

The Service for the Ordination of Deacons and Elders with Commissioning

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

Allegro Maestoso [Sonata II], Felix Mendelssohn
"Largo" from Xerxes, George F Handel
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need, Trad. American Melody, Arr. Robert Hebble
Rhosymedre, R. Vaughn Williams
Fanfare, Jacques Lemmens

CALL TO WORSHIP *All Standing*

From before the world began and beyond the end of eternity,
you are God.
From the sea bursting out of its womb to the wind ceasing from its chase,
you are God.
In the constancy of created things and in their fickleness,
you are God.
In the vastness of the universe and the forgotten corner of our hearts,
You are God.
You are our God, and we bless you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All Standing* Lord, You Give the Great Commission *Tune: Abbot's Leigh*
The UM Hymnal, # 584; Words: Jeffery Rowthorn, Hope Publishing Co, ©1978; Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941, Hope Publishing Co, ©1942, 1970;

**Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach,"
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive,"
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you bless with words assuring "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

GREETING AND PRAYER *All Standing*

The bishop greets the people who respond in bold type:

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 pull of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray.

Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

you gave to your apostles many gifts for ministry.

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**

All 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:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry. *All Seated.*

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED OR ORDAINED

A layperson and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry present to the bishop those who are to be commissioned and ordained.

Ken Ellis, Conference Lay Leader:

On behalf of the laity of local congregations who have examined and approved these candidates,

Derek Nakano, Board Co-Chair:

and on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of this annual conference,

which has recommended these persons, and this annual conference, which has approved them,

Together the layperson and the member of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

we present

this person to be commissioned for the work of a deacon,

these persons to be commissioned for the work of an elder,

these persons to be ordained deacons,

these persons to be ordained elders,

The full name of each candidate is read aloud by a presenter.

For those being commissioned and entering provisional connection: Melissa Mackinnon

For those being ordained and entering full connection: Doug Williams

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

These persons are by God's grace to be commissioned or ordained to 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, and possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God's help, we will!

Will you show your approval?

Congregation may stand and show its approval with applause.

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

All are seated except all the candidates and the bishop, who stand facing one another. The bishop examines the candidates for commissioning or ordination:

My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to a commissioned or ordained ministry. The church now confirms your calling. As commissioned or ordained ministers, you are to be coworkers with the laity, bishops, deacons, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, commissioned ministers, local pastors and elders.

Remember that 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 that we may know that 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 ministry?

I do so believe.

Do you believe in the Triune God, 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 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.

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.

All: **Amen.**

HYMN OF BLESSING *All Standing* God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian *Tune: Hyfrydol*
The UM Hymnal # 648, Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1987, ©1989 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1844; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906

**God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as your apostles to your church in every place.**

**Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.**

The Congregation is seated

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVES

GREETINGS The Reverend Albert G. Cohen, Southern California Ecumenical Council
The Right Reverend Alexei Smith, Southern California Ecumenical Council

SCRIPTURE Micah 6: 6-8 Colleen Windham-Hughes
Luke 10:25-28 Hieu Duc Phan

SERMON Do The Right Thing! Bishop Melvin G. Talbert

OFFERING FOR MINISTRY Imagine No Malaria *See description inside front cover* Keri Olsen

OFFERTORY Entrada Festiva Flor Peeters

DOXOLOGY *All Standing* Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow *Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen*
The UM Hymnal, #94; Words: Thomas Ken, adapt: Gilbert H. Viera; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *All Standing* Moonyoung Kathryn Lee

COMMISSIONING FOR MINISTRY AS DEACON AND ELDERS

INVOCATION HYMN *All Standing* "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" *Tune: Beach Spring*
The UM Hymnal, # 605; Words: Ruth Duck, 1987, © 1989 The UM Publishing House; Music: attr. to B. F. White, 1844; harm. By Ronald A. Nelson, 1978, © 1978, Lutheran Book of Worship

**Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.**

**O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!**

The Congregation is seated

The bishop addresses the congregation.

