Service of Licensing,
Commissioning, and Ordination

Tuesday, June 13, 2017
Brentwood United Methodist Church
Expecting Greater Things: 
Discover, Equip, Connect, Send

The Service of Worship
for
The Commissioning of a United Methodist Missionary
The Presentation of Licenses for Pastoral Ministry
The Commissioning of Provisional Members
The Ordination of a Deacon
and
The Ordination of Elders

Tennessee Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

Brentwood United Methodist Church
June 13, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Bishop William T. McAlilly, Presiding

The Board of Ordained Ministry welcomes you to this worship service. Please refrain from taking photos during the service and turn off or silence electronic devices.

A nursery is available for small children.
GATHERING

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

OPENING VOLUNTARY       Praise the Lord       Sigfrid Karg-Elert

SCRIPTURE READING     Jeremiah 1:4-10    Jefferson Furtado

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN     Lift High the Cross   UMH 159

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

So, shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

*GREETING AND PRAYER       Bishop McAlilly

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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 who are 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.
Congregation may be seated.

PROCessional ANTHEM  Psalm 118: Alleluia, This Is the Day!  Brad Croushorn
Combined Choirs

RECOGNITION OF COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Bishop

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 of God’s people gathered here:
Remember your baptism and be thankful.

We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.

PRESENTATION

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER  Holly Neal

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

CHAIR OF BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY  Bryan Brooks

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

This Person for Commissioning as a United Methodist Missionary  Holly Neal

Lilia Ramirez

These First-Time Local Pastors  Phoebe Jowers/Kenneth Townsend

Amanda Kie Borchik  Glenn O. Byrd  Sarah L. Stelle Carty
Angela Diane Crook  Aaron J. Dennis  J. Pierce Drake
R. Scott Duvall  Sara Beth Floyd  Michael David Graff
John L. Haines  Valarie Phillips James  Thressena Rena Knight
Philip Lee McMurrin  Samuel Ordung  Eric H. Ross
Adam J. Rush  James Bradley Smith  Dane van Eys
Eddie Watson  Robert G. Wheeler  Jason W. Wilkerson
Sheila Renee Williams  Brian Patrick Wilmoth
These Commissioned Provisional Deacons
Celia Ann Finfrock          Margaret Ann Jarrell          Carlisle White Jones
Sarah Elizabeth McWhirt-Toler

These Commissioned Provisional Elders
David Brandon Baxter       Roger Presley Brown       Stacy Gonzalez
Krislyn Page Durham        Seonwoong Hwang         Theresa Ann Johnson
Margaret Houck Platts

This Ordained Deacon and Full Member of the Conference
Trey Carey
Gracie Nicole Dugan

These Ordained Elders and Full Members of the Conference
Jerry Wallace
Christopher David Allen    Erica Jane Allen        Heather Pennington Harriss
Adam Ross Kelchner         Angelia Marie Trimmer    Sommer Rose Worley

Bishop to congregation

These persons are, by God’s grace, to be licensed, commissioned, 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 profound commitments to serve Jesus Christ. Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry. We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to the licensing, commissioning, and ordination of these persons.

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

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God’s help, we will!

THE PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING
1 Peter 5:2-10          Johnny Jeffords

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON
We Make Our Way By Walking          Bishop William T. McAlilly
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.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, 
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The offering supports the Episcopal Emergency Fund, which assists conference families with unexpected needs.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; 
Praise God all creatures here below: 
Alleluia! Alleluia! 
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! 
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! 
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! 
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
THE ORDER OF COMMISSIONING AND SENDING OF UNITED METHODIST MISSIONARIES

Bishop to candidate

We rejoice that you have chosen to devote this time in your life to Christian mission. The call of God is always profound, and our response can be no less extraordinary. In the varied ministries in which the Holy Spirit will lead you, you will testify to the infinite love of God in Christ Jesus.

Such a vocation confers a great privilege; it also lays upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have pledged alone with God in consecrating your life to this service, we ask you to repeat publicly.

Do you sincerely believe that you have been led by the Spirit of God to engage in this work and to assume its responsibilities?

I do so believe.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as will increase your skills and abilities for this life in mission?

I will endeavor so to do.

Will you earnestly seek to carry forward your ministry in sincerity and in love, cooperating willingly with your co-workers, under the direction of the Church?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

I commission you to take the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into all the world, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bishop to congregation

Let us pray. Almighty God, source of all mercies, endow Lilia Ramirez with your Holy Spirit, enrich her with your grace, and strengthen her for the tasks which lie ahead; that in all her works begun, continued, and ended in you, she may glorify your holy name, and advance the coming of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

verse 1

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus’ name
to bring glad tidings to the poor, God’s favor to proclaim.

PRESENTATION OF LICENSES TO LOCAL PASTORS

Bishop to congregation

These persons have completed the requirements for the license as a local pastor and are recommended by the district Committees on Ordained Ministry. We have inquired diligently concerning them and have found them to be fit for this sacred vocation.
Bishop to candidates

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.

You are hereby authorized to serve as local pastors in the congregations to which you are appointed. Take care that you perform these duties faithfully, the Lord being your helper.

Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the presentation of a license to each candidate.

