

A Service of Licensing, Commissioning, & Ordination



MEMPHIS  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
2020

September 12 | 3:00 PM  
Germantown United Methodist Church

## A SERVICE OF LICENSING, COMMISSIONING, & ORDINATION<sup>i</sup>

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

*The bishop, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM), conference Lay Leader, chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members (LPAM), co-chair of the Order of Deacons (OoD), chair of the Order of Elders (OoE), and the director of the Office of Leadership Formation and Development (OLFD) should be seated at socially-distanced spacing in the chancel. Musicians may be seated in the chancel or in an area where they can easily access their required station. Candidates, district superintendents, and this service's coordinator will be assigned to socially-distanced seating in the first few pews. All others will be seated according to GUMC's protocol. Face masks will be worn by all in attendance. Bottles of hand sanitizer will be stationed at the sanctuary's entrance and various places within the chancel; the **bishop will sanitize hands before and after laying them on each candidate; candidates and all other participants will likewise sanitize hands after any interactions.***

### ENTRANCE

#### GATHERING

*The chair of the BOM, standing at the lectern, briefly describes the service, including responses that will be made.*

#### OPENING MUSIC

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

arr. Wold

#### GREETING & PRAYER

*The chair of the BOM, standing at the lectern, begins:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Spirit is among us.

**Move us, Holy Spirit!**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit  
you gave to your apostles and all your Church  
many excellent gifts.**

**Come upon us gathered here to set apart those who will lead among us  
by calling and equipping us to fulfill your desire  
that we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

*The bishop stands and moves to the font.*

#### RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON MINISTRY & REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISM

*The bishop, standing near the font, begins:*

Sisters and brothers in Christ:

we are all made one with the death of Jesus Christ,

and raised with him to walk in newness of life

in the gift of baptism by water and the Spirit.

The same Spirit who enlivens us  
empowers us with many and diverse gifts  
to serve as new creatures:  
renouncing evil,  
embracing and submitting to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,  
and joining together as his body  
to serve as his representatives in the world.  
We all start here.  
The Spirit leads us all.

*The bishop pours water into the font and says:*  
Remember your baptism and be thankful.

*All respond:*  
**We reaffirm our baptism  
and our common call to ministry.**

#### PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE LICENSED, COMMISSIONED, OR ORDAINED

*The bishop says:*  
Who presents these candidates to be licensed, commissioned, or ordained?

*The conference Lay Leader, standing at the lectern, says:*  
We have recommended them in our local congregations.  
We present them, with our prayers and support

*Chair of the BOM:*  
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.

*Chair of the FLPAM (candidates stand as their name is called):*  
We present *Kimberlynn Alexander, Shani Campbell, Mary Beth Eberle, Tyler Neeley,*  
*Bryan Parker Talley, Harvey Triplett, and Michael Walker*  
for licensing as local pastor.  
We present them, with our prayers and support.

*Chair of the BOM (candidate stands as her name is called):*  
We present *Tondala Lashun Hayward*  
for commissioning as provisional elder.  
We present her, with our prayers and support.

*Co-chair of the OoD (candidate stands as his name is called):*  
We present *Eric Joseph Soard* for ordination as deacon.  
We present him, with our prayers and support.

*Chair of the OoE (candidate stands as her name is called):*

We present *Mimi Elizabeth Leann White*  
for ordination as elder.

We present her, with our prayers and support.

*The bishop says:*

We rejoice in the Spirit's work in our lives  
and the lives of those who come to serve and lead among us.

*All respond:*

**We will uphold them with our prayers and support. Thanks be to God.**

*All but the bishop and candidates are seated. They face one another.*

## THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

*The bishop says:*

My sisters and brothers in Christ,  
as local pastors, or commissioned or ordained ministers,  
you are to be coworkers with bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors,  
provisional members, diaconal ministers,  
deaconesses, home missionaries, supply pastors, and all the people of God.

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's kingdom above all.

So 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 set apart 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,  
participate in the life and work of the community,  
and seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people?

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

Will you be faithful to The United Methodist Church,  
accepting and upholding its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline,  
defending them against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word,  
and commit yourself to be accountable to 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 or fellowship  
into which you are ordained, commissioned, or received?  
Will you give yourself to God through the order or fellowship,  
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 by the Holy Spirit  
may be brought to perfection.

*All respond:*

**Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

*The director of the OLF D approaches the lectern.*

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 13.17-22

*The director of the OLF D is seated.*

+ THE GOSPEL

*Co-chair of the OoD approaches the lectern and says:*

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke; chapter 4, verses 16 through 21.

