

Saturday, March 6, 2021 • 2:00 p.m.

Concord United Methodist Church

2020 Service of Ordination and Commissioning

Prelude

Ms. Betsy Segraves, Organist
Reverend Mike Stallings, Pianist

***Processional**

***Greeting and Prayer**

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

*As the congregation remains standing,
the Bishop greets the people and they respond:*

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We come together to praise God, to hear
the Holy Word,

and to seek for ourselves and others

the power, presence, and direction of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray.

Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

you gave to your apostles many excellent gifts.

Give your grace

to all servants of your church,

that we may with diligence and faithfulness

fulfill our various ministries.

Grant that we your people may follow where you lead, perfect our ministries,

and live in joyful obedience to your will,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

As the people remain standing, the Bishop begins:

Ministry is the work of God,
done by the people of God.

Through baptism

all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers,
the church, Christ's body, made visible in the world.

We all share in Christ's ministry of love and service

for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation.

Therefore, in celebration of our common ministry,

I call upon all God's people gathered here:

The Bishop may pour water into a basin and say:

Remember you are baptized, and be thankful.

**We reaffirm our baptism
and our common call to ministry.**

Thanks be to God!

All people are seated.

**PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE
ORDAINED, COMMISSIONED, OR RECOGNIZED**

*The Conference Lay Leader and the Chairperson and representatives of
the Board of Ordained Ministry present to the Bishop
those who are to be commissioned, ordained, and recognized.
Each candidate stands as their name is read:*

Bishop Taylor

Who presents these candidates to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized?

Mr. Del Holley

Conference Lay Leader

We have recommended them in our local congregations.

We present them with our prayers and support.

The Reverend Mickey W. Rainwater

Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

We have examined these candidates according to the standards of our Discipline
and this annual conference of The United Methodist Church.

We present them with our prayers and support.

The Reverend Sharon Bowers

Chair, Order of Elders

We present these persons for ordination as elder.

We present them with our prayers and support.

Linda Joyce Lawson Bass

Sean Gabriel Hayden

Natalie Michelle Justice

Jason Lewis Ratliff

Virginia Kaye Seay

Joshua Emilé Swanson

Monty Lewis Walton

The Reverend Terry Goodman
Chair, Division of Elders

We present these persons for commissioning as provisional members
preparing for ordained ministry as elders

Christopher Sean Glenn *Samuel Garrett Hopson*
Melissa Kaye Ricketts Malcolm *Amy Suzanne Nutt*

We also present these persons for recognition as associate members.
We present them with our prayers and support.

William Clifford Rimmer *William Brance Stuart*

The Reverend Rebekah Fetzer
Chair, Order of Deacons

these persons to be ordained deacon:

Stephanie Ragsdale Parrott *Elizabeth Ann Openshaw Rudesil*

*After all the candidates have been presented,
they remain standing, and the Bishop says:*

These persons are by God's grace
to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized for set apart ministry
in Christ's Holy Church.

Those authorized by the Church to inquire about them
have discerned that they are persons
of sound learning and of Christian character,
possess the necessary signs of God's grace,
and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ.

Therefore, they believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent
to the ordination, commissioning, reception or recognition of these persons.

Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace,
to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized?

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God's help, we will.

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

*All remain seated except the candidates and the Bishop,
who stand facing one another. The Bishop examines the candidates
for commissioning, ordination, and recognition:*

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
you have been called
to an ordained, commissioned, or recognized status in set apart ministry.

The church now confirms your calling.

As ordained or commissioned ministers and associate members,
you are to be coworkers with all the people of God:

With laity, Bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors,
provisional members, diaconal ministers,
deaconesses, home missionaries, supply pastors,
with all who serve God in the Church.

Remember you are called
to serve rather than to be served,
to proclaim the faith of the church and no other,
to look after the concerns of God above all.

So we may know you believe yourselves
to be called by God
and that you profess the Christian faith we ask you:

Do you believe that God has called you
to the life and work of ordained or licensed ministry?

I do so believe.

Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

I do so believe and confess.

Are you persuaded
that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
contain all things necessary for salvation
through faith in Jesus Christ
and are the unique and authoritative standard
for the church's faith and life?

I am so persuaded, by God's grace.

