

JYIELD

Celebration of Ministry
June 16, 2024
Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebration of Ministry

Including A Service of Commissioning and Ordination

Sunday, June 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

You are welcome to stand at the times in the service when individuals are recognized, commissioned and ordained. As we stand where we are in silent, prayerful support, we embody the Church in affirming the work of the Holy Spirit in these persons.

In keeping with the significance of the occasion, please refrain from the use of photography or videography, especially at the times of commissioning and ordination.

Please do not approach the worship platform with phones, cameras or video recorders.
Photos will be available online at the UMCNIC Flickr page www.flickr.com/photos/umcnicac to download for free.

Following the service, all are invited to greet those recognized in the Schaumburg Rooms A-D .

Gathering Music

Nothing Is Impossible
House of the Lord

See words on the screen

* Processional

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

UMH #155

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall,
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.</p> <p>2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.</p> | <p>3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.</p> <p>4. Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.</p> | <p>5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call,
who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.</p> <p>6. O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall,
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.</p> |
|--|--|---|

* Call to Worship

Wesley Covenant Prayer- adapted

Sherry Steele

Leader: I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

**People: Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.**

Leader: Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
People: I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

Leader: And now, O glorious and blessed God, Holy Triune One,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

**People: And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Centering Prayer

Bishop Dan Schwerin

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all

People: And also with you.

Bishop: We come together to praise God, to hear 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 your apostles many excellent gifts.

Give your grace to all servants of your church, that we many 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

Congregational Affirmation of Ministry

Bishop: Listen, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
Listen, you who are called, come to the waters;
Listen, you who share in God's life, come to the waters!
Incline your ear, and come to me;
Listen so that you may live!

Bishop: Friends in Christ, are you listening? Do you hear the sounds of amazing grace?

Do you discern the call of God? Are you listening?

I call upon all God's people gathered here; I call upon all who are listening:

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

People: Amen! We are listening for God. We remember our baptism and celebrate our common ministry!

Liturgical Dance

Better

Taeron Flemming-Moore

Recognitions and Introduction of Guests

Arlene Christopherson
Bishop Sally Dyck, retired

Kyeong-Ah (Kay) Woo, General Board of Global Ministries Representative
Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyterian, Presbytery of Chicago

*Hymns of Praise

Goodness of God/Great Is Thy Faithfulness

See words on the screen

Recognition of Set Apart Ministries

Recognition of Consecrated Deaconess

Fabiola Grandon-Mayer

Barbara Sutton

Bishop: In your recent consecration at General Conference, you publicly declared your commitment:

- To engage in this lifelong work of love, justice and service and to assume its responsibilities led by the Spirit of God.
- To be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, in mutual relationship with the communities you serve and in all other means of grace available to you.
- To earnestly seek to carry forward your ministry call in sincerity and in love under the direction of the Church.
- To accept responsibility for participation in the mutually supportive deaconess and home missionary covenant community and for a lifetime of loving and supporting your sisters and brothers as part of the world diaconate.

Do you now affirm these commitments publicly in the presence of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference?

Deaconess: I do

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Bishop: Source of all mercies, graciously behold this your servant
who has been commissioned as a deaconess of your Church.
Anoint her with your Holy Spirit,
enrich her with your heavenly grace,
and strengthen her for the tasks which lie ahead;
that in all her works, she may glorify your holy name,
and advance your blessed work;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Bishop to congregation:
Christian friends, I commend to you this person
who has been commissioned and now recognized
to carry into all the world the sacred and imperishable message of eternal salvation.

Prayer of Blessing for Missionary Candidate

Bishop Dan Schwerin
Kyeong-Ah (Kay) Woo, General Board of Global Ministries Representative

Leader: Bishop Dan Schwerin and the members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference,
I am thankful for the ways in which you are participating in God's mission by supporting
those who are being called to serve in mission.
Global Ministries is excited that Miriam L. Safford, young adult member, has answered the call to go forth into God's mission.
So today, we are thankful that you will be blessing them as they begin their mission service.
Bishop, I present to you Miriam L. Safford.

Bishop: Gracious, Loving, Amazing, Extraordinary and Surprising God,
Our hearts overflow with joy as we gather to celebrate the life of your servant.
We rejoice with them in this important moment of their journey, and we call your blessing upon them for what lies ahead.
They have truly come through the fire, they have crossed many Jordans,
and made tough decisions as they dared to believe in you
and answer your call to mission service as Global Missionary/Global Mission Fellow of the United Methodist Church.
As they faithfully responds to serving you and others,
may the power of the Spirit be with them, fill them and strengthen them.


