

XII. ACT ANENT VOWS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1996, Session 5.

The General Assembly enact and ordain that the following questions and responses are authorised for use in the services of worship incorporating Public Profession of Faith and Confirmation.

The Questions

Earlier in the service the minister addresses the candidates, recalling their baptism:

Do you believe the Christian faith
into which we are baptised?

The candidates say together:

I do

The minister then invites the congregation to stand and with the candidates to affirm the faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed or other statement of faith.

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After the prayer of confirmation, the minister addresses the candidates in such words as:

You have professed with us your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In your baptism God brought you into the household of faith, and in goodness and mercy has shepherded you to this day.

We ask you now to pledge yourself to a life of Christian discipleship:

Do you promise to follow Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**With God's help
I will seek to follow Christ,
and in listening for God's Word,
in the breaking of bread, and prayer,
to grow ever closer to him as the years pass.**

Do you promise to be a faithful member of the Christian community?

**With God's help
I will share in the worship and service of the church,
and in this I will give generously
of what I am and what I have.**

Do you promise to take your part in God's mission to the world?

**With God's help
I will witness to Christ
wherever I find myself
and putting my trust and hope in him
I will seek justice and peace**

and the renewing of all life according to God's promise.

[Note: The responses may be put as questions by the Minister – 'Do you promise, with God's help ...?' – the candidate answering 'With God's help I will'.]

The minister then gives a charge to the congregation in such words as these:

I charge you,
the people of this congregation,
to love, encourage and support
these our brothers and sisters in faith,
that they may continue to grow
in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the knowledge and love of God.

The congregation responds:

**With God's help
we will live out our baptism
as a loving community in Christ:
nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer,
and encouraging one another in service.**