Will you be faithful in prayer,
in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and with the help of the Holy Spirit
continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you do your best to pattern your life
in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you, in the exercise of your ministry,
lead the people of God
to faith in Jesus Christ,
to participate in the life and work of the community,
and to seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church,
accepting and upholding its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline,
defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word,
and committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you,
and to the Bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission,
covenant to participate in the life of the order, or fellowship
into which you are ordained, commissioned, or recognized?
Will you give yourself to God through the order or fellowship in
order to sustain and build each other up
in prayer, study, worship and service
under the rule of life set forth in the vows you take this day?

I will, with the help of God.

May God,
who has given you the will to do these things,
give you grace to perform them,
that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection.

Amen.

All may be seated.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***Apostles Creed**

Do you believe in God?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Bishop Taylor

The candidates for commissioning move to the stage and face the Bishop.

COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

The Bishop addresses the congregation:

By affirming the covenant of baptism,
all members of Christ's holy church pledge
to serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Christ gave all of us this command:

“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.”

We have asked, and the Lord has answered.

These sisters and brothers know our Savior's concern for God's people,
see the plentiful harvest,
and are ready to respond generously to the Lord
in the words of the prophet: “Here I am; send me.”

Urged on by the love of Christ and strengthened by the Holy Spirit,
they now come to declare in public
their desire to live out the covenant made at their baptism
by binding themselves to the service of God
under the supervision of the Bishop
and the guidance of colleagues in full connection
and by being appointed to share as servant leaders in the body of Christ.
Today we commission them to service
as they continue to prepare for ordained ministry among us.

PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

The candidates kneel.

The Bishop, extending arms over all of the candidates, prays:

God of the apostles and prophets, of the martyrs and teachers,
you raise up men and women to be apostolic leaders in your church.
By your Holy Spirit
help these, your servants,
to understand and live the mystery of your love with boldness and joy.
Deepen their sense of purpose
as they exercise commissioned ministry.
Empower them, and those who will walk with them to guide their ministry,
together with all of your people,
to heal the sick, love the outcast,
resist evil, preach the Word,
and give themselves freely for your name's sake.

Christopher Sean Glenn

Samuel Garrett Hopson

Melissa Kaye Ricketts Malcolm

Amy Suzanne Nutt

The Bishop, laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate, prays:

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Name*.
Send *him/her* now to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,
to announce the reign of God,
and to equip the church for ministry,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*Those being commissioned receive their certificates and Bibles.
All are seated after being commissioned.*

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

The elder candidates stand.

The Bishop examines the candidates for ordination as elder:

An elder

is called to share in the ministry of Christ
and of the whole church:
to preach and teach the Word of God

Here a large Bible may be lifted by an assistant.

and faithfully administer
the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion;

Here a paten and chalice may be lifted.

to lead the people of God in worship and prayer;
to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ;
to exercise pastoral supervision,
to order the life of the congregation and the connection,
to counsel the troubled,
and declare the forgiveness of sin;
to lead the people of God
in obedience to Christ's mission in the world;
to seek justice, peace, and freedom for all people;
and to take a responsible place in the government of the Church
and in service in and to the community.

This is the rule of life and work of an elder.

Do you believe that God has called you
to the life and work of an elder?

I do so believe.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

The Bishop, facing the ordinands, calls the people to prayer.

As these persons are ordained or recognized by the church
for the office and work of elders
to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray for them.

The people pray for them in silence.

The Bishop, with hands extended over those being ordained, prays:

We praise you, eternal God,
because you have called us to be a priestly people,
offering to you acceptable worship through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Apostle and High Priest, Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

We thank you that, by dying, Christ has overcome death
and, having ascended into heaven,
has poured forth gifts abundantly on your people,
making some apostles, some prophets,
some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
to build up Christ's body,
and to fulfill your gracious purpose in the world.

Give to these your servants the grace and power they need
to serve you in this ministry.

Make them faithful pastors, patient teachers, and wise
counselors. Enable them to serve without reproach,
to proclaim the gospel of salvation,
to administer the sacraments of the new covenant,
and to offer with all your people
spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*Candidates for ordination as elder and their sponsors and spouses move into position,
and elder candidates are invited to kneel before the Bishop one at a time as directed.*

Those who are to join in the laying on of hands will stand with the Bishop.

*Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are
for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for each ordinand.*

Linda Joyce Lawson Bass

Sean Gabriel Hayden

Natalie Michelle Justice

Jason Lewis Ratliff

Virginia Kaye Seay

Joshua Emilé Swanson

Monty Lewis Walton

The Bishop lays both hands on the head of each ordinand, praying:
Almighty God, pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit,
for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy church.

Amen.

