

SERVICE OF LICENSING, COMMISSIONING, and ORDINATION



Sunday, June 6, 2021 ♦ 9:30 am
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Sandra Steiner Ball, Resident Bishop

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GATHERING MUSIC

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 COMMON MINISTRY

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, clergy and laity together:

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe 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, died, and was 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. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:
When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light.
In the days of Noah
you saved those on the ark through water.
After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.
When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.
Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
nurtured in the water of a womb.
He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.
He called his disciples
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare Christ's works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

The pastor may place hands in or over the water, stir the water, or lift the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,
to wash away their sin
and clothe them in righteousness
throughout their lives,
that, dying and being raised with Christ,
they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

I call upon all God's people gathered here:
Remember your baptism and be thankful.

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

MUSIC REFLECTION

Baptized in Water

TFWS #2248
Julie Janisch

RECOGNITION OF THOSE READY TO RECEIVE THE LICENSE OF LOCAL PASTOR

(A pre-recorded video will be shared during which Bishop Steiner Ball recognized those eligible to receive the license of Local Pastor. Rev. Gwen Wolford, Co-Director of the 2021 Licensing School, presented the students.)

Gwen Wolford: On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, we are pleased to present these candidates who have successfully completed the 2021 Pastoral Ministry Licensing School of the West Virginia Conference:

Rick Bloom
John Bruce
Stacy Chrise-Tritt
Treasea Crites
Johnny Davis
V. J. Davis
Jackie Fisher

Corey Gero
Tonja Hamrick
Sharon Howard
Chris Hudnall
Gregory Keith
Katie Knotts
Jenny Phares

Lawrence Rebelo
Nikki Richardson
Peter Scott
William Walters
Caitlin Ware
Sarah Wilmoth

Bishop:

Having successfully completed the Pastoral Ministry Licensing School and having been evaluated and approved by your District Committee on Ministry, we recognize you today as ready to receive the license of a local pastor.

Will you devote yourself to the ministry of the local pastor? Will you serve those committed to your care as Christ, hold yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, uphold the vision and mission of The United Methodist Church, and fulfill your obligation to pursue the required training and education for the United Methodist clergy?

Candidates:

I will, with the help of God.

Bishop (let us pray):

Holy God, who calls us all to love and serve you, we thank you, that you have called these individuals into your service as licensed local pastors. We give you thanks that they have heard your call, responded, and prepared themselves to serve Christ and the Church in this way. Surround and uphold them by the power of the Holy Spirit, equipping them with every gift needed for the fulfilling of their vocation. May they be unwavering in their dedication to you, bold in proclaiming and living the gospel, humble and compassionate in leading your people, and faithful with all that is entrusted to their care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

(Candidates stand where they are seated when their names are called. They are presented by the Conference Lay Leader, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, and Chair of the Order of Elders.)

On behalf of the laity of local congregations who have examined and approved these candidates, and on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of this Annual Conference, which has recommended these persons, and this Annual Conference, which has approved them,

We present these persons to be commissioned for the work of an elder:

Darrell Todd Hurley
Michael Lewis Rexroad

And these persons to be ordained elders:

Sharmune C. Burgess
Paula Lea Perdue Napier
Matthew Aaron Paugh

Bishop:

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, and possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ. Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to these servants. Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be commissioned and ordained?

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God's help, we will!

GENERAL EXAMINATION

(Candidates continue to stand in place.)

Servant leadership and ordination are gifts from God to the Church and are exercised in covenant with the whole Church and within the covenants of the Order of Deacons and the Order of Elders.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to a commissioned and ordained status in set apart ministry. The Church now confirms your calling. As commissioned and ordained ministers, you are to be coworkers with all the people of God: with the laity, bishops, elders, deacons, provisional members, associate members, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, and local pastors.

Remember that 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 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 pastoral 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 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.

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.

Amen.

MUSIC REFLECTION

Blest Are They

TFWS #2155

Julie Janisch

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 58:6-12 (NRSV)

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Matthew 5:1-6 (NRSV)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

SERMON

OFFERING

The 2021 Annual Conference offering will benefit our ongoing ministry of Disaster Response so that we are prepared to respond to the needs of our communities as followers of Christ.

You may give online by following this link: <https://www.wvumc.org/2021-annual-conference> and clicking on the offering button or give through your local church by designating the offering for “2021 Annual Conference.”