Bishop: 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 ordained colleagues 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 WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Bishop: Before these persons are commissioned by God and the church, let us pray for them.
Everyone is invited to pray in silence.

Bishop: 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, 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. Amen.

Family members and friends may join symbolically in the commissioning by silently standing when each candidate is named. The bishop, standing behind and laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate, prays:

Bishop: 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.

All affirm the action, saying, Amen.

PRAYER *After all the candidates have been commissioned. Bishop to Congregation:*

Bishop: Let us pray.

People: Generous God, may the grace of ministry rest upon these your servants and may the opportunity to serve lead them into the fullness of your calling. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that they may glorify you by giving themselves to others, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

EXAMINATION AND ORDINATION OF DEACONS

INVOCATION HYMN *All Standing* "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" *Tune: Beach Spring*
The UM Hymnal, # 605; Words: Sue D'Alessio, ©1992; Music: attr. to B. F. White, 1844; harm. By Ronald A. Nelson, 1978, ©1978, Lutheran Book of Worship

**Touch, O God, our sons and daughters, hold them in your love's embrace.
By your mercy, heal and guide them; strongly, gently, free in grace.
Give them vision, hope and courage; set their hearts and minds aflame.
Fill their lives with great compassion, as they serve in Jesus' name.**

EXAMINATION OF DEACONS

The bishop addresses the candidate.

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

Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop: In response to the call that was affirmed at your commissioning as a provisional deacon, will you continue to exemplify, and equip others for, lives of service?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

The bishop asks the Order of Deacons:

Bishop: I ask you, members of the order of deacons: Do you reaffirm your promise to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service including these persons now entering the order?

Deacons: I do, by God's grace, reaffirm my promise.

Bishop: Will you welcome these candidates and walk with them in mutual support and accountability in ministry?

Deacons: With God's help, I will.

Bishop: As these persons are 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 them in silence.

ORDINATION OF DEACON WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER

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

Bishop: 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 word and example, that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.

**People: Give these servants grace to be faithful to their promises,
constant in their discipleship, and always ready for works of loving service.
Make them modest and humble, gentle and strong, rooted and grounded in love.
Give them a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served but to serve. Amen.**

*Family members and friends may stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for the ordinand.
The bishop lays both hands on the head of each ordinand praying:*

Bishop: Almighty God, pour upon (Name) the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of a deacon in Christ's holy Church.

*All affirm the action, saying, **Amen.***

The candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop places a stole across the candidate's shoulder as a symbol of the yoke of Christ.

Bishop: (Name), take authority as a deacon to proclaim the Word of God, and to lead God's people to serve the world in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All affirm the action, saying, **Amen.***

The newly ordained deacon receives a token from Order of Deacons.

EXAMINATION AND ORDINATION OF ELDERS

INVOCATION HYMN *All Standing*

Together We Serve

Tune: San Anselmo

The Faith We Sing, #2175, Word and Music: Daniel Charles Damon, ©1998 Hope Publishing Co.

**Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast,
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.**

**We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.**

The Congregation is seated

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

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 and faithfully administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, order the life of the congregation, 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. These are the duties of an elder.

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

I do so believe.

Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the order of elders?
Will you give yourself to God through the order of elders in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

I will, with the help of God.

The bishop asks the Order of Elders:

Bishop: I ask you, members of the Order of Elders: Do you reaffirm your promise to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service including these persons now entering the order?

Elders: I do, by God's grace, reaffirm my promise.

Bishop: Will you welcome these candidates and walk with them in mutual support and accountability in ministry?

Elders: With God's help, I will.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

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

As these persons are ordained by God and the church for the ministry 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.

Bishop: 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 for Jesus and for the Spirit that empowers us all for ministry. We thank you for the abundance of gifts among us and in particular we thank you for the men and woman who stand before us. Give to these your servants the grace and power they need to serve you in this ministry.

