

Ordination Service

**Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
June 15-17, 2017**



231st Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456

Service of Commissioning and Ordination

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks
Oaks, Pennsylvania

Friday, June 16, 2017
7:00 PM

Resident Bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Participating Bishop
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

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East District
Northeast District
Northwest District
Southeast District
Southwest District

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Rev. Tracy Bass
Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto
Rev. H. Joe Tyson
Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm
Rev. Bumkoo Chung

Conference Lay Leader

Mr. David Koch

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*The Board of Ordained Ministry welcomes you to this Service of Commissioning and Ordination. This worship service is a time of celebration and reverence. We ask that you honor those who are commissioned and ordained not with your applause but with your prayer. **Please silence your phones.***

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Job 28, Proverbs 9)

One: Where shall wisdom be found?
Many: Where is the place of understanding?
One: It cannot be bought for gold;
Many: its price cannot be measured in silver.
One: Gold and glass cannot equal it;
Many: the price of wisdom is above pearls.
One: Where, then, does wisdom come from?
Many: Where is the place of understanding?
One: It is hidden from the eyes of the living,
Many: yet God alone understands the way to it.
One: For God looks to the ends of the earth
Many: and sees everything under the heavens.
One: God saw wisdom and spoke of it;
Many: established wisdom and searched it out.
One: Holy awe of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
Many: Let us, with God's wisdom, rise up and lead!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMNS

“CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS”

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

“PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY”

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely God’s goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with God’s love doth befriend thee.
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o’er thee.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the “amen” sound from God’s people again;
gladly forever adore him.

“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

*GREETING AND PRAYER

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: 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.

**People: 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 our people may follow where you lead,
perfect our ministries,
and live in joyful obedience to your will,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

***AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Bishop: Ministry is the work of God,
done by the people of God.
In the earliest days of Christ's Church,
God's people were commissioned to make disciples,
to baptize, to serve, to teach.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read:

***GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 28:18-20**

¹⁸Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

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.

The bishop presents the symbol of water, recalling our common baptism.

Therefore, in celebration of our common baptism
and our common ministry,
I call upon all God's people gathered here:

Remember you are baptized, and be thankful!

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

***BAPTISMAL HYMN – “THIS IS THE SPIRIT’S ENTRY NOW”**

1. This is the Spirit’s entry now:
 the water and the word,
 the cross of Jesus on your brow,
 the seal both felt and heard.

2. Let water be the sacred sign
 that we must die each day,
 to rise again by his design
 as followers of his way.

3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise
 for your baptismal power
 that washes us through all our days.
 Lord, cleanse again this hour.

The congregation may be seated.

The bishops and the candidates for commissioning and ordination remain standing.

**PRESENTATION OF PERSONS
TO BE ORDAINED OR COMMISSIONED**

Bishop: Who presents these candidates to be ordained or commissioned?

**All Laity: We have recommended them in our local congregations.
 We present them with our prayers and support.**

All Members 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.**

All Elders in Full Connection:

**We present Nelson Roger Alleman, Tawny Leigh Bernhardt,
Richard “Ricky” K. Brown II, Scott Curtis Dorn,
Andrea Michele Haldeman, and Shauna K. Ridge
 for ordination as elders.
 We present them with our prayers and support.**

All Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

**We present Olivet J.C. Hillhouse Brown, Eric Woodrow Carr, Jr.,
Christopher David Hardy, and Steven Michael Pittman
 for commissioning as provisional members**

**preparing for ordained ministry as elders.
We present Joanne Miles, Debra A. Neild, and Marilyn Jean Schneider
for commissioning as provisional members
preparing for ordained ministry as deacons.
We present them with our prayers and support.**

Bishop: These persons are, by God's grace,
to be ordained or commissioned,
to be set apart for 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 and commissioning of these persons.

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

People: We do! Thanks be to God!

Bishop: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

People: We will, with the help of God!