*Immediately the candidate places hands on a Bible
as the Bishop lays hands on the hands of the ordinand and says:*

*Name, take authority as an elder
to preach the Word of God,
to administer the Holy Sacraments
and to order the life of the Church;
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

The ordinands receive their stoles and certificates and return to their seats.

EXAMINATION OF DEACONS

The deacon candidates move toward the bishop as directed.

The bishop examines the deacon candidates:

A deacon

is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood,
to relate the life of the community to its service in the world,
to lead others into Christian discipleship,
to nurture disciples for witness and service,

Here a large Bible may be lifted by an assistant.

to lead in worship,
to teach and proclaim God's Word,
to assist elders and appointed local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion,

Here a towel and basin with pitcher may be lifted by an assistant.

to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes,
to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed,
and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice,
liberation and reconciliation,
even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.

These are the duties of a deacon.

Do you believe that God has called you
to the life and work of a deacon?

I do so believe.

The bishop asks the candidate for ordination as deacon:

Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission
covenant to participate in the order of deacons?

Will you give yourself to God through the order of deacons
in order to sustain and build each other up
in prayer, study, worship, and service?

**I will, with the help of God,
and with the help of my sisters and brothers in the order of deacons.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR DEACONS

The bishop, facing the ordinand, calls the people to prayer:

As this person is ordained by God and the church
for the ministry of deacon
to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray for them.

The people pray for her in silence.

The bishop, with hands extended over the one being ordained, prays:

We thank you, Living God,
that in your great love
you sent Jesus Christ
to take the form of a servant,
becoming obedient even to death on the cross,
and now resurrected and exalted in the heavens.
You have taught us, by his word and example,
that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.
Give this servant grace to be faithful to her promises,
constant in her discipleship,
and always ready for works of loving service.
Make her modest and humble, gentle and strong,
rooted and grounded in love.
Give her a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served but to serve.

*The candidate for ordination as deacon
and her sponsors and spouse move into position,
and the deacon candidate is invited to kneel before the bishop as directed.*

Those who are to join in the laying on of hands will stand with the bishop.

*Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are
for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for the ordinand.*

Stephanie Ragsdale Parrott

Elizabeth Ann Openshaw Rudesil

The bishop lays both hands on the head of the ordinand, praying:

Almighty God, pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit
for the office and work of a deacon in Christ's holy church.

Amen.

*Immediately the candidate places hands on a Bible
as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the candidate and says:*

Name, take authority as a deacon
to proclaim the Word of God
and to lead God's people
in ministries of compassion and justice;
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBER

*Those persons to be recognized as associate member
move to the stage and face the Bishop.
The Bishop addresses them:*

You have served among us faithfully as a local pastor,
demonstrating your commitment to accept and uphold
the doctrine, liturgy and discipline of The United Methodist Church,
under the appointment of the Bishop.
You have now fulfilled the requirements
and been elected by the clergy session of this annual conference
as an associate member.

We rejoice that you have been called to serve among us,
and pray that God may guide your ministry.

William Clifford Rimmer

William Brance Stuart

The candidate comes forward, the Bishop greets him:

Name, we now recognize you as an associate member
in the name of the annual conference.

*The newly recognized associate members receive their
certificates and Bibles and return to their seats.*

COMMISSIONING FOR THE OFFICE OF DEACONESS AND HOME MISSIONER

*Deaconesses to be commissioned move into position
Presiding bishop to those being commissioned:*

Donna Ruth Galloway Camper ***Mitzi McCarty Sadler-Thorne***

Friends in Christ, we rejoice that you responded to God's call to servant in ministry as a deaconess / home missionary of The United Methodist Church. In your ministry you continue a tradition of service that is as vital today as it was in 1888 when the Office of Deaconess was first authorized in the Methodist tradition.

The call of God is always profound, and our response can be no less extraordinary. In the varied ministries of love, justice and service to which the Holy Spirit is leading you, you will testify to the infinite love of God in Christ Jesus. Such a lifetime vocation confers a great privilege; it also lays upon you a solemn responsibility.

In your consecration, you publicly declared your commitment:

- To engage in this lifelong work of love, justice and service and to assume its responsibilities led by the Spirit of God.
- To be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, in mutual relationship with the communities you serve and in all other means of grace available to you.
- To earnestly seek to carry forward your ministry call in sincerity and in love under the direction of the Church.
- To accept responsibility for participation in the mutually supportive deaconess and home missioner covenant community and for a lifetime of loving and supporting your sisters and brothers as part of the world diaconate.

Do you now affirm these commitments publicly in the presence of this assembly?

