

**THE SERVICE FOR
COMMISSIONING, ORDINATION
AND RETIREMENT**
Complete Text



Taking the next faithful step

THE SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Resident Bishop

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

Bishop of the North Alabama Annual Conference

7:00 P.M.

June 6, 2021

Florence Center
Florence, South Carolina

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

Gathering Music Aiken Civic Orchestra String Quintet

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee..... HYMN TO JOY

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore the, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

Words: Henry Van Dyke, 1989
Music: Ludwin van Beethoven, 1824
UMH #89 CCLI #2825634

* GREETING AND PRAYER

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 OUR COMMON MINISTRY
AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

All but the bishop may be seated.

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 scoop and pour water from the font, shell, or vessel and say:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry.

Thanks be to God!

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE ORDAINED AND COMMISSIONED

(As the full name of each candidate is read the candidate stands.)

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston asks:

Who presents these candidates to be ordained or commissioned?

Ms. Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader:

We have commended them in our local congregations.

We present them with our prayers and support.

Rev. Morris Waymer, Vice-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.

Rev. Kathryn Hunter, Chair, Order of Elders:

We present

Wanda Diane Altman-Shirah

Susan Marie Pennock

Shannon Renee Bullion

Nicholas Daniel Perez

William Isaac Dusenbury

Justin Lee Ritter

Tammy Nicole Grey

for ordination as elder.

We present them with our prayers and support.

Rev. Leatha Brown, Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry:

We present

Peter Kent Berntson

Joseph Daniel Kovas

Carsten Aubrey Bryant

Amanda Geddings Richardson

Mason Heyward Cantey

James Brunson Rogers

John Clarence Elmore Jr. +

James William Smith

Alisha Christine Hansen

Thessa Goodwin Smith

for commissioning as provisional members

preparing for ordained ministry as elders

Rev. Karen Jones, Chair, Order of Deacons:
and **Margaret Rosa Cantey**
preparing for ordained ministry as a deacon.
We present her with our prayers and support.

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

These persons are by God's grace to be ordained and commissioned 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 or
commissioning of these persons.

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

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God's help, we will!

GENERAL EXAMINATION

*All remain seated, except the candidates and 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 an ordained or commissioned in set apart ministry.
The Church now confirms your calling.

As ordained or commissioned ministers,
you are to be coworkers with all of 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 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 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,
into which you are ordained, commissioned or recognized?

Will you give yourself to God through the order
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.
All audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.
All may be seated.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

ANTHEM

Speak, O Lord Stuart Townend

*APOSTLES CREED Thessa Smith, Provisional Elder Candidate

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.**

THE SERMON SCRIPTURE

Acts 11:19-26 NRSV Justin Ritter, Full Elder Candidate

*THE GOSPEL

Rev. Karen Jones, Chair, Order of Deacons:
The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to *Matthew 28:16-20 NRSV*

Matthew 28:16-20 NRSV Wanda Altman-Shirah, Full Elder Candidate

Rev. Karen Jones, Chair, Order of Deacons: The gospel of our Lord!
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON

*“Taking the Next Faithful Step:
Disciples Building Disciples”*

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

OFFERING Rev. Jeffery Salley

(The virtual offering this evening is for *SC Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund*, an endowment of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, which provides scholarship awards to candidates for ministry from South Carolina attending United Methodist seminaries and theological schools. Checks should be made payable to Treasurer, SC Conference, memo line: *Seminary Students Scholarship Fund*.)

COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Candidates for commissioning stand and face the bishop. 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 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 your people,
to heal the sick,
love the outcast,
resist evil,
preach the Word,
and give themselves freely for your name's sake.

The candidates move individually to the kneeler on the stage. When in place, candidate kneels.

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.**

All audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.

THE EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

The candidates to be ordained are to stand and face the bishop. The bishop examines the elder 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 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,
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.

PRAYER FOR ELDERS AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

The bishop, facing the ordinands, calls the people to prayer, using these words:

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.

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.

