

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Hello, my name is Morris Waymer, and I am the chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. We appreciate your taking the time to review our report to the 2024 South Carolina Annual Conference, which you can read at umcsc.org/ac2024.

The Board of Ordained Ministry is composed of both clergy and lay members who are completely committed to providing faithful servant leadership. We give our time and share our exceptional gifts to the ministry of leadership development with the candidates. As a team, we constantly pray to affirm the calling of each candidate for ministry. We walk with and nurture candidates who seek ordination. We aim to encourage excellence, show compassion, listen attentively, and ultimately guide candidates towards progress – from being ready to become fit for ministry.

We are forever grateful for each member of the Board of Ordained Ministry so that we can develop excellent leaders in various ministry settings. We continue to adapt our interview process and live into how we can make things better. Our Executive Committee meetings are held via Zoom. 2024 marks the second year we have been able to have in-person Provisional and Full Member interviews. We are appreciative of the feedback we have received and strive to make the necessary adjustments.

The goal remains the same. We will continue to work efficiently and be faithful in our two main responsibilities: developing leaders and credentialing clergy.

On Sunday evening, June 9, 2024, at 7 p.m., the Service of Commissioning and Ordination will be held at the Greenville Convention Center to celebrate the fruit of persons who have answered a call to ministry and successfully navigated the requirements for commissioning and ordination. These persons are valued as meeting the standards of readiness and effectiveness for ministry in the local church and other ministry settings.

As of April 16, 4 people are scheduled to be ordained as full elders: Morgan Barner Byars, Kenneth Bernard Middleton, Martin Luther Quick, and James William Smith. I will share updated information about this group at Annual Conference.

One person will be ordained as a full deacon: Katherine Miller Bariou.

3 people will be commissioned as provisional elders: Kendell Linh Healy, Paige Danielle Wheeler, and Nona Margaret Woodle. I will share updated information about this group at Annual Conference.

One person will be received as an Associate Member: Edward Timothy Stallworth III.

Matthew Alexander, who was previously ordained in another Methodist Denomination, will have his orders recognized and is being received as a full member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Daniel Hembree, who was previously ordained in another Christian Denomination, will have his orders recognized and is being received as a provisional member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Edward McKnight, who was previously ordained in another Christian Denomination, will have his ordination recognized and is being received as a local pastor of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The Board of Ordained Ministry would also like to recognize those who have reached an achievement in their continued preparation for effective ministry. The following persons completed the five-year Basic Course of Study in 2023: Vaughn Edison Chichester, George Palmer Hudson, James William Lewis, Sr., and Sandra Guild Stillinger. Thank you for your commitment to completing this educational goal.

We humbly give thanks that each person who has responded to a call to ministry and a commitment to their education, commissioning, and ordination. We ask for God's blessing on their continual journey in ministry, mission, service, and witness. We encourage all local churches and other ministry settings to invite persons to explore a calling to ministry and to prayerfully nurture that calling into leadership.

I want to say thank you to all churches in the South Carolina Annual Conference for the generous giving you share. Your apportionment dollars and giving towards United Methodist Special Sundays provide scholarships for people attending seminary to achieve the necessary education to equip them for ministry. The scholarship recipients that we have received information from are Heather Connor, Amber Forrest, Leah Huggins, Tyner Jiunnies, and Renee Ritter.

We are thankful to local churches and the Annual Conference for ongoing support for the Ministry Education Fund. Through your bountiful giving, the Board of Ordained Ministry has provided financial assistance to students, reducing the cost of their education. We pray you will continue to be faithful in your support of our future leaders as they remain dedicated in their leadership development toward excellence in ministry. Please send your offering to the S.C. Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund, an endowment of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, which provides scholarships to candidates for ministry from South Carolina attending United Methodist seminaries and theological schools. Your financial gifts are truly welcome. We will update you on these recipients during Annual Conference.

District Committees on Ordained Ministry play a crucial role in the ministry process by meeting with all candidates for ministry. They are an extension of the Board of Ordained Ministry and provide the first line of nurture and accountability for individuals in the process. The Board of Ordained Ministry is deeply grateful for the hard work and gracious dedication of every District Committee.

We celebrate God's call on lives to serve, lead, and experience the joy of ministry. Ministry is a continual journey, and we faithfully provide opportunities for growth to occur. The Board of Ordained Ministry works tirelessly to plan the yearly Bishop's School of Ministry and Clergy Orders gatherings. We recruit and engage seminarians as potential and hopeful leaders in the South Carolina Conference, discern and process Extension Ministry requests as the field of ministry shifts, and participate in Approval for Service requests for persons seeking to join our Annual Conference. We receive and prayerfully process requests for Change of Status of candidates and clergy, and engage persons discerning a call to ministry through the Candidacy

Retreats. These are just a few of the ongoing responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

As a Board of Ordained Ministry in the South Carolina Conference, we rely on the support of our local churches to identify and nurture candidates interested in pursuing ministry. We are committed to providing holistic and accountable care to all those who feel called to serve Jesus Christ. Though our parish may have evolved, we believe that ministry can still bring hope, joy, and grace to our lives. As a team, we pledge to faithfully attend to the needs of every person on their ministry journey.

The Board of Ordained Ministry would like to express our gratitude for the devoted and competent leadership of two remarkable individuals. First, we appreciate the efforts of Rev. Mel Arant, who serves as the Coordinator of Clergy Services. Second, we acknowledge the exceptional contributions of Mr. Sharome Henry, who works as the Executive Assistant for Clergy Services. Their expertise, guidance, and affection for all people have been invaluable to our Board. We recognize that the efficient execution of our tasks would not have been possible without their direction, leadership, knowledge, proficiency, and dedication.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry as you prepare for the 2024 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Again, you can read our full report at umcsc.org/ac2024.