

RECEPTION CANON 1981

Canon 1, 1985¹ as amended by
Canon 14, 1995

A canon to authorise the use of a service for the reception into communicant membership of this Church of baptised persons who were formerly communicant members of other churches.

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. This canon may be cited as the "**Reception Canon 1981**".
- 2.² When a person who has been baptised and who is or was a communicant member of another church which holds the apostolic faith but which is not in full communion with this Church desires to become a communicant member of this Church, the priest, being assured that such is *his* desire, shall after due preparation present that person to the bishop at the time of confirmation or some other time. The bishop may receive and welcome *him* into communicant membership of this Church, laying hands on *him* with prayer for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit, using the form of service set out in the schedule to this canon, or in some other form of service authorised for use in this church by canon, in accordance with the rubrics incorporated therein.
3. A person received into communicant membership in accordance with this canon shall have the same status in this Church as a person who has been confirmed in accordance with the rites of this Church.
4. The reception of a person into communicant membership in accordance with this canon shall be recorded in the registers of this Church.
5. This canon affects the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the canon.

¹ This canon was passed provisionally as Canon 4(P), 1981.

² Amended by Canon 14, 1995.

SCHEDULE

Reception into Communicant Membership of the Anglican Church of Australia of Baptised and Communicant Members of other Churches

NOTES

1. When a person who has been a communicant member of another church which holds the apostolic faith desires to become a communicant member of this church, the priest, being assured that such is *his* desire, shall present that person to the bishop at the time of confirmation or at some other time. At a confirmation from An Australian Prayer Book, this service should follow #7 on page 514 or #13 on page 538. Alternatively, it may occur before the intercessions at Morning or Evening Prayer or at the Holy Communion.
2. The bishop may receive and welcome *him* into communicant membership of this Church, laying hands on *him* with prayer for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit, using this form of service. A person so received into communicant membership shall have the same status in this Church as a person who has been confirmed in accordance with the rites of this Church.
3. Such reception shall be recorded in the registers of the church.

1 The priest presents the one to be received to the bishop saying

N., has already been baptised and has formerly been a communicant member of the ... Church. *He* now asks to be received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and seeks our prayers in the fellowship of this parish.

2 The bishop says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

God of wisdom and love,
source of all good,
by your Holy Spirit strengthen your *servant*
and guide *him* in your way of peace and love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

‡ 3 Then Psalm 133 may be said or sung.

‡ 4 Ephesians 4: 1-13 may be read.

5 The bishop says to the candidate

Do you stand by the Christian confession and commitment made at your baptism?

I do.

Do you desire to be admitted into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and accept her doctrine and order?

I do.

6 The bishop welcomes the person in these words taking *him* by the hand.

We recognise you as a baptised and communicant member of the Christian Church.

We receive and welcome you into the communion of the Anglican Church.

He then kneels and the bishop lays his hands on *his* head saying

N., May the Holy Spirit direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and His kingdom in the fellowship of this Church.