Candidates pick up a stole from the rail and move individually to the kneeler on the stage. When in place, candidate kneels.

Family members and friends may 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 the ordinand, praying:

Almighty God, pour upon *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 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,
and to administer the Holy Sacraments.
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
(The bishop will place stoles on new elders.)
All audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.*

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

*The bishop addresses the retiring class of 2020 and 2021 saying,
Brothers and sisters in Christ,
at your ordination you received authority to serve the world,
to read the Holy Scriptures, to preach the Word, to serve and celebrate the Sacraments
and to order the life of the Church.
At your consecration you received authority to equip the people of God,
and to embody the unity of the congregation's worship and life
with its life in the world.
By God's grace you did many things that seemed to be above your power.
Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you.
Continue to be true to your calling. May God's love and power be with you always.*

Rev. Christopher Lollis reads the names of those who are retiring in 2020 and 2021.

RETIREMENT CLASS OF 2020

*Minnie Pearl Anderson
Richard Charles Andrews
Dan Lindsay Batson
Douglas Odell Benton
Ollie Mae Boyd
William Michael Bruce
Karl David Caughman, Jr.
Robert Clayton Childers
Elizabeth Jane Collier
Rebecca Ruth Collier
Carl Edward Collier
John Bunyan Crouch, Jr.
James. M. Dawsey
Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.
George Hovaness Donigian
Robert Edward Dunn
Linda Bodie Dunn
Janice Lajuanah Frederick-Watts
Ben Michael Gafford
Dora Rogers Gafford
Steven Douglas Gaither
Stephen Andy Garner
Joshua Gaskins*

*Jack Williamson Gibson
Alfred Valentine Griffin, Jr.
Benjamin Wade Herlong
Robert Joseph Howell, Jr.
Franklin Delano James, Sr.
Alfonza Jones, Sr.
Robert Paul Keely
Kenneth Ryan Kennerly
David Emory Lupo
Janice Lee Mabey
Mack C. McClam
Linda Elkin McDaniel
Thomas Jefferson Pearson, Jr.
Timothy Scott Reeves
James Albert Ross
Clyde E. Scott
Faye Jones Stephens
Gayle Summey Beaudrot
William Lewis Thompson
Judy Hames Turner
Lawrence Allan Watson
Thurmond Williams*

RETIREMENT CLASS OF 2021

Ebbie Sims Abraham
James Steven Arant
David Derrick Bauknight
Thomas Jesse Bowman Sr.
Timothy Jacob Bowman
Richard Alan Broomall
Major Brown III
David Wiscomb Canine
Carol Rexroad Cannon
Robert Tomlinson Cannon
Michael Edward Catoe
Nellie Gray Cloninger
Robert Belin Collingwood
David Wayne Day
Timothy Espar
Robert Irving Goulart
John Preston Grimsley
Oliver Julius Hadden, Jr.

Michael Bernard Henderson
William Faison Heustess, Jr.
Joseph Robert Huggins
Richard Carl Jayroe
Thomas Harmon Norrell
Kenneth Dwayne Owens
Patricia Jean Parrish
Gary Alan Peterson
Gary Duane Phillips
Fredericka Whaley Phipps
Alan Nathan Quarles
Bruce Arthur Sayre
Jerry Wayne Shaw
Steven Lynn Shugart
Theron Walker Smith, Jr.
Thurmond Kemzy Thomas
Mark Ernest Thompson
Neil Malone Yongue

The Bishop leads the people in prayer.

Let us pray together.

God of grace,

you fill your servants with vision and empower them with your Spirit.

We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men,

and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them.

Give them a sense of your abiding presence,

that they may continue to love and serve you,

and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray. Amen

PASSING OF THE MANTLE

A representative of the retiring class and a representative of the new full member class kneel.

The bishop takes the stole and places it on the shoulders of the representative of the retiring class.

Bishop Holston:

In the book of Kings, we read of the prophet Elijah's ministry.

The mantle, symbolic of submission to God, fell upon the younger prophet, Elisha,
and the spirit of Elijah rested upon Elisha.

