



Tasmanian Council of Churches

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

*for
the Reverend Jeff Gray
as President of
The Tasmanian Council of Churches*

*and for
other officers of the TCC*

*Saturday 27th June, 2015
Launceston Corps,
The Salvation Army*

*Presiding:
Mr David Morris
Immediate Past President,
Tasmanian Council of Churches*

Hymn: *Now thank we all our God* (Rinkart)

Sentences:

There are diverse gifts,

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways,

but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit,

and there is no gift without its corresponding service.

There is one ministry of Christ,

and in this ministry we all share.

Together, we are the Body of Christ,

and individually members of it.

Presentation of the President-elect (*Retiring President Mr David Morris*)

Members of the Annual Meeting of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, I present to you the Reverend Jeff Gray, whom you have chosen to serve the member churches of this Council as its President. In fulfilling this role, he will:

- promote the cause of Christian unity among the churches;
- preside at meetings of the Council and its Executive;
- make public statements on behalf of the Council as needed.

Questions to the President-elect

Jeff, my brother in Christ, you have been elected to serve as President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches – a position of trust and responsibility. Are you willing to accept this position, and to use your gifts to the best of your ability?

I am, by the grace of God.

Do you accept the Basis of this Council as laid down in its Constitution, which states that the Tasmanian Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

I do.

Will you work with your fellow-officers and Executive members of the Council, to fulfil its functions and to serve its member churches?

I will, by the grace of God.

Question to the Council

Members of the Annual Meeting please stand.

Members of this Council, will you support your President with prayer and encouragement, and will you use your gifts and your energies to inspire your churches to work together for the glory of God?

We will, by the grace of God.

Prayer for the President-elect (*Retiring President*)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray with confidence to God, the creator of all things, that blessings be bestowed on our brother Jeff, chosen to serve as President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches.

Pause for silent prayer.

Our Father in heaven, creator and guide of your family, bless our brother Jeff. May he faithfully lead the Tasmanian Council of Churches by witnessing to your Word and offering to you praise and thanksgiving. May his heart always be open to the power of your Spirit that he may rely on you. We ask this through Christ Jesus our Saviour, who lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

The Commissioning (*Immediate Past President, Mr David Morris*)

Jeff, on behalf of the Council, I commission you as President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches. May the grace of God enrich you, the love of Jesus Christ enfold you, and the power of the Spirit equip you as you fulfil the commitments you have made today. **Amen.**

The President leads the remainder of the service.

The President's response

Commissioning of the Vice-President, Treasurer, and other office-bearers and conveners and commissioners by the President

Officers, Executive Members, Conveners and members of Commissions please stand.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, do you accept the trust and the responsibilities committed to you by this Council?

We do, by the grace of God.

All members of the Annual Meeting please stand.

You who represent the member churches of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, will you encourage and pray for these people, who pledge their service today, in the cause of ecumenism on behalf of us all?

We will, by the grace of God.

Prayer (the President)

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: *The church's one foundation* (Stone)

Blessing (the President)

May God who has created the waters of the earth,
May Christ, the source of living water,
May the Spirit, who calls us from the depths of our heart
be with us now and for ever. **Amen.**

