
2. You have considered these men.
 - a. You applied yourselves to prayer and thought for two weeks.
 - b. You had opportunity to make objections during those weeks.
 - c. There was one objection made to the appointment of one of these men. It was discussed between the man, the person making the objection, and in the presence of two elders. It was answered and the objection withdrawn.
3. Therefore, you have accepted these men.
4. All that remains is to appoint them to office.

B. You Must Now Accept Their Leadership

1. Before today, objections were requested and welcomed as a vital part of this good work. After today, objections will be viewed as murmuring.
 - a. Unless an elder fails to do his appointed work or becomes immoral or otherwise unqualified, complaints against him and his leadership are in error.

- b. If any has a difficulty with an elder, scriptural procedure must be followed every time and in every case.
 - c. “Do not rebuke an elder, but exhort him as a father” (1Tim. 5:1). “Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses” (5:19).
 - d. “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves” (1Thes. 5:12-13).
 - e. “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct” (Heb. 13:7). “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you” (13:17).
2. The newly appointed elders may not have the experience of elders who have served for many years. But as they are scripturally qualified to serve, we can have every confidence in their leadership.
- a. Each brings to this office his own strengths and limitations. Each will labor to his utmost to faithfully discharge his office. You must work hard to make this transition peaceful and spiritually healthy.

C. Qualifications: Without reproach, Temperate, Sober-minded, Orderly, Hospitable, Not pugnacious, No striker, Gentle, Not contentious, Not greedy for money, One that rules well his own house having his children in subjection with all gravity, Good testimony from those outside, Not self-willed, Not soon angry, Loves the good, Just, Holy, Holds fast to the faithful word, Husband of one wife, Not a novice, Apt to teach, Having children that believe, not accused of riot or unruly

D. Duties of Elders

- Take heed to themselves - *Acts 20:28*
- To be guided by the word of God - *Acts 20:32; Titus 1:9*
- Be examples to the flock - *1Peter 5:3*
- Take the oversight - *1Peter 5:2*
- Take heed to the flock - *Acts 20:28*
- Rule well - *1Tim. 5:17*
- Feed the flock - *Acts 20:28; 1Peter 5:1-2*
- Watch for grievous wolves - *Acts 20:29-30*
- Stop the mouths of vain talkers - *Titus 1:11*
- Settle differences in the church - *Acts 15:6*
- Admonish the church - *1Thes. 5:12*
- Support the weak - *Acts 20:35*
- Pray for the sick and administer to their needs - *James 5:14*
- Watch for the souls of the church - *Heb. 13:17; Ez. 3:16-21*

III. APPOINTMENT OF ELDERS

Being appointed to serve as an elder is not an entitlement; no one deserves the office as a reward for long term service. Nor is it one's right by virtue of belonging to the right family. It is not a matter of heritage. Nor is it a matter of political patronage or jockeying for power. Any man who thinks otherwise is not qualified to be an elder. Any elder who thinks otherwise, ceases to be qualified. Any elder's wife or family who thinks, speaks or acts otherwise will be swiftly and sharply rebuked.

Elders serve the Lord Jesus Christ, not family interests, factional agendas, or personal causes. The well-being of souls entrusted to their care is a stake; the health and progress of a local congregation is in their care. The influence of the Lord in this community is made their responsibility. They must not be distracted by the attention that comes with the office; they must not think too highly of themselves; and, they must not pursue any other course other than the Lord's will. Truth, wisdom, and love must be the guiding principles of their reasoning and deliberations in this office. Altruism, objectivity, and honor must become the words that best describe their work in this office.

A. Sam Cooper

Background: Brother Sam has been a dedicated Christian that sets an example of steadfastness, patience, and an even temperament. I have personally benefited from his wise counsel since coming here, and appreciate his insight in the word. He has served as a deacon and a helper to the treasurer for four years, and has the confidence of the elders and this congregation.

Brother Sam Cooper, would you please stand before this assembled body of Christians? Will you serve this local church in the office of elder, faithfully discharging all scriptural duties in a godly manner?

Having met the New Testament qualifications of a bishop and shepherd, and having indicated your desire to do this work, by the authority of the word of God, by the will of this congregation, and as an evangelist of Jesus Christ, I now appoint you as an elder of the Trilacoochee church of Christ to serve in that office until such time as you are no longer able or until you cease to be qualified. God protect and bless you in this work.

To the congregation: Please give your recognition and acceptance to this man at the close of services this day, and give him your support for the term of his office.

