

The COGIC Consecration Charge

The Consecration Charge:

(The Bishop to be consecrated will rise, escorted by two Elders and stand before the official in charge.)

The Church Of God In Christ has expressed its confidence in you, in your character, in your devotion to Christ and Church, and in your ability to direct and promote the general affairs and interests of the entire Church, in the she has signally honored you by selecting you to this high office.

The Apostle Paul says that “A Bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..., Vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach, Moreover, he must have a good report of them which are without, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

The General Assembly of the Church Of God In Christ has assigned to you, as Bishop the following duties:²

- To function as the administrative head of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction to which you are assigned. To seek out and discover, in cooperation with your district superintendents and congregations, a suitable pastor for each congregation under your care.
- To counsel with these pastors in planning well balanced congregational programs.
- To encourage ministerial improvements and leadership training, ministerial retreats and supporting the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary and the Charles Harrison Mason System of Bible Colleges.
- To inspire the pastor to spiritual growth and personal improvement for more effective witnessing for Christ and his kingdom, to encourage pastoral visitations in homes, hospitals, and penal institutions.
- To stimulate by your life and example, as well as by your effective preaching, the outlook, and vision of your people and inspire them to holier living and more dedicated devotion the total Church program.
- To uphold, obey and defend the constitution, by-laws, doctrine and policy of the Church Of God In Christ as now is or may be amended from time to time, and to teach pastors and congregations under your charge to do the same.
- To seek our [*sic*] communities in your Jurisdiction into which a Christian Witness might be effectively carried.

(The Official in charge shall then say to the Bishops Designate, each answering separately:

¹Found on pages 214-217 of the Official Manual.

²The only doctrine expressing, lawmaking body
Bullet points added

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Inasmuch as the Holy Scriptures enjoin that no man be placed hastily in supervision of the affairs of the Church, and in order that those here may know your mind and purpose concerning this sacred office, will you in the fear of God answer the questions we ask you in the name of Christ and His Church.

ANSWER: “I will.”

Will you endeavor to live soberly, righteously, and godly as a bishop in the Church so that you may be an example to all others in Christian living?

ANSWER: “I will, by the help of God.”

Will you instruct those who come under your care out of the Word of God to the edification of the whole church?

ANSWER: “I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Will you give diligence to faithfully perform all the duties assigned to you as a Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ, according to the order and direction of the General Assembly?

ANSWER: “I will, by the help of God.”

Will you ever seek in true humility, to deal justly and kindly with your brethren in the ministry and with all others over whom you are placed as a Bishop of the Church?

ANSWER: “I will do so, by the help and Grace of God, the Holy Spirit being my strength.

(Candidate kneel)

Prayer of Consecration

The General Board shall stand before one of the bishops designate as assigned by the official charge, and placing his hands upon him, will in turn offer a prayer of consecration.

Response of the Congregation: (Congregation stands with designee facing congregation)

Do you accept, under God, this man as your appointed leader, and will you give him your ready cooperation and support as he seeks to carry out his responsibilities?

THE RESPONSE: ‘We will do so, God being you helper.’

Installation:

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me by the General Assembly, I hereby shall install you as Bishop of the _____ of the Church Of God In Christ.

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