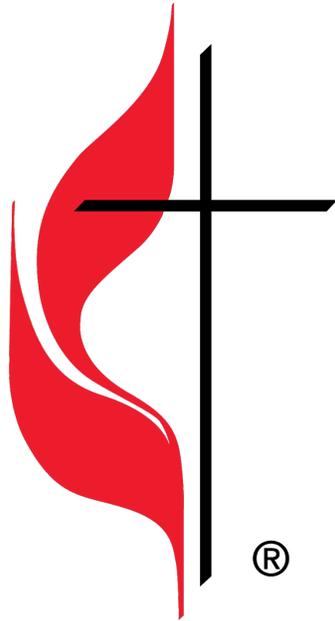


The Service of Ordination & Commissioning



Sunday, June 6, 2021
5:00 P.M.

Vineville United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

**The Service For
The Ordination of Elders and Deacons with Commissioning**

Sunday, June 6, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

And Can It Be
arr. Carolyn Hamlin

Dr. Jane Kimbrel
Perry United Methodist Church

WELCOME

The Reverend Dr. Jimmy Asbell
Vineville United Methodist Church

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Forward Through the Ages
(Verses 1-3)

#555 UMH

*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,
and live in joyful obedience to your will,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

RECOGNITION OF COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The bishop moves to the baptismal font and says:

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,
I call upon all God's people gathered here:

The bishop scoops water from the baptismal font and says:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

We reaffirm our baptism

And our common call to ministry.

Thanks be to God!

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED

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

Mrs. Meredyth Earnest
Conference Secretary

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:

The Reverend Fran Magoni
Board of Ordained Ministry Chair

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

To be commissioned as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as elders:

William Rushton Black
Tammy Parrish Humphries
Pamela Vaughn Johnston
James Patrick Owens

To be ordained as elder:

Eric Kyle Mayle

After all the candidates have been presented, they remain standing, and the bishop says:

These persons are by God's grace
to be ordained or commissioned to 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 the commissioning and ordination of these persons.

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

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God's help, we will!

GENERAL EXAMINATION

The bishop examines the candidates for commissioning and ordination:

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
you have been called
to an ordained or commissioned ministry.
The church now 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,
with all who serve God in the Church.

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 or commissioned 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.

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?

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.

All may be seated.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer of Illumination

The Reverend Dr. Paula Lewis
South Central District Superintendent

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29

The Reverend Chris Ramsey
Northeast District Superintendent

The Psalm

Psalm 27:1-9

The Reverend Steve Patton
Northwest District Superintendent

The Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 3:4-11

The Reverend Craig Hutto
North Central District Superintendent

*HYMN

The Church's One Foundation
(Verses 1-5)

#545 UMH

*The Gospel Lesson

John 4:31-38

The Reverend Doreen Smalls
Southwest District Superintendent

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

SERMON

Our Common Call

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

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord
(Verse 1)

#593 UMH

Commissioning of Provisional Members

The candidates for commissioning come and stand at the altar rails.
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.

Those being commissioned 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 members and friends are invited to stand where they are
for silent prayer in support of each candidate as they are commissioned.

The bishop, standing before the candidate and laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate prays

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Full 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 confirm 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 ministers.
Once greeted, the candidates return to their seats.

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

*The candidates for ordination as elders come forward and stand at the altar rails.
The bishop examines the elder candidates.*

An elder

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

The Bible is lifted by the Chair of the Order of Elders.

and faithfully administer
the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

A towel and basin with pitcher are lifted by the Chair of the Order of Deacons.

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?

I do so believe.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

The bishop calls the people to prayer.

As these persons are ordained by God and the church
for the office and work of elders
to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray for them:

*The candidates kneel as the people pray for the ordinands in silence.
The bishop, with hands extended over those to be 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.

Amen.

Candidates for ordination as elders will move to the center kneeling rail one at a time before the bishop.
Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands.

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

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

All audibly confirm the action, saying,

Amen.

Immediately the candidate places hands on the Bible as the bishop says:

Full 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 confirm the action, saying,

Amen.

Once ordained, the candidate is presented a stole by their sponsoring elder and returns to their seat.

INVITATION TO ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Reverend David Thompson
Coastal District Superintendent

*HYMN

Here I Am, Lord
(Verse 3)

#593 UMH

SENDING FORTH

*PRAYER

Bishop R. Lawson Bryan

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.**

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Bishop Bryan blesses the people:

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 Christ's name. Thanks be to God!

*POSTLUDE

Sent Forth by God's Blessing
arr. Lloyd Larson

Dr. Jane Kimbrel
Perry United Methodist Church

The congregation will be dismissed from back to front as guided by ushers.

*Please stand as able
CCLI: #1913798