

Guidelines for Honorable Retirement Ceremonies

If the retiree agrees, he or she will be recognized by the Presbytery at a regularly scheduled meeting, during the Worship Service. The number of recognition ceremonies should be limited to two at any single Presbytery meeting.

Following the sermon but before celebration of the Eucharist, the leader of the worship service will call the retiree(s) forward before the body and lead the congregation in a responsive reading as contained in the Book of Occasional Services:

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, see and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits,

who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;

who satisfies you with good things,

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The retiree may select an individual to speak on his/her behalf. The speaker should make a short presentation of five minutes or less concerning the life and/or career of the retiree. The speaker will end the presentation with prayer. If the retiree does not wish to nominate someone to speak on his/her behalf, the Worship Committee will make the presentation on the retiree's career and offer the prayer.

The retiree is encouraged to invite friends and relatives to observe the ceremony of Honorable Retirement. It is anticipated that by holding the ceremony during the worship service in the early part of the meeting will be conducive to attendance by friends and relatives.