

DISCIPLES WOMEN
GENERAL PROGRAMS

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Soaring Ahead Together ... Really? Installation Program



SOARING AHEAD TOGETHER...REALLY?

INSTALLATION SERVICE

PURPOSE:

To gather for an installation service for new officers while looking forward to the coming period with a touch of humor and a sense of creative courage to face changes that may occur.

SUGGESTION FOR LEADER:

Prepare a worship center on one or more pieces of fabric, with an open Bible (PS 23), Christ candle, framed mirror that stands upright or on an easel, and enough mini candles/votive holders (check colors mentioned within service; use colored candles or all white/vanilla and colored ribbons tied around the votive holders) for the number of women being installed. Add a scattering of a few older items of technology, such as a Beta and/or VHS tape, cassette tape(s) of various types and sizes, older style floppy discs, older cell phone, etc.



Choose one or more of the suggested hymns at beginning and end of the service.

OPENING HYMN(S):

- ♪ “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” Chalice Hymnal # 651
- ♪ “Shine, Jesus, Shine” Chalice Praise #34
- ♪ “Make Me A Servant” Chalice Praise #99

SCRIPTURES:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27: 1

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3: 6

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119: 105

MESSAGE:

Hmmm.... Do we, in this day of so many forms of technology, really follow the advice of these scriptures? Do we set our paths on the lamp of faith and light of salvation or on the GPS with its mesmerizing voice of calm that leads us on our journey to unknown places like a verbal roadmap with very specific instructions and warnings, even telling us when to “turn around when possible,” “turn around when possible,” “turn around when possible”?

Have you ever purchased some piece of new technology and thought that it was surely the ultimate, the most wonderful, the one perfect design that would solve or secure or fix whatever might be needed? It was the ultimate, the greatest -- nothing would or could possibly improve on this newest design, nor could it ever be out-sold by any other product.

Don't like change? Don't understand why things cannot stay the way they are?

How many 78s or 45s or 33 1/3 rpm LP vinyl records have you purchased or listened to recently?

Do you still have a drawer full of Beta or VHS tapes without the proper VCR upon which to view them?

How about that box of 8-tracks you could not give away at your garage or rummage sale?

Wonder where the player is that would allow you to listen to or share with others some wonderful cassette tapes you still own?

Perhaps you also possess a plastic card file of computer floppy discs that no longer fit into your working computer? Wonder how you will retrieve all that valuable information now?

Do we resist change or get prepared early for it? Do we wish to soar ahead? What is our task? Can we keep our lamps burning with Christ's light within us no matter where we are on this journey of life and no matter how many improvements and changes and updates occur around us?

Perhaps God is asking us to purposefully pray about our answers to these questions.

Today we are installing our new officers for the coming term.

Will they be able to remain exactly the same as they are today? Probably not.



Will they face new challenges? -New opportunities? -Perplexing, sometimes difficult, sometimes frightening needs for change? Probably so.

Should they expect to use their wit, creativity, patience, faith and sense of humor to get through some situations? I would expect as much, because we surely do not want or need for them to fall back on old patterns – or outdated technologies or old equipment - that perhaps did not work the first time or that have been made obsolete with new thoughts, ideas, priorities, and needs, all of which we cannot imagine at this exact moment.

We are privileged to have these wonderful, faithful women serve as our leaders. They are capable of their tasks because God is with them. As they prepare to come forward, let us reassure them and all of us, with the words of scripture we heard earlier:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27: 1

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3: 6

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119: 105

INSTALLATION:

(Call the women forward individually by office as you light their individual candle from the Christ Candle on the worship center say the following for each office. Let them hold their particular candle/votive holder, remaining together in front of the group.)

President- Purple is the royal color worn by queens and kings of old to signify leadership and wisdom. May you lead with dedication, devotion, humility, prayer, humor and enthusiasm; leading and encouraging others in using their gifts as well.

Vice-President and/or Group Leaders – Green symbolizes growth. May you lead others to grow in many ways of faith and in service, as well as with courage in the face of change.

Secretary and/or Treasurer - Blue signifies truth, loyalty, honesty and truthfulness. May you keep the records faithfully and accurately, guiding us also to consider just and faithful responses to whatever opportunities that may come.

Study, Missions, and/or Others - Yellow (or gold or orange) signifies the brightness of creativity. May you carefully and thoughtfully bring the information to us upon which to ponder, pray, study and creatively act, in order that we might strengthen our faithful service to God in all that we do.

(to the officers) Now, remembering the Light of Christ that glows before, around and within you, do you faithfully accept the office to which you have been called? If so, answer, “With God’s guidance, I will serve.”

(to the assembled body) Do you now faithfully agree to support, hold in prayer, and serve with these newly-installed leaders? If so, answer, “I prayerfully promise.”

(Officers may return to their seats and take their candle/votive holder as a gift and reminder.)

PRAYER:

Let us be in the spirit of prayer as we hear these words paraphrased for the 23rd PSALM (author unknown):

The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash. The Lord installed His software on the hard disk of my heart. All of His commands are user-friendly. The Lord’s directory guides me to the right choices for His name’s sake. Even though I scroll through the problems of life, I will fear no bugs, for He is my back-up. The Lord’s password protects me. The Lord prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies. His help is only a keystroke away. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and my file will be merged with His and saved forever.

These things we pray, O God, knowing that you are always our light and the lamp before us. We humbly pray that we might soar ahead, serve and honor you in all that we do. To God be all the glory and praise. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN(S):

- ♪ “My Tribute” Chalice Hymnal No. 39
- ♪ “Thy Word” Chalice Hymnal No. 326
- ♪ “Day and Night” Chalice Praise #5