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:5-11

⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶ And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. ⁷ Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test, but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. ⁸ For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹ We are glad whenever we are weak, but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. ¹⁰ This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. ¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Bishop: My sisters and brothers in Christ,
you have been baptized
and called into common ministry with all Christians.
You have nurtured your faith,
been guided in the faith,
and examined yourselves as people of faith.
Now you have been called
to an ordained or commissioned status in set apart ministry.

The Church confirms your calling.

As ordained or commissioned 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 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 you believe yourselves
to be called by God
and to profess the Christian faith,
we ask you:

Do you believe that God has called you
to the life and work of ordained ministry?

Candidates: **I do so believe.**

Bishop: Do you believe in the Triune God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: **I do so believe and confess.**

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: **I am so persuaded, by God's grace.**

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: **I will, with the help of God.**

Bishop: Will you do your best to pattern your life
in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

Candidates: **I will, with the help of God.**

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: **I will, with the help of God.**

Bishop: 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 holy scripture;
and committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you,
and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

Candidates: **I will, with the help of God.**

Bishop: 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 or commissioned?
Will you give yourself to God through the order
that you may 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?

Candidates: **I will, with the help of God.**

Bishop: 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.

People: Amen.

*HYMN – “THE SUMMONS”

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I’ll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

All may be seated.

THE PREACHED WORD

SCRIPTURE – 1 KINGS 3:3-14

³Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask what I should give you.’ ⁶And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?’

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.’

HYMN – “O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE”

1. O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

2. The church from you, our Savior, received the gift divine,
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the sacred vessel where gems of truth are stored;
it is the heaven-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

SERMON

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

HYMN OF RESPONSE – “COME AND SEEK THE WAYS OF WISDOM”

1. Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.
2. Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.
3. Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Good and gracious God, we give thanks for your presence in our lives. You have claimed us as your own and called us to serve you. In grateful response to the claim and call you have placed on each of our lives, we offer these gifts to use. Use these gifts to raise up a new generation of faithful and committed leaders, that their ministries may enliven your church and transform your world. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

HYMN – “GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

THE COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

To Be Commissioned to Perform the Duties of the Ministry of the Deacon

JOANNE MILES

Home Church: Havertown: Hope UMC
College: Saint Joseph's University, BS in Accounting 1989

Seminary: Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia
Graduate School: Saint Joseph's University, MBA in Healthcare Administration 1995
Churches Served: Havertown: Hope UMC

DEBRA A. NEILD

Spouse: Kristopher Neild
Children: Ryan Neild, James Neild, Megan Neild
Home Church: Lansdale UMC
College: Binghamton University, BS in Accounting 1997
Seminary: Palmer Seminary, BGTS
Graduate School: Gwynedd Mercy University, MS in Education 2011
Churches Served: Lansdale UMC

MARILYN JEAN SCHNEIDER

Spouse: John C. Schmidhauser
Home Church: St. Matthew's UMC Valley Forge
College: State University of New York College at Brockport,
BS in Chemistry, BS in Biology 1976
Seminary: Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, MDiv 2017
Graduate School: Vanderbilt University, PhD in Chemistry 1982
Churches Served: Valley Forge: St. Matthew's UMC, Grove UMC

To Be Commissioned to Perform the Duties of the Ministry of the Elder

OLIVET J.C. HILLHOUSE BROWN

Spouse: Joshua Brown
Children: Melissa Brown, Alecia Brown, Charmayne Brown McCollum
Home Church: Philadelphia: Berry-Long Memorial UMC
College: Drexel University, BS in Communication and Technology, Minor in Business 2013
Seminary: Duke Divinity School, MDiv 2017
Churches Served: Philadelphia: Berry-Long Memorial UMC, Union Memorial UMC

ERIC WOODROW CARR, JR.