The representative of the retiring class rises and places the mantle on the shoulders of the representative of the new full member class, saying:

Rev. Patricia Parrish: (retiring representative)

I transfer this mantle from our generation to the young,

indicating thereby that the responsibilities and dedication of the older generation
will be caught up and carried on by the young,

and the spirit of today's Elijahs will rest upon today's Elishas.

The representative of the new class rises, turns to the retiring representative and says:

Rev. Isaac Dusenbury *(newly ordained representative)*

We who come after you take up the mantle which falls upon us.
May we inherit a double share of your spirit.

Bishop Holston responds

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bear with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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. 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.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON**

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739
 Music: Carl Glaser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839
 UMH #57 CCLI 2825634/Public Domain

Deacon Karen Jones dismisses the people, using these or similar words:

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!

THE POSTLUDE

Alleluia Mozart

Congregation please remain in your seats until dismissed by the ushers.

*The people standing. If it is uncomfortable for you to stand, please remain seated and continue your participation.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

+ previously ordained in another tradition who's orders are being recognized and is being received as a Provisional member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- Crucifer Joshua R. Colvin, Candidate for Ministry
- Episcopal Banner Bearer Raymond Gibbs, Candidate for Ministry
- Acolyte Alexis J. Lain, Candidate for Ministry
- Accompanist Mrs. Carla Fleming
- Soloist Dr. Catherine Stapleton Nance
- String Quintet Aiken Civic Orchestra String Quintet

The **Bible** presented to each Provisional Deacon and Elder
 and the **Stole** presented to each Full Elder
 are gifts of the candidate's home church or charge presently served.

The following questions have been asked by Bishop Holston during the 2021 Clergy Session and all provisional deacon and elder candidates have responded positively.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is a solemn hour in your life and a high moment in the proceedings of this conference. You are following in the footsteps of those who have sought to spread scriptural holiness through the lands of the earth. There is no calling more sacred than that which you now enter, and there is no privilege more meaningful than that which comes to you through this holy ministry.

In the presence of this Clergy Session I ask you:

Are you convinced that you should enter the ordained ministry of Christ's holy Church?

I am.

Are you willing to face any sacrifices that may be involved?

I am.

Are you in debt so as to interfere with your work, or have you obligations to others that will make it difficult for you to live on the salary you are to receive?

No.

For the sake of a disciplined example, are you willing to respect the purity of life in body, in mind, and in spirit?

I am.

Are you willing to relate yourself in ministry to all persons without regard to race, color, or national origin, including receiving them into the membership of the Church?

I am.

Will you keep before you as the one objective of your life the advancement of the reign of God?

I will.

The following questions have been asked by Bishop Holston during the 2021 Clergy Session and all full elder candidates have responded positively.

You have indicated that you are convinced you should enter the ministry of Christ's holy Church. You have declared that you are willing to face any sacrifice that may be involved in the consecration of life. You have indicated that you are so situated in life that you can accept the obligations of the itinerant ministry. You have affirmed that you will respect the purity of life in body, mind, and spirit, and that you will keep before you as the one objective of your life the advancement of the reign of God. Remember the words of Christ, who said: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

In accordance with the usage and *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church and the historic usages of our communion, and in the presence of this conference, I ask you:

Have you faith in Christ?

I have.

Are you going on to perfection?

I am, by the grace of God.

Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?

God willing, I do.

Are you earnestly striving after it?

With God's help, I am.

Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?

I am so resolved.

Do you know the General Rules of our Church?

I do.

Will you keep them?

I will so endeavor.

Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?

I have studied them.

After full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?

I believe that they are.

Will you preach and maintain them?

To the best of my ability, I will.

Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity?

I have.

Do you approve our church government and polity?

I do so approve.

Will you support and maintain them?

I will, with God's help.

Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?

I will.

Will you visit from house to house?

This is my commitment.

Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, by both precept and example?

I will so recommend.

Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?

That is my intention.

Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?

I am not.

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.

The Lord being my helper, I will.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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