

Service for the Induction of the President

Psalm 25.4-5

“Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.”

Arcana Caelestia 10310

Those alone are true members of the Church who have the Church within them, and they have the Church within them who have an affection for truth for its own sake and an affection for good for its own sake, thus who are governed by love towards the neighbour and love to God. For good and truth are the neighbour, and so is God, since good and truth are God's and so are God as He exists with such people. Those who are not like this are not members of the Church even though they may be within the Church.

Introduction

The Lord's Church is universal and known to the Lord alone. The Lord's Church is also individual, within a person, and again, known to the Lord alone. These are invisible to us because they are internal and spiritual. But to provide for these, the Lord calls people to be involved in the work and welfare of the visible and organised Church in the world, a Church which involves external worship, pastoral care, communication and wise government. It is for those who feel called to serve this organised Church, to seek its welfare and nurture its use to the Lord.

The office of the Presidency exists to help the government of the organised Church. The President serves the Church and must be dedicated to it because he is first dedicated to the Lord. He upholds the orderly processes by which the Church lives, but he seeks to move the Church into new directions and uses. He speaks and acts from this motivation and understands that the office of the President is not his but it is conferred on him.

It is a privilege to be called to serve the Church in this way and it is not taken lightly. It is his role to lead people to the Lord in the name of the Lord.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we have not chosen You. You have chosen us, and called us to come forward to serve You, and to serve this Church. We pray for all who belong to Your Church on earth in its unseen and unknown number and state. We pray for all those who feel called to serve the organisation of the Church here in the world, both ministers and lay people, men and women, adults and children. We pray for Your presence and power on the office of the Presidency of the New Church in Australia, and we pray that Your purpose is sought, that Your will is done, and that Your good and truth becomes our rod and staff. Amen.

Ceremony

President

David Moffat, you have been invited by the New Church in Australia to become the President of this organisation. Do you accept this invitation?

David Moffat

I do, and I feel the privilege of the invitation to serve in this way.

President

David Moffat do you promise to lead this national church to the best of your ability and power, to seek its welfare and unity, and, where possible, its growth and extension?

David Moffat

I do, and I ask the Lord to guide me and give me wisdom to know how to lead it.

President

Then I induct you into the office of the President of the New Church in Australia. We confer upon you the respect for the office and look to you for kind wise good leadership.

(Kneel)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Embrace and Presentation to the Church assembly.

Presentation of the Word to the President.