Response to congregation by Sam Cooper

B. Dennis Kenaston

Background: Brother Dennis has served the Lord as an elder in the past in another local church. However, it is his example of seriousness in matters of the faith, and his loving spirit toward others that commends him to this office. Since coming here, he and Diana have endeared themselves to the saints in this place. Most of the members who participated in naming men for the works of elders and deacons commended Dennis to this work.

Brother Dennis Kenaston, would you please stand before this assembled body of Christians? Will you serve this local church in the office of elder, faithfully discharging all scriptural duties in a godly manner?

Having met the New Testament qualifications of a bishop and shepherd, and having indicated your desire to do this work, by the authority of the word of God, by the will of this congregation, and as an evangelist of Jesus Christ, I now appoint you as an elder of the Trilacoochee church of Christ to serve in that office until such time as you are no longer able or until you cease to be qualified. God protect and bless you in this work.

To the congregation: Please give your recognition and acceptance to this man at the close of services this day, and give him your support for the term of his office.

Response to congregation by Dennis Kenaston.

Appointment Service for Deacons of Trilacoochee church of Christ

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A. We are also assembled together this morning as the Trilacoochee church of Christ to appoint Terrell Boyett, John Krenzelo, and Tom Weatherly as deacons of this congregation to serve the will of the Lord under the guidance of the elders of this church.

B. Scripture reading by Larry Winn - Acts 6:1-6; 1Tim. 3:8-13

II. OVERVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF DEACONS

A. You Have Chosen These Men To Serve As Your Deacons.

1. You have named these men.
 - a. You heard the preaching of truth on Deacons.
 - b. You looked out among you and named three men to this task.
 - c. You considered their qualifications for four weeks to make the objections you believed were necessary.
 - 1) Your letters of recommendation will become part of the permanent records of this congregation.
 - d. 22 participated by submitting five names.
 - 1) Two removed their names from consideration.
 - 2) Three accepted consideration for this office.
2. You have considered these men.
 - a. You applied yourselves to prayer and thought for two weeks.
 - b. There was one objection made to the appointment of one of these men. It was discussed between the man, the person making the objection, and in the presence of two elders. It was answered and the objection withdrawn.
3. Therefore, you have accepted these men.
4. All that remains is to appoint them to office.

B. You Must Now Recognize Them as Laborers Among You

1. If any has a difficulty with a deacon, scriptural procedure must be followed every time and in every case.
2. Matt. 18:15-17 - "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two

more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

3. Deacons work under the oversight of elders, and the elders here will be vigilant and loving in their oversight of these men as they begin their new work.
4. None of the newly appointed deacons will have the experience of those who have served for a long time. But as they are scripturally qualified to serve, we can have every confidence in their ability to do the work.
 - a. Each brings to this work his own strengths and limitations. Each will labor to his utmost to faithfully discharge his office. You must work hard to make this transition peaceful and spiritually healthy.

C. Qualifications: Known for his honesty, Full of the Holy Spirit, Wise, Grave, Not double-tongued. Not given to much wine, Not greedy of filthy lucre, Not a holder of false doctrines, Not a novice, Blameless, Husband of one wife, Ruling children and his own house well

D. Duties:

- First assigned to look after the poor and distribute the contributions of the church among them fairly. *Acts 6:1-4*
- Often, deacons were teachers. One would be an asset to the church as a teacher. Stephen and Philip of Jerusalem - *Acts 6*; Epaphroditus of *Philippians 2* was believed to be a deacon.
- Primarily serve the congregation in tasks that would allow the elders to devote themselves to spiritual needs

III. APPOINTMENT OF DEACONS

A. Terrell Boyett

Background: Brother Terrell is a local man who is known in all of this area as a model of integrity in business; but, greater than that is his example of faithfulness in service to the Lord and His people. He comes from profoundly good stock, and his legacy of godliness is seen in his children. Of all of the members who participated in naming, Terrell's name was nearly unanimous among them.

Brother Terrell, would you please stand before this assembled body of Christians? Will you serve this local church as a deacon, faithfully discharging all scriptural duties in a godly manner?

Having met the New Testament qualifications of a servant of Christ and his church, and having indicated your desire to do this work, by the authority of the word of God, by the will of this congregation, and as an evangelist of Jesus Christ, I now appoint you as a deacon of the Trilacoochee church of Christ to serve in that office until such time as you are no longer able or until you cease to be qualified. God protect and bless you in this work.