Spouse: Andrea Doryce Carr
Children: Adreana Eryn Carr, Eric DeAndrae Carr
Home Church: Eastwick UMC
College: Pierce College, BS in Business Administration Management 2011
Seminary: Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University, MDiv 2017
Churches Served: Philadelphia: Wharton-Wesley UMC, Philadelphia: MidTown Parish UMC

CHRISTOPHER DAVID HARDY

Spouse: Teisha Hardy
Children: Abbey, Adria, Gavin
Home Church: Mt. Pocono UMC
College: Wilkes University, BA in Criminology, Minor in Sociology 2005
Seminary: Drew Theological School, MDiv 2016
Churches Served: Stroudsburg: Faith UMC (student pastor), Hazelton: Diamond UMC

STEVEN MICHAEL PITTMAN
Spouse: Kabrene' Yvette Pittman
Children: Stephanie Rene' Pittman
Home Church: Devereux UMC
College: Albright College, BA in Psychology 2002
Seminary: United Theological Seminary, MDiv 2008
Graduate School: Capella University, Masters of Counseling Studies 2012
Churches Served: Philadelphia: Green Lane UMC

The candidates for commissioning rise and face the congregation.

Bishop: 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 Isaiah: "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.

The candidates kneel, facing the bishop.

The bishop extends arms over all of the candidates, praying:

God of the apostles and prophets, of the martyrs and teachers,
you raise up men and women to 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.

*As the bishop lays hands upon the shoulders of each **commissioning** candidate, we invite the gathered body, including family and friends, to remain seated as you offer silent prayer for that candidate.*

*Later in the service, as the bishop lays hands upon the head of each **ordination** candidate, we invite the gathered body to offer silent prayer for the candidate, and invite family members and friends to stand in silent prayer.*

The bishop, standing in front of and laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate, prays:

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Name*.
Send *her/him* 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN – “GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
 Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
 for the living of these days.

THE ORDINATION OF ELDERS

NELSON ROGER ALLEMAN

Spouse: Traci J. Alleman
Children: Wade Alleman, J. Uriah Alleman
Home Church: St. John's UMC Shamokin/Coal Township
College: Bloomsburg University, BA 2008
Seminary: Evangelical Theological Seminary, MDiv 2014
Churches Served: Oak Grove UMC, Lebanon: Bethany UMC
Sponsor: Rev. Richard Wilcock

TAWNY LEIGH BERNHARDT

Spouse: Paul Bernhardt
Children: Naomi Bernhardt
Home Church: Conestoga UMC
College: Messiah College, BA in Human Development and Family Sciences 2008
Seminary: Duke Divinity School, MDiv 2011
Churches Served: St. Mark's UMC (Raleigh NC), Lansdale: Christ UMC
Sponsors: Rev. Steve Morton, Rev. Jeannine Brenner

RICHARD “RICKY” K. BROWN II

Spouse: Kimberly J.T. Brown
Home Church: Prospect UMC
College: Albright College, BA in Religious Studies 2008
Seminary: Palmer Theological Seminary, MDiv 2012
Churches Served: Hellertown: St. Paul’s UMC
Sponsors: Rev. Gerard McGrath, Rev. Barbara Lee

SCOTT CURTIS DORN

Spouse: Nicole S. Dorn
Children: Amelia Dorn, Owen Dorn
Home Church: Lansdale UMC
College: Valley Forge Christian College, BA in Pastoral Ministry 2005
Seminary: Palmer Theological Seminary, MDiv 2013
Churches Served: Mont Clare: Otterbein UMC,
Pipersville: Rolling Hills UMC, Perkasio: First UMC
Sponsors: Rev. Dr. Maxime Jaouen, Rev. Kofi Ashley

ANDREA MICHELE HALDEMAN

Spouse: Dale E. Haldeman, Jr.
Children: Grace Michele Haldeman, Rachel Annmarie Haldeman
Home Church: Lebanon: Covenant UMC
College: Harrisburg Area Community College, Associate Degree in Travel & Tourism
Seminary: Evangelical Theological Seminary, MDiv 2014
Churches Served: Hamburg: Bethany UMC,
Shoemakersville: Salem-Berne UMC, West Lawn UMC
Sponsors: Rev. Dr. Daniel G. Herner, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Raffauf

SHAUNA K. RIDGE

Spouse: Jamie Ridge
Children: Jordan Ridge, Carly Ridge
Home Church: Hopewell UMC
College: Immaculata University, BA in Organizational Dynamics 2004
Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary, MDiv 2014
Churches Served: Romansville UMC, Quarryville: Memorial UMC
Sponsors: Rev. Steve Morton, Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell

The candidates for ordination as elders rise and face the bishop.