People: Make them faithful pastors, patient teachers, and wise counselors.

**Enable them to serve without reproach, to proclaim the prophetic gospel of salvation,
to administer the sacraments of the new covenant, to order the life of the church
and to offer with all your people spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

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

Bishop: Almighty God, pour upon (Name) the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy Church.

All affirm the action, saying, Amen.

The candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop places a stole around the candidate's shoulders as a symbol of the yoke of Christ.

Bishop: (Name), take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All affirm the action, saying, Amen.

Newly ordained elders receive token from Order of Elders.

SENDING FORTH

PRAYER

Bishop: Let us pray.

People: We thank you, gracious God, for raising up among us faithful servants for ministry in your church. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

The bishop blesses the people:

The grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always.

A newly ordained deacon dismisses the people, saying:
Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

C. Michele Johns

We are sent in Christ's name.

Thanks be to God!

Please remain in your places until those on the chancel have processed out and postlude is concluded.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *All Standing*

For the Healing of the Nations

Tune: CWM Rhondda

The UM Hymnal #428, Words: Fred Kaan, 1965, ©1968 Hope Publishing Co. music: John Hughes, 1907

**For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word)
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, (hope increase)
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, (life's brief span)
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, (may find)
earth its destiny may find.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Suite Gothique

Leon Böellman

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The call to worship adapted from "In Spirit and in Truth" a worship book from the World Council of Churches, 7th Assembly, 1991, Geneva 2, Switzerland.

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Service Coordination

Music Director, Annual Conference: The Rev. Gregory Norton, Westwood UMC

Organist: John West

Trumpets: David Scott, David Etterbeek

Trombones: Jordan Robison, Stew Udem

Timpani: Bruce Anderson

Annual Conference Worship Committee: The Rev. Mary J. Scifres, Chair

Service Coordinator: The Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Claremont UMC

Logistics and Visuals: Sue Oeffler, Sue D'Alessio, Mary Scifres, Kathy Black

Artist who designed and made stoles: Melanie Little, Claremont UMC

Cathy Wilson: Administrative Coordinator to the LEMT, Board of Ordained Ministry

THE ORDER OF ELDER

Elders are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime of ministry for the tasks of faithful proclamation of the Word of God, administration of the sacraments, ordering of the ministry of the church, and service. Because elders have been ordained to ordering the ministry of the church and administering the Discipline, bishops and district superintendents are chosen from ordained elders. The elder is ordained to order the church for its mission and service and to lead the church in service to God in the world.

CANDIDATES TO BE ORDAINED IN FULL CONNECTION

M. Guadalupe Alonso-Redondo
Sarah Kathleen Heath
Paula Hulet
Thomas Keith Kendall
Moonyoung Kathryn Lee
Erin Michelle Maddox McPhee
Karen Clark Ristine
Rachel Allen Tabutol
Sung Woong (Joseph) Yoo

CANDIDATES TO BE COMMISSIONED IN PROVISIONAL CONNECTION

Garth C. Gilliam
Sung Ki Lee
Matthew Miles McPhee
Hieu Duc Phan
Robert Bradley Rhodes
Jessica Ashley Strysko
Valerie Lou Weise

THE ORDER OF DEACON

Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word and Service to both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connects the two. Deacons exemplify Christian discipleship, create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship, and connect the needs and hurts of the people with the church.

CANDIDATES TO BE ORDAINED IN FULL CONNECTION

Colleen Windham-Hughes
C. Michele Johns

CANDIDATE TO BE COMMISSIONED IN PROVISIONAL CONNECTION

Keri Leslie Olsen

Your Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) apportionments support the work of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and 13 United Methodist seminaries providing educational opportunities for these and other candidates for representative ministry.

We thank you!

It is requested that there be no flash or video photography during the service. DVD's of the service are available by calling Sue D'Alessio at The United Methodist Center 800-244-8622.