To the congregation: Please give your recognition, acceptance, and the right hand of fellowship to this man at the close of services this day, and give him your support for the term of his office.

Brother Terrell humbly declines the opportunity to address the congregation, which further commends him to us.

B. John Krenzelok

Background: Brother John and his wife June stand out by three admirable characteristics: they are very serious Bible students, they are obviously conscientious, and they love to work. This commends John to the work of a deacon; the kind of deacon in which elders can have a high level of confidence that any task he is given will be completely with integrity and excellence.

Brother John, would you please stand before this assembled body of Christians? Will you serve this local church as a deacon, faithfully discharging all scriptural duties in a godly manner?

Having met the New Testament qualifications of a servant of Christ and his church, and having indicated your desire to do this work, by the authority of the word of God, by the will of this congregation, and as an evangelist of Jesus Christ, I now appoint you as a deacon of the Trilacoochee church of Christ to serve in that office until such time as you are no longer able or until you cease to be qualified. God protect and bless you in this work.

To the congregation: Please give your recognition, acceptance, and the right hand of fellowship to this man at the close of services this day, and give him your support for the term of his office.

Response to the congregation by John.

C. Tom Weatherly

Background: Brother Tom has a very outgoing, heartfelt, and loving personality that commends him to everyone he encounters. I personally have enjoyed our relationship and am touched by how much he loves Bible study and teaching. As a congregation, we have all been blessed by the coming of Tom and Michelle to our family.

Brother Tom, would you please stand before this assembled body of Christians? Will you serve this local church as a deacon, faithfully discharging all scriptural duties in a godly manner?

Having met the New Testament qualifications of a servant of Christ and his church, and having indicated your desire to do this work, by the authority of the word of God, by the will of this congregation, and as an evangelist of Jesus Christ, I now appoint you as a deacon of the Trilacoochee church of Christ to serve in that office until such time as you are no longer able or until you cease to be qualified. God protect and bless you in this work.

To the congregation: Please give your recognition, acceptance, and the right hand of fellowship to this man at the close of services this day, and give him your support for the term of his office.

Response to the congregation by Tom.

C. Families of Elders and Deacons: To the wives of the men ordained this day as elders and deacons: Sue Cooper, Diana Kenaston, Jill Boyett, June Krenzelok, and Michelle Weatherly. Yours may be the more difficult and certainly more thankless task

that that of your husband. You have a larger duty to the eldership than the other members. To you is given the burden of helping to maintain the credibility of the elders and deacons by conducting your lives in a manner that will not harm the influence of your husband. You will live a fishbowl existence, and that will take some adjustment. You are faithful Christians who meet the qualifications of the families of elders, so you should already be accustomed to being looked to for an example. Be doubly aware of the cost of your decisions to engage or to avoid any activity. Your consistent, moral behavior will increase the confidence this congregation has in your husband. Unrighteous conduct will undermine what he has worked his whole life to become... a servant of your Savior. God's richest blessings on you as you support his work.

IV. GRATEFUL THANKS

A. To the congregation of God's Children here at Trilacoochee.

1. For being at peace, for being Christ-like, for cooperating and working together at every step along the way.
2. For continually lifting up prayers to the Father for this good work, and for the many kind words of encouragement spoken along the way.
3. To the members who submitted names of men they were willing to follow in the work of the Lord. Good "followship" is an uncommon virtue.
4. To the disciples who conscientiously considered objections to some of the men named. You showed courage; greater than that, you showed deep care for the safety and soundness of this church.
5. To the men named who removed their names from consideration. It is hard to say no to others who have confidence in you, but I acknowledge before this body that you did so because you care about this church.
6. To the men who accepted your request that they serve the Lord and this church as elders and deacons. In every case, their reactions were nearly the same. They were surprised at first, then humbled, then moved. Each of them expressed that the needs of this church were more important than their personal interests. They were willing to step aside if it would help this church; and therefore, they also would willingly step up if their serve would help this church.

B. But most of all, we want to thank the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for Their help in this work. To God be the glory and praise for the things we do here. May heaven continue to help the Trilacoochee church of Christ!

1. This journey began in 1947 in a Clay Sink barn; it has many chapters written by numerous devout Christians over the years. This is just one more chapter in this congregation's travel journal. Let us write our chapter in such a way that there will be many more to come, until the Lord returns to gather us home.

B. Prayer by Steve Melton

C. Invitation and Song