



A Service of Worship for
the Commissioning of Provisional Members
and the Ordination of Elders



June 18, 2024 | 7:00 PM
First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro, Tennessee

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN "The Church's One Foundation"

UMH 546

WORDS: S. Stone; adapt. L. Stookey MUSIC: S. Wesley

AURELIA

**The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.**

**Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.**

**Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watching are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

**We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.**

**Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

+ GREETING AND PRAYER

The Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry greets the people and they respond:

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Dear friends, 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 OUR COMMON MINISTRY
AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The bishop, standing near the baptismal font, 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 pours water into the font, and says:

Remember you are baptized, and be thankful.

**We reaffirm our baptism
and our common call to ministry.
Thanks be to God!**

All but the bishop are seated. The bishop remains by the font, facing the people.

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS
TO BE COMMISSIONED OR ORDAINED

Bishop:

Who presents these candidates to be commissioned or ordained?

Conference Lay Leader:

The laity have recommended these candidates in our local congregations.
We present them with our prayers and support.

Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

The Board of Ordained Ministry 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 (candidates stand as their name is called, and remain standing):

We present

*Amber Marie Armistead
Tracey Parris Capelety*

for commissioning as provisional elders, and

*Shelby Lynn Bowles
Anne Inkster Culver
Hope Cody Peppers*

for commissioning as provisional deacons.
We present them with our prayers and support.

Chair of the Order of Elders (candidates stand as their name is called, and remain standing):

We present

*Luke Benjamin Lea
Sharlet Ujwalkumar Panhalkar
Donald Johnson Terry*

for ordination as elder.
We present them with our prayers and support.

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 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 Christian character,
who possess the necessary signs of God's grace,
and who 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.

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

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

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
you have been called
to a commissioned or ordained status in set apart ministry.
The Church now confirms your calling.

As 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 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 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 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
into which you are commissioned or ordained?
Will you give yourself to God through the order
that you might 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.

All audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.

All are seated.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

ANTHEM	"How Lovely Are the Messengers," from <i>St. Paul</i>	Mendelssohn
THE FIRST READING		1 Peter 4.7-11
+ THE GOSPEL		Mark 10.35-45

After the reading:

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord!

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON "Qualities of the Ordained"

+ 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 was 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.**

All are seated.

OFFERING "Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)"* arr. Trenney

*This evening's offering will go to the Jerusalem Fund,
which provides financial assistance to conference families in emergency situations.
To give, you may scan the QR code on the screen
or drop your offering in the plates as they're passed. Thank you!*

+ DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94
WORDS: T. Ken; adapt. G. Vieira MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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!**

COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Candidates for commissioning rise and move to the chancel rail, facing the congregation. The Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry begins:

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.

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 the harvest.”
We have asked, and the Lord has answered.
These sisters 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 at the chancel rail.

The bishop, facing the congregation and extending arms over all 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.

The bishop, laying both hands on the shoulders of each candidate, prays:

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Full Name*.
Send 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 audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen. The newly commissioned return to be seated.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"
WORDS: J. Rowthorn MUSIC: C. Taylor

UMH 584, st. 1
ABBOT'S LEIGH

**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.**

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

The elder candidates stand and move toward the chancel rail, facing the congregation. The Chair of the Order of Elders begins:

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

A large Bible is lifted by an assistant.

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

A paten and chalice are lifted by an assistant.

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.

The candidates face the bishop, who asks the candidates:

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 candidates, calls the people to prayer:

As these persons are ordained 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 bishop, with hands extended over the candidates, 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 for ever. **Amen.**

Candidates for ordination kneel before the bishop one at a time.

Those who are joining in the laying on of hands stand with the bishop. When the bishop lays hands on the head of the ordinand, others may lay hands on the ordinand's back or shoulders.

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

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

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

All audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.

Immediately the ordinand places both hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the ordinand and says:

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.

All audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.

Each newly ordained elder is immediately clothed with a yoke stole.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"
WORDS: J. Rowthorn MUSC: C. Taylor

UMH 584, st. 5
ABBOT'S LEIGH

**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.**

SENDING FORTH

The bishop says:

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. 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 always.
Go in peace
to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

**We are sent in Christ's name.
Thanks be to God!**

+ RECESSIONAL HYMN "God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian"

UMH 648

WORDS: C. Daw, Jr. MUSIC: R. Prichard; harm. *The English Hymnal*

HYFRYDOL

**God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-sped 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 bold apostles to your church in every place.**

**Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, word made flesh, love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care;
grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.**

**Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts
oversee her life steadfastly yet not overlook her faults.**

**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.**

+ + +

*Following worship, a reception
for the newly commissioned and ordained and their families
will be held in the Family Life Center.*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Matthew Phelps	Music Director
Andrew Risinger	Organist
Michael Arndt	Trumpet
Alec Blazek	Trumpet
Angela DeBoer	Horn
David Loucky	Trombone
Chris Combest	Tuba
The Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel	Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry
Ms. Janice McCallen	Conference Lay Leader
The Rev. Stephen Sauls	Vice Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry
The Rev. Dr. Paula Smith	Chair, Order of Elders
The Rev. Katie Woodard	Lector
The Rev. Jerome Scales, Jr.; The Rev. Lanita Monroe	Assisting Elders
Bishop Joe E. Pennel, Jr.	Preacher
Bishop William T. (Bill) McAlilly	Resident Bishop

Special thanks to members of Murfreesboro First United Methodist Church
who served as greeters and ushers this evening,
and to Wesley students who served as crucifer and acolytes.

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Discipleship Ministries, 2016).