*After the reading, the deacon says:*

The gospel of our Lord!

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

*The deacon is seated.*

*The bishop moves to the pulpit.*

SERMON

“Order Our Steps”

*After the sermon, the bishop invites all to reaffirm their faith:*

+ THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
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. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Order My Steps”

Burleigh

LICENSING OF LOCAL PASTORS

*Those to be licensed stand and proceed to the chancel rail at socially-distanced spacing, facing the bishop who stands at the pulpit. The chair of FLPAM moves to the lectern and says:*

Dear friends, these persons have completed the requirements for the license as local pastor  
and are recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry.

We have inquired diligently concerning them  
and have found them to be fit for this sacred vocation.

*The bishop says:*

Do you believe you are moved by the Holy Spirit to serve as a local pastor?

**I do.**

Will you strive to live a life in keeping with what you preach?  
**I will.**

*The bishop steps down and presents a license to the new local pastors, accompanied by the chair of FLPAM. Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are. The bishop, returning to the pulpit, says:*

You are hereby authorized to serve as a local pastor  
in the congregation to which you are appointed.  
Take care that you perform these duties faithfully as much as you are able,  
the Lord being your helper.

*As the bishop prays, all are welcome to extend hands toward the local pastors.*

Lord, we thank you for these persons,  
whom we set aside in your name as local pastors.  
Prepare them in body, mind, and spirit for their task  
and continue them in your grace,  
that they may increase and bless your Church through their labor;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The local pastors return to their seats.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“We All Are One in Mission” st. 1

KUORTANE

## THE COMMISSIONING OF A PROVISIONAL ELDER

### EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONING

*The candidate comes to the middle of the chancel rail, facing the bishop at the pulpit. The BOM chair says:*

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.

### ACT OF COMMISSIONING

*The candidate turns and faces the congregation. The bishop, standing at the pulpit, says:*

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.

This sister knows our Savior’s concern for God’s people,  
sees the plentiful harvest, and is 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,  
she now comes to declare in public  
her desire to live out the covenant made at her baptism  
by binding herself to the service of God  
under the supervision of the bishop and the guidance of ordained colleagues  
and by being appointed to share as a servant leader in the body of Christ.  
Today we commission her to service  
as she continues to prepare for ordained ministry among us.

*The bishop, extending arms toward the candidate, 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 this, your servant,  
to understand and live the mystery of your love with boldness and joy.  
Deepen her sense of purpose  
as she exercises commissioned ministry.  
Empower her, and those who will walk with her to guide her ministry,  
together with all of your people,  
to heal the sick, love the outcast,  
resist evil, preach the Word,  
and give herself freely for your name’s sake.

*The bishop moves down the chancel. Friends and family of the candidate are invited to stand where they are and extend hands toward the candidate while the bishop, standing behind and laying both hands on the shoulders of the candidate, prays:*

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit on *Tondala Lashun Hayward*.  
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.

**Amen.**

*The newly-commissioned returns to her seat. The bishop returns to the pulpit.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“We All Are One in Mission” st. 2

KUORTANE

## THE ORDINATION OF A DEACON

### EXAMINATION OF DEACON CANDIDATE

*The deacon candidate comes to the center of the chancel rail and faces the congregation. The co-chair of the OoD comes to the lectern and begins:*

A deacon

is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood,  
to relate the life of the community to its service in the world,  
to lead others into Christian discipleship,  
to nurture disciples for witness and service,  
to lead in worship,  
to teach and proclaim God's Word,  
to assist elders and appointed local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion,  
to interpret to the Church the world's hurts and hopes,  
to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed,  
and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice,  
liberation and reconciliation, especially in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.  
This is the rule of life and work of a deacon.

*The deacon candidate turns and faces the bishop. The bishop asks:*

Do you believe that God has called you  
to the life and work of a deacon?

**I do so believe.**

#### ORDINATION WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

*The bishop says:*

As this person is ordained by God and the Church  
for the ministry of deacon  
to which we believe he has been called by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray for him.

*The bishop extends hands toward the candidate. All are invited to extend hands.*

We thank you, Living God,  
that in your great love  
you sent Jesus Christ  
to take the form of a servant,  
becoming obedient even to death on the cross,  
and now resurrected and exalted in the heavens.  
You have taught us, by his word and example,  
that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.

Give this servant grace to be faithful to his promises,  
constant in his discipleship,  
and always ready for works of loving service.  
Make him modest and humble, gentle and strong,  
rooted and grounded in love.  
Give him a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ,  
who came not to be served but to serve.

