

Service of Ordination and Installation for Ray Boyer

January 11, 2026

The office of ruling elder is based upon the kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ, who provided for his church officers who should rule in his name. Paul and Barnabas ordained elders in every church (Acts 14:23); and Paul commanded that those who “rule well” be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching (1 Tim. 5:17). In this passage the Scriptures distinguish between elders who labor particularly in the Word and in teaching (usually called ministers or pastors) and elders who join with the minister in the government and discipline of the church (generally called ruling elders).

It is the duty and privilege of ruling elders, in the name and by the authority of our ascended King, to rule over particular churches, and, as servants of our great Shepherd, to care for his flock. Holy Scripture enjoins them: “Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.” As a consequence, ruling elders must be zealous in maintaining the purity of the administration of the Word and sacraments. They must conscientiously exercise discipline and uphold the good order and peace of the church. With love and humility they should promote faithfulness on the part of both elders and deacons in the discharge of their duties. Moreover, they should have particular regard for the doctrine and conduct of the minister of the Word, in order that the church may be edified, and may manifest itself as the pillar and ground of the truth.

If they are to fill worthily so sacred an office, ruling elders must adorn sound doctrine by holy living, setting an example of godliness in all their relations with men. Let them walk with exemplary piety and diligently discharge the obligations of their office; and “when the Chief Shepherd shall appear,” they “shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

Questions for the Candidate

Ray, I have some questions for you which you should answer from the heart, remembering that these are solemn vows taken before the God of heaven:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?

3. Do you approve of the government, discipline, and worship of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church?

4. Do you promise to seek the purity, the peace, and the unity of the church?

5. Do you accept the office of ruling elder in this congregation and promise, in reliance on the grace of God, faithfully to perform all the duties thereof?

Question for the Congregation

Members of Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church, please rise and listen to me. You have elected this man by unanimous vote. Additionally, I have heard testimonies from many of you, as well as regular attenders, testifying to the great esteem and respect that you hold for this man. I will now pose a question to you. It is a solemn vow before Almighty God. If you agree, I ask you to raise your right hand.

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as a ruling elder, and do you promise to yield him all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord, to which his office, according to the Word of God and the constitution of this church, entitles him? Do you? If so, raise your right hand.

When the members of the church have answered this question in the affirmative, by holding up their right hands, the candidate shall kneel and be ordained by prayer and with the laying on of hands to the office of ruling elder. (Ministers and elders participating: Tony Blair; Doug Felch; Aaron Klawuhn; Dan Lipsy; Paul Moots; Stephen Pribble; Wes Reynolds.)

Ordination Prayer

We extol you, O God, our King. We bless your name forever and ever. You are the great God, and the great King over all gods. Holy, holy, holy is your name. You are to be feared. The whole earth is full of your glory!

We glorify you, Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and head of the church. In you we were chosen before the foundation of the world. In you we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the Father's eternal purpose.

Thank you that you sent your Holy Spirit into our hearts to bring us out of darkness into your marvelous light.

Thank you for the holy apostles and prophets that gave your church your Holy Word. Thank you for the martyrs and the saints who maintained the faith and passed it down to us.

Thank you for Ray. Thank you for the gifts that you have given him. Thank you that you confirmed your inward call to serve as ruling elder by the unanimous vote of our congregation.

Be merciful to him. Fill him with your Spirit. Give him wisdom to serve your people, imitating Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. Give him a heart for God. Give him a heart for your people. Give him an unshakable confidence in your Word in the face of discouragement, even in the face of persecution. Help him to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We ask this in the name of our Almighty King, the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Declaration

I now declare that Ray Boyer has been regularly elected, ordained, and installed a ruling elder in this church, agreeably to the Word of God, and according to the constitution of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church; and that he is entitled to all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which his office entitles him.

Right Hand of Fellowship

Fellow elders, let's give our dear brother the right hand of fellowship, to take part of this office with us. Amen.

Ordination Sermon

See also the ordination sermon, "A Faithful Steward" (1 Corinthians 4:1–5): [manuscript](#); [livestream](#).