The Service For The
Ordination of Elders with Commissioning

Monday, June 5, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Jekyll Island Convention Center
Jekyll Island, Georgia
The Service for the
Ordination of Elders with Commissioning
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ENTRANCE

CONCERT PRELUDE

- *Canzon Super*  
  Samuel Scheidt, arr. Haynor
- *Music from the Royal Fireworks*  
  G.F. Handel, Arr. Wolff
- *Trumpet Tune in G*  
  Jeremy Bankson
- *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*  
  S. Karg-Elert, arr. Tucker
- *Organ & Brass*

CHIMING THE HOUR

INTROIT

*Upon This Rock*  
John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.
  And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.
  And whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Lo, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone;
  the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds has come.
Arise, and come away.

Please stand at the direction of the conductor and join in singing the processional hymn.

*HYMN AT THE PROCESSION*  
*The Church’s One Foundation*  
AURELIA

*GREETING AND PRAYER*

Bishop R. Lawson Bryan
Resident Bishop, South Georgia Annual Conference

The bishop greets the people and they respond:

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 AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The bishop, standing near a baptismal font, begins:

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, the body of Christ, made visible in the world.

We all share in the ministry of Christ, and of His love and service
for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation.

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

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.

The bishop may scoop and pour water from the font and say:

The people are seated.

ANTHEM

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With thy wonted loving-kindness hear thy servants as they pray,
With thy fullest benediction shed within its walls always.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory, while unending ages run.

Text: 7th Century Latin; Trans. John Mason Neale

Golden Isles Festival Chorus
PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED, ORDAINED OR RECOGNIZED

On behalf of the laity of local congregations who have examined and approved these candidates, 

Mrs. Gloria Morgan
Conference Lay Leader

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,

The Reverend Scott Tucker
Board of Ordained Ministry Chair

we present:

Each candidate stands when his or her name is read and remains standing.

To be commissioned to the work of an elder:

Gerald Ray Akin, Jr.
John P. Grantham
Eric Kyle Mayle
Scott Dozier Stanfill

To be ordained elders:

Jonathan Fitts Fuller
James Clayton Varnell

After all the candidates have been presented, the bishop says:

These persons are by God’s grace to be commissioned, recognized or ordained to ministry in the holy church of Christ.

Bishop R. Lawson Bryan

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 the commissioning and ordination of these persons.

Do you trust that they are worthy, by God’s grace, to be commissioned, ordained or recognized?

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God’s help, we will!
THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
you have been called
to a commissioned or ordained ministry.
The church now confirms your calling.

As commissioned or ordained ministers,
you are to be coworkers with the laity, bishops,
deacons, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missioners,
commissioned ministers, local pastors and elders.

Remember that 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 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 ordained 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.

The bishop addresses the candidates:

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.

The congregation audibly affirms the action, saying,

Amen.

The bishop, presenters, and candidates are seated.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

ANTHEM

The Last Words of David

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. 
And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; 
As the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

Alleluia. Amen.

2 Samuel 23:3-4

Golden Isles Festival Chorus

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 2:1-11

The Reverend Doctor Rick Lanford
North Central District Superintendent

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!
ANTHEM

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
    such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

Golden Isles Festival Chorus

The Call

David Ashley White

Text by George Herbert (1593-1633)

SERMON

When the Wine Runs Out

Bishop R. Lawson Bryan

OFFERING

The offering is designated for the Ministerial Education Fund

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fettke

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of Your fingers;
The moon and stars suspended in space.
Oh, what is man, that you are mindful of him?
You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
    And have made him a little lower than the angels.
You have put him in charge of all creation:
    The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.
But, what is man that you are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of Your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly,
    And so would we, and so would we.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
The majesty and glory of Your name.
Alleluia!

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Reverend Doctor Nita Crump
Southwest District Superintendent

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

(Verse 1)

SLANE
THE EXAMINATION OF PERSONS BEING COMMISSIONED

The candidates for commissioning come.
The bishop says to the congregation:

By affirming the covenant of baptism,
all members of the holy church of Christ pledge
to serve as representatives of Christ 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: “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.
Today we commission them to service
as they continue to prepare for ordained ministry among us.

THE PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

The candidates kneel.
The bishop, extending arms over all of the candidates, 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 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.
Family and friends may stand in support of each candidate as he or she comes in turn to center kneeler. The bishop will place hands on their shoulders and pray:

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

All audibly affirm the action, saying,

Amen.

As the hymn begins, the bishop, assisted by the conference secretary, the chair of the order of Deacons, and the chair of the order of Elders greet the newly commissioned clergy.
Once greeted, the candidates return to their seats.

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision
(Verse 2)

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

The candidates kneel.
The people pray for them in silence.
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 the body of Christ,
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 may stand where they are to pray for each ordinand 
as he or she comes in turn to center kneeler with sponsor. 
The bishop will place hands on his or her head and pray:

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

All audibly affirm the action, saying, 
Amen.

Immediately the candidate places hands on a Bible as he says:

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.

All audibly affirm the action, saying, 
Amen.

HYMN Be Thou My Vision SLANE
(Verse 3)

INVITATION TO ORDAINED MINISTRY Bishop R. Lawson Bryan

As the hymn begins, the newly ordained and sponsoring elders return to their seats

HYMN Here I Am, Lord Dan Schutte

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

The grace of Jesus Christ, 
and the love of God, 
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always.

Go in peace 
to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do. 
We are sent in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN AT THE RECEPTION Go, Make of All Disciples LANCASHIRE
*POSTLUDE

"Toccata" from Symphony No. V in F Minor
Organ
Charles-Marie Widor

*Please stand as able

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WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Mr. Christopher Goodson
Director of Music and Worship
Wesley UMC at Federica,
St. Simons

ORGANIST
Mr. Cameron Cody
Organist & Artist In Residence
Chapelwood UMC, Houston, TX

MUSICIANS
Golden Isles Festival Chorus
Coastal Brass Choir
Golden Isles

BIBLE BEARER
The Reverend Henry Bass
South Central District Superintendent

BIBLE BEARER
The Reverend Doctor Edwin Cooper
Northwest District Superintendent