*The bishop moves to the kneeler. The candidate, BOM chair, and person giving the stole come to the kneeler. The candidate kneels. Assistants extend hands toward the candidate. Friends and family may stand where they are. The bishop lays both hands on the head of the candidate, praying:*

Almighty God, pour upon *Eric Joseph Soard* the Holy Spirit  
for the office and work of a deacon in Christ's holy Church.

*All audibly affirm the action, saying,*

**Amen.**

*The candidate immediately places both hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the candidate and prays:*

*Eric Joseph Soard*, take authority as a deacon  
to proclaim the Word of God  
and to lead God's people  
in ministries of compassion and justice;  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All audibly affirm the action, saying,*

**Amen.**

*A shoulder stole is placed on the deacon and orders are presented. The deacon returns to his seat. The bishop returns to the pulpit.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“We All Are One in Mission” st. 3

KUORTANE

## THE ORDINATION OF AN ELDER

### EXAMINATION OF ELDER CANDIDATE

*The elder candidate comes to the center of the chancel rail and faces the congregation. The chair of the OoE comes to the lectern and 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  
and faithfully administer the sacraments  
of Holy Baptism and 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 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 elder candidate turns and faces the bishop. The bishop asks:*

Do you believe that God has called you  
to the life and work of an elder?

**I do so believe.**

## ORDINATION WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

*The bishop says:*

As this person is ordained by God and the Church  
for the ministry of elder  
to which we believe she has been called by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray for her.

*The bishop extends hands toward the candidate. All are invited to extend hands.*

We praise you, eternal God,  
for 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 this your servant the grace and power she needs  
to serve you in this ministry.  
Make her a faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise counselor.  
Enable her 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.

*The bishop moves to the kneeler. The candidate, BOM chair, and person giving the stole come to the kneeler. The candidate kneels. Assistants extend hands toward the candidate. Friends and family may stand where they are. The bishop lays both hands on the head of the candidate, praying:*

Almighty God, pour upon *Mimi Elizabeth Leann White* the Holy Spirit  
for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy Church.

*All audibly affirm the action, saying,*

**Amen.**

*The candidate immediately places both hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the candidate and prays:*

*Mimi Elizabeth Leann White*, 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.**

*A stole is placed on the elder and orders are presented. The elder returns to her seat. The bishop returns to the pulpit.*

ANTHEM

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

arr. Nelson

SENDING FORTH

PRAYER

*The bishop, standing at the pulpit, begins:*

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.**

+ BLESSING

*All stand as 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 love and serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.  
**We are sent in Christ’s name.  
Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING MUSIC

“Fanfare and Chorale on Darwall’s 148<sup>th</sup>”

arr. Ashdown

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Bishop William T. McAlilly	Bishop, Nashville Episcopal Area
Dr. Autura Eason-Williams	Chair, Memphis Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
Mrs. Janice McCallen, Liturgist	Memphis Conference Lay Leader
The Rev. LaTricia Trull, Liturgist	Chair, Memphis Conference Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, Liturgist	Co-Chair, Memphis Conference Order of Deacons
The Rev. Gregory Waldrop, Liturgist	Chair, Memphis Conference Order of Elders
The Rev. Deborah Owens, Lector	Director, Nashville Area Office of Leadership Formation & Development
Mr. Todd Wilson, Music Director	Director of Music, Germantown UMC
Ms. Eva McPeters, Organist	Associate Director of Music, Germantown UMC
Ms. Cynthia Wicks-Haley, Pianist	Director of Music & Media Ministries, Centenary UMC
Ms. Susan Enger, Brass	Memphis Symphony Orchestra
Ms. Michael McKenzie, Brass	Memphis Symphony Orchestra
Ms. Andrea Merriweather, Soprano	Sanctuary Choir, Centenary UMC
Ms. Tammy Scales-Elliott, Alto	Minister of Music, Burdette Chapel UMC
Mr. Blaine Tooley, Tenor	Executive Director of Worship & the Arts, Collierville UMC
The Rev. Kevin Presley, Bass	Minister of Music & Worship, Emmanuel UMC

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<sup>i</sup> Adapted from “An Alternative Service of Word and Table for the Ordination of Elders, Deacons, and Local Pastors, the Commissioning of Provisional Members, Recognition of Orders, and Recognition of Associate Members” and “The Service of Word and Table for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons, the Commissioning of Provisional Members, Recognition of Orders, and Recognition of Associate Members (Traditional Version)” in *Services for the Ordering of Ministry 2017-2020* (Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2016), 16-54.