

## THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

We appreciate you reviewing our report to the 2026 South Carolina Annual Conference, available at [umcsc.org/ac2026](http://umcsc.org/ac2026).

The Board of Ordained Ministry unites dedicated clergy and lay members to nurture future ministry. We invest time and talents in developing candidates, affirming their calling through prayer and support. Together, we encourage excellence, demonstrate compassion, and listen attentively, guiding them toward ordination and preparing them for a fulfilling ministry.

On Sunday evening, June 7, 2026, at 7 p.m., a Service of Commissioning and Ordination will take place at the Greenville Convention Center. This ceremony will celebrate individuals who have answered the call to ministry and successfully met the requirements for commissioning and ordination. These individuals are recognized as having attained the standards of readiness and effectiveness for ministry in local churches and other ministry settings.

The full elder ordination class is: Darlene Brenda Richardson, James Brunson Rogers, and Nona Margaret Woodle.

The provisional elder commissioning class is: Mary Antoinette Gaboton-Moss, Tyner Joseph Jiunnies, John Nicholas Kronz, Renee Moore Ritter, and Paula Jean Stover.

The provisional deacon commissioning class is: Amber Scates Forrest, Sandra Charlene MacMillan, and Natalie Faye Taylor.

Darlene Dellinger will be received as a provisional elder and transferring from a Non-Methodist Christian Denomination.

Daniel Troy Hembree, who was previously received as a provisional elder from a Non-Methodist Christian Denomination, will now have his ordination recognized and be received as a full elder in the South Carolina Annual.

Laurel Alice Capesius, who is an ordained elder in another United Methodist Conference, will transfer her membership to the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Karen Lail Jones, who was previously ordained as a Deacon in our conference, will transition from the order of Deacon and will be ordained an Elder.

Joshua Willam Tietje, who was previously ordained in another Methodist Denomination, will have his ordination recognized and will be received as a full elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

We thank everyone who has answered the call to ministry and committed to their education and ordination. We ask for God's blessings on their journey. We encourage local churches to invite individuals to explore their calling and nurture it through prayer.

The Board of Ordained Ministry will recognize the people who have completed the five-year Basic Course of Study for 2025 and received United Methodist Special Sunday scholarships at the Annual Conference.

We want to thank the local churches and the Annual Conference for supporting the Ministry Education Fund. Your contributions have helped reduce students' educational costs.

Please continue to support our future leaders committed to excellence in ministry. Direct your offerings to the S.C. Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund, managed by the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, which provides scholarships to ministry candidates from South Carolina attending United Methodist seminaries.

We appreciate your generosity and will update you on the recipients during the Annual Conference.

District Committees on Ordained Ministry are essential to the ministry process as they meet with all candidates for ministry. These committees act as an extension of the Board of Ordained Ministry, offering crucial support and accountability to individuals. The Board of Ordained Ministry greatly values the hard work and dedication of every District Committee member.

We celebrate God's call for individuals to serve, lead, and experience the joy of ministry. Ministry is a continuous journey, and we are committed to providing growth opportunities. The Board of Ordained Ministry works diligently to plan the annual Bishop's School of Ministry and Clergy Orders gatherings. We actively recruit and engage seminarians as potential leaders in the South Carolina Conference. Additionally, we discern and process Extension Ministry requests as the ministry landscape evolves, and we participate in the Approval for Service requests for those seeking to join our Annual Conference. We actively receive and carefully consider requests for status changes from candidates and clergy. Additionally, we engage with individuals who feel a call to ministry through our Candidacy Retreats. We have reimagined our vision and need all clergy and local churches to assist us as we revitalize our goal of investing in our youth who may

feel called to serve. For the second year, we hosted a time for youth, Called SC, to explore what a call into ministry may look like. This year, it was planned for Saturday, May 16, 2026. We also work in harmony with Connectional Ministries, CFA, Pension and Health Benefits, Congregational Development, Lay Leadership, and Communications as the Ministry Advisory Team. We strive to listen to God as we find a way forward to see our possibilities in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The Board of Ordained Ministry extends heartfelt gratitude to two exceptional leaders: Rev. Mel Arant, Coordinator of Clergy Services, and Rev. Sharome Henry, Executive Assistant for Clergy Services. Their expertise, guidance, and compassion have been invaluable to our Board, and we recognize that our accomplishments would not have been possible without their dedicated leadership.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry as you prepare for the 2026 South Carolina Annual Conference session. Again, you can read our full report at [umcsc.org/ac2026](http://umcsc.org/ac2026).