I do so publically affirm these declarations with God being my helper.

Today, we send you forth with our blessings and support.

All those to be commissioned kneel as able. Designated representatives from the community assist the bishop in the laying on of hands.

The bishop says:

Name, I commission you to the appointed ministry of *appointment* on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Presiding bishop to congregation:

Let us pray: Most Gracious God, source of all mercies, anoint these your servants with your Holy Spirit, enrich them with your grace, and strengthen them for the tasks which lie ahead. May their labors glorify your holy name, as they continue their daily work in ministries of love, justice and service on behalf of The United Methodist Church. Through your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Those who have been commissioned rise and turn to be greeted by the congregation.

To the church gathered here and around the world, I present our new *deaconesses*, consecrated and commissioned to a lifetime of Christ-like service under the authority of the Church. Thanks be to God!

***The Dismissal with Blessing**

As Jesus sent the disciples out in the countryside
to preach and to heal,
so Christ sends us out to speak words of hope
and to heal human hurts today.

We accept this mission to be God's people in the world.

Go on your way, rejoicing in the presence of God's Spirit,
and in the power of the gospel of love and hope.

For yours is the glory, O God, now and forever! Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**We are sent in the name of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

Processional

Please remain seated until the processional exits the sanctuary.

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*



Worship Participants:

Mary Virginia Taylor, Resident Bishop, Holston Area,
The United Methodist Church

Director of Liturgy and Assisting Deacon for Bishop Taylor

~ Rev. Glenna Manning, Concord UMC, Tennessee Valley District

Organist ~ Ms. Betsy Segraves, Concord UMC Tennessee Valley District

Pianist ~ Reverend Mike Stallings, Concord UMC, Tennessee Valley District

Historic Examination of Full Membership in the Annual Conference

Those being ordained this morning answered the following Historic Questions during the Clergy Session on Sunday afternoon of Annual Conference.

1. Have you faith in Christ?
2. Are you going on to perfection?
3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
4. Are you earnestly striving after it?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and His work?
6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
7. Will you keep them?
8. Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?
9. After full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
10. Will you preach and maintain them?
11. Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
12. Do you approve our Church government and polity?
13. Will you support and maintain them?
14. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
15. Will you visit from house to house?
16. Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
17. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
18. Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
19. Will you observe the following directions?
 - a. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
 - b. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

2016 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 336

The Service of Ordination and Commissioning

The United Methodist Church

The acts of ordination and commissioning, as well as consecrating and certifying, are anchored in the sacrament of baptism and the ministry of the baptized. These sign-acts are based on what is already implicit in baptism and rest upon the essential ministry given to all Christians in baptism. Within the church community, there are persons whose gifts, evidence of God's grace, and promise of future usefulness are affirmed by the community and who respond to God's call by offering themselves as ordained and licensed ministers.

These are the categories of persons who have responded to God's call and are set apart for ministry.

Recognition of Associate Members – These persons are full-time local pastors within the annual conference who are a part of the itinerant ministry of the church and are available on a continuing basis for appointment by the Bishop. These persons must have reached 40 years of age, have served four years as a full-time local pastor, must have completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry in addition to the studies for license as a local pastor, have declared their willingness to accept continuing full-time appointment, and other requirements for licensing and election as an associate member.

Commissioning – This act may be compared with the experiences of the early church in Antioch when the Holy Spirit instructed the community to “set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2) The act of commissioning relates persons to the annual conference as provisional members. These persons are being sent for service within the annual conference. Provisional members may be preparing for ministry as deacons or elders.

Deacons in Full Connection – These persons are ordained for the purpose of leading the Church in servanthood in the church and the world and to embody the interrelationship between worship in the Church and service to God in the world. Deacons are non-itinerant clergy called to ministries of word, service, compassion, and justice. They are members of the annual conference in full connection and become members of the Order of Deacons. The ministries of the deacon are symbolized by the Bible (Word) and the basin and pitcher (Service).

Elders in Full Connection – These persons are ordained for ministries of word, sacrament, and order. They are itinerant clergy subject to annual appointment by the Bishop to lead the gathered community in the celebration of the sacraments and the guidance and care of the church's communal life. Elders are members in full connection of the annual conference and become members of the Order of Elders. The ministries of the elder are symbolized by the Bible (Word), chalice and paten (Sacrament), and *The Book of Discipline* (Order).

Deaconess and Home Missioner – These persons are laywomen and laymen who are called by God to be in a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice, and service. Together we form a covenant community that is rooted in Scripture, informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope, and global in outreach.