



Abide In Christ

The Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference
of The United Methodist Church

A Service of Licensing, Commissioning, & Ordination
June 20, 2023 | Renasant Convention Center | Memphis, TN

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ You're invited to stand in body or in spirit. | **Bold** words are spoken responsively.

ENTRANCE

This evening many of our clergy are wearing a white garment known as an alb. This ancient article of clothing is reminiscent of the tunic worn by most people in the first century—including Jesus—and is meant to symbolize baptism. As such it is a reminder of our connectedness to God and one another, and our common call to ministry.

GATHERING MUSIC

“Jubilate”

Sowande

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Isaiah 61.1-6a

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; ⁶but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God;

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN
CRUCIFER

“Lift High the Cross”

Kitchin, Newbolt, Nicholson

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

ALL: Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

ALL: Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

WOMEN: From north and south, from east and west we raise
in growing unison our song of praise.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

CHOIR: O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised draw the world to thee.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

WOMEN: Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our lives from death and hell.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

MEN: Set up thy throne that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

ALL: So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

+ GREETING & PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

The Creator of heaven and earth.

We come together as the Church
to offer praise and thanksgiving to 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 OUR COMMON MINISTRY & REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Ministry is the work of God,
done by the people of God
and given to each Christian as vocation.

Through baptism
all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers,
the Church made visible in the world.

God in Christ through the Holy Spirit
empowers us to 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 you are baptized, and be thankful.

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

Thanks be to God!

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE LICENSED, COMMISSIONED, OR ORDAINED

Bishop:

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

Conference lay representative:

We have recommended these persons in our local congregations.
We present them with our prayers and support.

Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members:

We present these persons for licensing as local pastor:

<i>Kimberly Dishaye Brann</i>	<i>James Daniel Phebus</i>
<i>David Allen Hill</i>	<i>Rebecca Lynn Purdue</i>
<i>Milo Arnett Lumpkin</i>	<i>Jerry Wayne Raines</i>
<i>Earna Jean Mitchell-Lane</i>	<i>Carol Lynn Reynolds</i>
<i>Kayla Jo Neese</i>	<i>Zachery A. Richards</i>
<i>Kevin Wayne Paschall</i>	

We present them with our prayers and support.

Chair of the 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.

Vice Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

We present these persons for commissioning ...
as provisional deacon:

Todd Martin Wilson

as provisional elder:

Susan Engle Carrigan
Steven Bradlee Lefebvre
Adam Joseph Rush

We present them with our prayers and support.

Chair of the Order of Deacons:

We present this person for ordination as deacon:

Nicole Lynn Poland Nyembo

We present her with our prayers and support.

Chair of the Order of Elders:

We present these persons for ordination as elder:

Tory Shane Dillard

Nathaniel Dejarnett Partee

Tondala Lashun Hayward

Christine Nitcholas Penner

Eliud Martinez Del Cid

We present them with our prayers and support.

These persons are by God's grace

to be licensed, commissioned, or ordained 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.

They possess the necessary gifts and evidence 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 in this representative ministry.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent

to the licensing, commissioning, or ordination of these persons.

Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace,

to be licensed, commissioned, or ordained?

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God's help, we will.

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

My sisters and brothers,

you have been called, by the Spirit of God working in you,
to a licensed, commissioned, or ordained ministry
within the people of God.

Christ's body, the Church, now confirms your calling.

As licensed, commissioned, or ordained ministers,

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,
and 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,
and to look after the concerns of God above all.

So that 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 licensed, commissioned, or ordained 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 reading and 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 fellowship or order
into which you are licensed, commissioned, or ordained?

Will you give yourself to God through the fellowship or order
to sustain and build one another 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.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

EPISTLE LESSON – Romans 10:9-17

⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ¹⁶But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC “The Majesty and Glory of Your Name” Fettke; Johnson

+ THE GOSPEL – John 10:11-18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord!

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON “Good Shepherds” Bishop Gregory V. Palmer

+ THE 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. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Jehovah Sabaoth”

Lawrence

This evening's offering will go toward the Jerusalem Fund.

THE LICENSING OF LOCAL PASTORS

Dear friends,

these persons have completed the requirements

for the license as a local pastor

and are recommended by their District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

We have inquired diligently concerning them

and have found them to be fit for this sacred vocation.

Do you believe you are moved by the Holy Spirit to serve as a local pastor?

I do.

Will you strive to live a life in keeping what you preach?

I will.

You are hereby authorized to serve as a local pastor

in the congregation to which you are appointed.