DOXOLOGY

Variations on “*Old Hundred*”

Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr.

PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

(Candidates for commissioning come forward.)

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 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 ordained colleagues and by being appointed to share as servant leaders in the Body of Christ.

(The candidates kneel.)

(Family members and friends are invited to rise in body, mind, or spirit where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for each one commissioned.)

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 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.

Darrell Todd Hurley

Sponsor: Deborah Hurley

Michael Lewis Rexroad

Sponsor: Robert P. Fulton

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Name*.

Send *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.

Amen.

(The newly commissioned ministers stand to be greeted and then return to their seats.)

EXAMINATION OF THE ELDERS

(The elder candidates come forward.)

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, order the life of the congregation, 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.

Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the Order of Elders? Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Elders in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

I will, with the help of God, and the help of my sisters and brothers in the Order of Elders.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR THE ELDERS

Sharmune C. Burgess

Daughter: Mikki-Lee Burgess

Sponsors: Janet Harman, Martha Ognibene

Paula Lea Perdue Napier

Spouse: Gregory Napier

Sponsors: Monty Brown, Martin Hallett

Matthew Aaron Paugh

Spouse: Melissa Paugh

Sponsors: Martha Ognibene, Paul Rebelo

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.

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.

(The bishop invites representatives, family members, sponsors, and friends to rise in body, mind, or spirit where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for the ordinands.)

Almighty God, pour upon *name* the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in Christ's Holy Church. **Amen.**

Name, 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. **Amen.**

THE FIXING OF THE APPOINTMENTS

(Members of the Cabinet come forward to assist.)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, fellow members of the congregations of the West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, during this Annual Conference we gathered in a variety of ways to strengthen one another in the good news.

Now we are sent to do the work of the scattered Church. We must go forth from this conference as the people of God, empowered with renewed hope and purpose. We are sent throughout the West Virginia Conference to people and communities who need to know the love of Christ and may only be convinced by how we live. Some of us will return to familiar settings as laity and clergy. Some will accept new appointments, and some of us are family members of those who are appointed. All of us are called to a common ministry as the people of God.

Today, I pray with laity and clergy, that God may bless us to do the work of Christ through our congregations and districts in the West Virginia Conference.

Let us pray:

Holy God, hold this body in your care. Strengthen them to support and uphold one another as faithful members of your Holy Church.

Bless those churches welcoming newly appointed leaders, that they may have hearts for hospitality and a vision for a new season of ministry.

Bless our clergy that they may boldly accept the place of service to which they have been appointed. May the fresh wind of your Spirit visit their ministry, and may they live lives worthy of their call and place of mission.

Bless our laity and their work. May their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness reflect your loving faithfulness.

In mutual support, may we, the laity, receive the guidance of those called and prepared to preach the Gospel, to administer the sacraments, to give administrative leadership in our churches, and to equip them for our ministry in the world, so together clergy and laity can strive to fulfill the mission God has given the Church.

Holy God, be with us and we continue to journey—grateful for where we have been and hopeful for what lies ahead.

Open our ears, eyes, and hands so that we can be your loving people, unbound by anything that holds us back.

Through these appointments, God—pastor and congregation, serving together—may we be for every community your living Body of Christ. **Amen.**

With this blessing, I now fix the clergy appointments and lay assignments, recognizing that it takes our clergy and laity working together to fulfill God’s will and live as the Body of Christ.

RESPONSE

(The bishop invites all to respond to God’s call to ministry in Christ’s Church.)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

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 serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

We are sent in Christ’s name. Thanks be to God!

SENDING MUSIC

3 Variations on “*The Church’s One Foundation*”

Janet Linker

Service Participants:

Mike Estep - Chair, Order of Elders
Jay Parkins - Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry
Jeff Taylor - Chair, Order of Deacons
Gwen Wolford - Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors
Kristi Wilkerson - Conference Lay Leader
Julie Janisch - Musician
Bonnie MacDonald - Director, Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff
Ken Willard - Director, Congregational Vitality

Conference Superintendents:

Chip Bennett
Scott Ferguson
Okey Harless
Joe Hill
Loretta Isaiah
Joe Kenaston
Neil Leftwich
Martha Ognibene
Amy Shanholtzer
Melissa Shortridge
Rick Swearengin