People: May the Holy Spirit fill you with passion for mission. Amen.




Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Recognition of Local Pastors

Sharon Engert



Ed Bickham
Seth Botts
Jonah Boutell
Fernando Candumbo de Castro
Christopher Druce-Jones
Sandra Gulledge
Lambert Habonimana
David Hamer
Kelli Harrison
Robert Houston
Hwankyu Kim
Fredrick Lartey
Roberto Moreno-Cruz
Ha Son Nguyen
Jason Princer
Gerardo Rodriguez
Jacqueline Salgado-Moreno
Valorie Tatum
Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton



Leader: Eternal God, you call each and every one of us to love you and love our neighbors

People: Today we celebrate those who have answered your call as Local Pastors in past year.

Leader: Fill them with the presence, power, and hope your Spirit brings.

People: Empower them to spread your Word connecting all into the body of Christ.

Leader: Sanctify their lives that they may reveal your love.

People: Use them as your means of grace as they go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit, to give themselves for others. Amen!!

Bishop: I invite you to extend your hands in blessing toward these persons.

Let us pray:

Bless these Local Pastors who have committed their lives— their gifts and skills, time and resources to your service.

They are the lifeblood of our mission, bringing Christ to the world.

May they experience the joy of service as they invite and lead others in your church. Amen.

The Word Proclaimed

Reading of the Hebrew Scripture

Habakkuk 3: 17-18

Kimberly Davis (English)
Alka Lyall (India National Language)
Esther Lee (Korean)

Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation.

Leader: The Word of God for All

People: Thanks be to God

Response in Song

Word of God Speak

NIC Praise Team

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

*The Reading of the Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9

Sherry Steele (English)
Lino Aragón (Spanish)
Victor Melad Jr. (Tagalog)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!

Leader: The gospel of our Lord!

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Word In Music

He Never Failed Me Yet by Robert Ray

NIC Mass Choir

Sermon

In Season and Out

Bishop Sally Dyck

*Response to the Word

United Methodist Social Creed

Eugene Williams, Conference Co-Lay Leader

Leader: God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace
to be renewed in the image of our Creator, that we may be one in divine love for the world.

People: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day

God cares for the integrity of creation, wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

People: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day

God embraces all hues of humanity, delights in diversity and difference, favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

People: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day

God cries with the masses of starving people, despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

People: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day

God deplores violence in our homes and streets, rebukes the world's warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

People: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day

God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace, celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

People: And so shall we.

People: Today is the day

**God brings good news to the poor, proclaims release to the captives, gives sight to the blind, and sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.**

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Presentation of Persons to Be Commissioned, Recognized and Ordained

Eugene Williams, Co-Lay Leader and Mark Meyers, BOOM Chair
Lynn Mikels, on behalf of the Registrars
Luis F. Reyes-Rosario, Conference Relations

To be commissioned for the work of an elder:

Abby Savannah Holcombe
Young Sun Lee
Eric Marc Reniva

To have orders recognized:

Tércio B. Junker

To be ordained as a deacon:

Tura J. Foster Gillespie
David Foster, sponsor

Bishop: These persons are by God's grace to be commissioned, recognized or ordained 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, 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 commissioning, recognition, and ordination of these persons.

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

People: We do! Thanks be to God!

Bishop: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

People: With God's help, we will.

Let there be applause, shouts and rejoicing!

The General Examination

After the examination, the candidates for ordination are seated and commissioning sponsors robe those to be commissioned.

The Examination of Persons Being Commissioned and Ordained

Song of Worship

Oceans

See words on the screen

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

The Prayer of Commissioning with the Laying on of Hands

Bishop Dan Schwerin

Bishop: 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."...

... Deepen their sense of purpose as they exercise commissioned ministry.

Empower them, 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.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon _____.

Send them 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 Triune God.

People: Amen.

Welcoming Those Commissioned

Bishop: I present to you these newly commissioned members of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church!

Recognition of Orders

The bishop addresses those whose orders are to be recognized.

Bishop: After due examination of your call and ministry in another part of Christ's holy church,
we now welcome you to this communion.

You have given assurance of your faith and Christian experience.

You have renewed the vows of your ordination
and committed yourself to uphold faithfully The United Methodist Church.

We rejoice that you have been called to serve among us,
and pray that God may guide your ministry.