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

An elder lifts a Bible.

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

An elder lifts a chalice and paten.

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?

Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop: As these persons are ordained by God and the church
for the ministry 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 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.

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

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

Bishop: Almighty God, pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit
for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy church.

People: Amen.

The bishop places the ordinand's hands on a Bible, saying:

Bishop: *Name*, take authority as a deacon
to proclaim 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.

People: Amen.

The bishop clothes the ordained elder with the yoke stole.

HYMN – “GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

THE BISHOP'S INVITATION
TO RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

*Those who are experiencing a call to ministry are invited to come forward.
Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry will be available
to offer prayer, support, and encouragement.*

*HYMN – “HERE I AM, LORD”

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)

SENDING FORTH

Bishop: Let us pray.

People: **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.**

Bishop: *(to those commissioned and ordained)*
May the God of all grace
grant you wisdom and courage
that you may rise up and lead God's people in God's world.

(to the full gathered body)
The grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you always.

Deacon: Go forth in wisdom and courage.
Go forth to lead and to serve.
Go forth in Christ's love!

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

*RECESSIONAL HYMNS

“GO TO THE WORLD”

1. Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia! Alleluia!

“LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION”

1. 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.
2. Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.
3. Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.
4. 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.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is grateful to all who have helped make the Celebration of Commissioning and Ordination a rich and meaningful experience for commissionees and ordinands.

Providing music leadership for this service is Mr. David Bryant, organist at First United Methodist Church in Phoenixville.

The **Asbury Bible** used in the service was once the possession of the first Methodist bishop, Francis Asbury, and is now placed on permanent display in the museum of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

The **Wesley Chalice** used in this service was sent to St. George's Church in 1785 by John Wesley so that Methodists in the newly formed church could be certain to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The **Bishop's Crozier** is made from maple and bloodwood. Maple is easy to bend and shape, representing the ways God seeks to mold each of us into a more perfect person. Its three strips of bloodwood represent the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Bloodwood symbolizes the blood of Jesus offered for the salvation of the world. The wood of the crozier bears some imperfections, blemishes, and scars, representing our imperfections and flaws. The clear finish that covers the crozier symbolizes God's cleansing and renewing grace. The crozier's teakwood base – a hard wood, impervious to rot and not easily destroyed – represents the church's 'solid rock' foundation and its strength throughout the centuries. The crozier was made by Greg Ward.

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874

Music: George J. Elvey, 1868

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and Rubert E. Davies, 1983.

Music: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864.

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Words: Walter Chambers Smith, 1867.

Music: Welsh melody from *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. by John Roberts

Call to Worship

written by Rev. Candy LaBar, 2017.

Matthew 28:18-20

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989.

“This Is the Spirit's Entry Now”

Words: Thomas E. Herbranson, 1972

Music: Carl G. Gläzer; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

2 Corinthians 13:5-11

Common English Bible, © 2010.

“The Summons”

Words: John Bell, 1987

Music: Traditional Scottish; arr. by John Bell, 1995

1 Kings 3:3-14

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989.

“O Word of God Incarnate”

Words: William W. How, 1867

Music: *Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693; harm. by Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

“Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom”

Words: Ruth Duck, 1993

Music: Donna Kasbohm, 1995

Prayer of Thanksgiving

written by Rev. Candy LaBar, 2017.

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

Music: John Hughes, 1907

“Here I Am, Lord”

Words: Dan Schutte, 1981

Music: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

“Go to the World”

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

Words: Jeffrey Rowthorn, 1978

Music: Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

Order of Service prepared by The General Board of Discipleship, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and The Office of Christian Unity and Inter-religious Relationships, in collaboration with the Council of Bishops. Revised by Action of the 2016 General Conference. Modifications for this service written by Rev. Candy LaBar, 2017.