Take care that you perform these duties faithfully as much as you are able,

the Lord being your helper.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Word is truth,

in the keeping of which is eternal life:

We thank you for these persons,
whom we set aside in your name as local pastors.
Prepare them in body, mind, and spirit for their task,
and continue them in your grace,
that they may increase and bless your Church
through their labors;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Abide with Me” Crowder, Ingram, Maher, Redman
Abide with me, abide with me
Don't let me fall, and don't let go
Walk with me and never leave
Ever close, God abide with me

THE COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING

A provisional member
is bound to the service of God,
appointed and supervised by the bishop,
and guided by ordained and lay colleagues
of the Board of Ordained Ministry,
as they continue to grow in grace
and to practice and perfect their skills
in the ministries to which
they may later be ordained as deacon or elder.
This is the rule of life and work of a provisional member.

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 & LAYING ON OF HANDS

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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Full 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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Abide with Me” Crowder, Ingram, Maher, Redman
**Abide with me, abide with me
Don't let me fall, and don't let go
Walk with me and never leave
Ever close, God abide with me**

THE ORDINATION OF A DEACON

EXAMINATION OF THE DEACON

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,
especially in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.

This is the rule of life and work of a deacon.

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

I do so believe.

LAYING ON OF HANDS & PRAYER FOR THE DEACON

As this person is ordained by God and the Church
for the ministry of deacon
to which we believe she has been called by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for her.

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;
who now lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

Full 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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"Abide with Me" Crowder, Ingram, Maher, Redman
**Abide with me, abide with me
Don't let me fall, and don't let go
Walk with me and never leave
Ever close, God abide with me**

THE ORDINATION OF ELDERS

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

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 Holy Baptism and Holy Communion;
to lead the people of God in worship and prayer;
to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ;
to exercise pastoral supervision,
ordering the life of the congregation and the connection,
counseling the troubled,
and declaring the forgiveness of sin;
to lead the people of God
in obedience to Christ's mission in the world,
seeking 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 & PRAYER FOR ELDERS

As these persons are ordained by God and 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.

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, the Church,
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.**

Almighty God, pour upon *Full Name* the Holy Spirit,
for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy Church.
Amen.

Full 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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Abide with Me” Crowder, Ingram, Maher, Redman
**Abide with me, abide with me
Don't let me fall, and don't let go
Walk with me and never leave
Ever close, God abide with me
Ever close, God abide with me
Ever close, God abide with me
O, love that will not ever let me go
Love that will not ever let me go
You never let me go
Love that will not ever let me go**

SENDING FORTH

PRAYER

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God, for raising up among us faithful servants.
Clothe them with your righteousness,
and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer

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

+ RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Go Ye Now in Peace”

Eilers

**Go ye now in peace and know that the love of God surrounds you
Feel his presence here beside you
Showing you the way
In your time of trouble
When hurt and despair are there to grieve you**

Know that the Lord will never leave you; he will bring you courage
Know that the God who sent his Son to die that you might live
Will never leave you lost and alone in his beloved world.
Go ye now in peace. Go ye now in peace.

+ GOING FORTH

*Following worship, a reception
for the newly licensed, commissioned, or ordained and their families
will take place in the Lobby.*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

LECTORS - Ms. Mozell Starks, Mr. Jim Capps, & Rev. Marie King
MUSICIANS

Annual Conference Director of Music - Mrs. Cynthia Haley
Organist - Dr. Ashley Davis
Pianist - Mr. LaKendrick Little
Guitar - Mr. Christopher Bingham & Mr. Gerard Harris
Bass Guitar - Dr. Autry Parker, Jr.
Percussion - Mr. Roney Simleton & Mr. Nygel Yancey
Orchestra - The Covenant UMC Orchestra
Soloist - Ms. Jessica Merriweather, Alto

LEADERSHIP

Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry - Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel
Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members - Rev. Kevin Marston
Vice-Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry - Rev. Stephen Sauls
Chair, Order of Deacons - Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lewis
Chair, Order of Elders - Rev. Dr. Paula Smith
Assisting Deacons - Rev. Jedediah Hanes & Rev. Keri Cress
Assisting Elders - Rev. Theresa Johnson & Rev. Carlos Uroza
Preacher - Bishop Gregory V. Palmer
Resident Bishop - Bishop William T. "Bill" McAlilly

“Jubilate” comp. Fela Sowande, ©2017 GIA Publications. One License A-740437.
“Lift High the Cross” comp. George Kitchin, Michael Newbolt, Sydney Nicholson, ©1974 Hope Publishing. CCLI #5433626. Arranged by PJ Janson, ©2017 PJ Janson. Used with Permission.
“The Majesty and Glory” comp. Tom Fettke and Linda Lee Johnson, ©1979 Curb Wordspring Music, Curb Word Music. CCLI #5433626.
“Jehovah Sabaoth (God of Angel Armies)” comp. Donald Lawrence, ©2018 QW Publishing (BMI). Used with Permission.
“Abide with Me” comp. David Crowder, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, Matt Redman, ©2015 Administrators: Capitol CMG Publishing, Essential Music Publishing LLC. CCLI #5433626.
“Go Ye Now in Peace” comp. Joyce Eilers, ©1981 Jenson Publications. CCLI #5433626.