Tércio B. Junker, we now recognize your orders and
welcome you in full membership in Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church



Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Examination of Deacon

Bishop: **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.
These are the duties of a deacon.

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

Response: I do so believe.

Bishop: Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission,
re-affirm your covenant to continue your participation in the order of deacons?
Will you give yourself to God through the order of deacons,
in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

Response: I will, with the help of God, and the help of my siblings in the order of deacons.

Laying on of Hands

The candidate for ordination as deacon is invited to kneel before the bishop as directed.

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

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

Almighty God, pour upon Tura the Holy Spirit,
for the office and work of a deacon in Christ's holy church.

People: Amen.

The candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the ordinand and says:

Tura, 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.

People: Amen.

Presentation of New Deacon to the Church

Bishop: I present to you Tura Foster Gillespie our newly ordained deacon
in Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church!

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

*Hymn

Make Me a Servant

TFWS# 2176

Refrain: Make me a servant humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant make me a servant
Make me a servant today

The Ministry Of Elders (Renewal)

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 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,
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?

Response: I do so believe.

Bishop: 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?

Response: I will, with the help of God, and the help of my siblings in the order of elders.

People: Amen.

Invitation to Offering

The offerings given today will support the ongoing work of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, through whose work candidates for ministry are recruited, empowered, and sent to serve on behalf of our conference locally and around the world.

Scan QR code to
donate online



Prayer for the Offering

Sejoon Jang, Board of Ordained Ministry Treasurer

Offertory Anthem

Yet – The King Will Come

Liturgical Dance, Taeron Flemming-Moore

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Bishop Dan Schwerin
Kimberly Davis

Invitation to the Table

Confession

People: Most merciful God,

We have sinned against you by what we have done and left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have ignored your will for us as your people,

and have not shared your abundance with all who are in need.

Forgive us, we pray, that we may repent, and fulfill your will for us through all our days:

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently confess your sins to God.

Leader: If we confess our sins, God is merciful and just, and forgives us our sins, and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven! Glory be to God! Amen.

*The Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Signs of reconciliation and love may be exchanged

Communion Anthen

At this Table

NIC Paise Team

The Great Thanksgiving

Musical Setting TFWS# 2257 a-b

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Life up your hearts.

People: **We life them up to the Lord**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Bishop: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord; God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory:

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Bishop: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

... And so, In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Bishop: Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Great Amen

Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

The Lords' Prayer

(Please pray in the language or form of your preference.)

Breaking the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

All communion elements are vegan and gluten free.
They will be distributed to the congregation by the newly ordained and commissioned and others at the direction of the ushers.

Communion Hymns

*For Everyone Born
Gratitude
One Bread, One Body*

See words on the screen

Giving Thanks

Bishop: Let us pray.

People: We thank you, gracious God, for this holy mystery
In which you have given yourself to us,
And united us in the communion of your Holy Spirit.
We bless you for raising up among us faithful servants.
Clothe them and us with your righteousness
And grant that we, with them,
May glorify you by giving ourselves to others,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Tura Foster Gillespie, Bishop Dan Schwerin

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

Deacon: Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

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

*** Hymn of Celebration (Recessional)**

All the People said Amen

See words on the screen

Postlude

Sing Wherever I Go

NIC Praise Team

Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Order of Procession

Marshals - Danita Anderson & Scott Christy
Cross – Joshua Brown
Bible – Victor Melad Jr.

Christ Candle – Xiomara Castro
Chalice – Alka Lyall
Bowl, Pitcher & Towel – Sherry Steele & Kimberly Davis

2024 Candidates for Commissioning & Ordination

**The Licensed, Commissioned, Consecrated, and Ordained Ministers
of The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church**

The Leadership Team of the Board of Ordained Ministry

Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet

Connie Augsburg, Co-Lay Leader
Eugene Williams, Co-Lay Leader
Kyeong–Ah (Kay) Woo, General Board of Global Ministries Representative
Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago
Bishop Sally Dyck, Retired
Bishop Dan Schwerin, Resident Bishop

Order of Recession

Marshals - Danita Anderson & Scott Christy
Cross – Joshua Brown
Bible – Victor Melad Jr.

Christ Candle – Xiomara Castro
Chalice – Alka Lyall
Bowl, Pitcher & Towel – Sherry Steele & Kimberly Davis

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Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago
Kyeong–Ah (Kay) Woo, General Board of Global Ministries Representative
Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop
Connie Augsburg, Co-Lay Leader
Eugene Williams, Co-Lay Leader
Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Director of Connectional Ministries
Brittany Isaac, Superintendent, Lake North District
Audrea Nanabray, Superintendent, Lake South District
Jeffry Bross, Superintendent, Prairie Central District
Hwa-Young Chong, Superintendent, Prairie North District
Brian Gilbert, Superintendent, Prairie South District
Sejoon Jang, Treasurer, Board of Ordained Ministry
Lynn Mikels, Deacon's Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry
Luis F. Reyes-Rosario, Conference Relations, Board of Ordained Ministry
Paul Lee, Chair, Order of Elders
Sherry Steele & Kimberly Davis, Co-chairs, Order of Deacons
Norval I. Brown, Vice-chair, Board of Ordained Ministry
Mark Meyers, Chair, Board of Ordained

2024 Newly Commissioned and Ordained



Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Thank you to our Participants

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Bishop Sally Dyck, Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Lino Aragón, Danita Anderson, Joshua Brown, Kim Chapman (percussionist), Xiomara Castro, Scott Christi, Arlene Christopherson, Kimberly Davis, Sharon Engert, Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Sejoon Jang, Esther Lee, Alka Lyal, Mary Gay McKinny, Victor Melad Jr., Mark Meyers, Lynn Mikels, D. Josiah Montgomery (musician), members of the NIC Mass Choir, Luis F. Reyes-Rosario, Addison Shields, Jr. (worship coordinator), Sherry Steele, Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (musician), Eugene Williams, Kyeong-Ah (Kay) Woo

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The Ministerial Education Fund

On behalf of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and each of the persons set apart for ministry today, thank you for participating within this ordination service!

Because you are interested in each of these ministers, and in quality ministry for each local church, we want you to know how vital the Ministerial Education Fund is in funding the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, at both the national and conference levels.

The Ministerial Education Fund (“M.E.F.”) is a beautiful example of connectional ministry at its best! The fund is a portion of the “Support of the General Church” category within the Apportionment figure for each local church and is 5.8% of the entire Apportionment. The Northern Illinois Conference retains 25% of the funds through M.E.F. — and uses these funds for (among other things) seminary scholarships, continuing education grants, and developing continuing education events.

Of the 75% of M.E.F. funds sent on to the General Church — approximately 84% is used to support our 13 United Methodist seminaries, and most of the remaining portion gets used to support and enhance the “Course of Study” program for those ministers who do not attend seminary.

Therefore, you can see that the M.E.F. has a direct impact upon the quality of ministry at the local church level! That is why we hope and expect that you will be a staunch supporter of the Ministerial Education Fund!

Commissioning and Ordination Descriptions

Commissioning relates persons to the annual conference and to the ministry of the provisional members within the annual conference. Commissioning implies that the person is being sent for service and the church invokes the Holy Spirit to empower commissioned ministers during their time of provisional membership. The provisional period is a time of full service in which one is licensed for the practice of ministry (¶¶ 316.1) and a period of formation in one’s journey toward ordination and full membership in the annual conference. (2016 Book of Discipline)

Ordination of deacons and elders is both to an office and for a lifetime. Ordination confers a new identity as well as authority for ministry. The new identity of the ordained is always claimed in relation to Christ and his call to leadership and service with the baptized for the life of the world. The authority is always exercised in stewardship of the mysteries of the gospel and of the church’s mission in the world. Ordination has to do with who the person is as well as what the person does in ministry (2016 Book of Discipline)

Deaconesses (and home missionaries) are laity called by God to a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice and service. (¶ 1913) Deaconesses are consecrated by a bishop, then commissioned in their local annual conference.


Local Pastors answer God’s call to serve the mission of Jesus Christ in a local congregation under the authority of a license for pastoral ministry. They are not itinerant ministers and are not ordained or elected into full membership of the annual conference. A local pastor’s authority is within their appointment setting and does not extend beyond it.

Deacons are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. They serve the community and congregation in a ministry that connects the two. The deacon’s ministry connects the church’s worship with its service in the world (¶¶ 328-331).

Elders are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. The elder serves in ministry and servant leadership giving pastoral leadership to order the life of the congregation. (¶¶ 332-335).

Commissioned/Provisional Members are in the ordination step between candidacy and full membership. Those applying for ordination serve as a provisional member for a minimum of two years. Provisional membership ends with ordination. (¶¶ 324-327).

Full Connection/Full Members are an ordained deacon or elder that serves as a full member in an annual conference. Their life and work is amenable to the annual conference and they are supported by and accountable to that annual conference.



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