Bishop to congregation

Let us pray for these who are newly licensed as local pastors.
Almighty God, whose Word is truth, in the keeping of which is eternal life:
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 tasks, and continue them in your grace, that they may increase and bless your Church through their labors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE  
*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* verse 2

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

GENERAL EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

Bishop to congregation

Commissioning and ordination are gifts from God to the Church and are exercised in covenant with the whole Church and within the covenant of the office and order. Will the candidates for commissioning and ordination please stand?

Bishop to candidates

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 co-workers with the laity, bishops, deacons, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missioners, associate members, 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.

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.

All audibly affirm the action, saying,

Amen.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

As the scripture is read, the candidates for commissioning come forward and face the congregation, while candidates for ordination are seated.

THE EXAMINATION OF PERSONS BEING COMMISSIONED

Bishop to the congregation

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 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. Tonight, we commission them to service as they continue to prepare for ordained ministry among us.

THE PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

The candidates kneel.

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 during the presentation of each candidate.

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.
We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.

During the singing, commissioned ministers return to their seats and the person to be ordained deacon comes to the rail.

EXAMINATION OF DEACON

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,

The Bible is lifted.

to lead in worship,
to teach and proclaim God’s Word,
to assist elders and appointed local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion,

The towel and basin with pitcher are lifted.

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,
even 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?

I do so believe.

Will you, for the sake of the Church’s life and mission, covenant to participate 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?

I will, with the help of God, and with the help of my sisters and brothers in the order of deacons.
LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR DEACON

Bishop to the congregation

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

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 her promises, constant in her discipleship, and always ready for works of loving service.

Make her modest and humble, gentle and strong, rooted and grounded in love. Give her a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Amen.

ORDINATION OF DEACON IN FULL CONNECTION

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

Almighty God, pour upon [Name] the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a deacon in Christ’s holy Church.

[Name], 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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve verse 4

Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.

God’s Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus’ name.

During the singing of the hymn, the newly ordained deacon returns to her seat. The elder candidates for ordination come forward.

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

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.
and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion;

*The paten and chalice are lifted.*

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.

These are the duties of an elder.

*Bishop to Elder candidates*

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 ELDERS**

*Bishop to congregation*

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:

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.

ORDINATION OF ELDERS IN FULL CONNECTION

Almighty God, pour upon [Name] the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an elder in Christ’s holy Church.

All audibly affirm the action, saying,

Amen.

Take authority as an elder to proclaim 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.

*HYMN    Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service    UMH 581

All

Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy’s perfect deed;
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.

Choirs

Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As O, Lord, your deep compassion,
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.

All

As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love’s revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
  stirring us to tireless striving,
your abundant life to share.

**FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS**

**INTRODUCTION OF CABINET MEMBERS**

**PRAYERS FOR THE FIVE DISTRICTS**

**CHARGE TO LICENSED, COMMISSIONED, CONSECRATED, AND ORDAINED CLERGY**

*The Bishop*

All of us are bound together by Christ’s love poured out for us and through us to the world.

*Clergy stand. The bishop addresses the clergy*

You are called to “a lifetime of servant leadership in specialized ministries among the people of God.” Clergy, through your ministries, will you interpret to the church where you are sent “the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world, and the promise of God for creation?”

*Clergy*

**We are bound in covenant together before God and one another.**

*Bishop*

The world cries out for justice and mercy.

*Deacons, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses*

**We go where we are sent to represent the connection between our worship of God and serving in God’s world. We go to the community where God is sending us.**

*Bishop*

The world needs to hear the Word of God.

*Elders, Associate Members, Local Pastors*

**We go where we are sent to spread the good news in the community where we are sent, to administer the sacraments, to be servants in the Church and in the world, and to lead the congregation.**

**CHARGE TO THE LAITY**

*Laity stand. The bishop addresses the laity*
“The world is our parish,” John Wesley said. You are the people of God, living and serving in God’s world. Will you receive these persons, as your leaders, sent to serve Christ, support and lead the Church in ministry to all the world?

Laity

We affirm our faith in Christ, and our commitment to serving him in our daily lives. We receive these persons as servants among us, and will support them in our shared ministries.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

*HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising

TFWS 2009

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All: O God, beyond all praising, we worship you to day
Choir: The flow’r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
All: Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,

and sing the love amaz ing that songs can not re pay;
its fragile bloom surrender to you the Lord most high;
that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;

for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown
and whether our to morrows be filled with good or ill,

at blessings without number and mercies without end;
though small in mortal stature, to heaven’s garden grown;
we’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still;

we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
for Christ the Man from heaven from death has set us free,
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,

we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
and we through him are given the final victory!
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1982 © The Jubilate Group (admin by Hope Publishing)  
Tune: THAXTED from Gustav Holst, The Planets, 1913

*PRAYER

Let us pray.

Bishop William T. McAlilly
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.

**BENEDICTION**

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

**RECESSIONAL**

*HYMN*  
*Come, Great God of All the Ages*  
HYFRYDOL

Text: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1987 © Hope Publishing  
Tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Pritchard, 1830
SENDING FORTH

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! Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare

William Mathias

*ADJOURN SINE DIE
Conference Leadership Participating in the Service

Bishop William T. McAlilly (Nashville Episcopal Area)

Holly Neal (Conference Lay Leader)
Bryan Brooks (Board of Ordained Ministry Chair)
Phoebe Jowers (Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Co-Chair)
Kenneth Townsend (Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Co-Chair)
Marie King (Order of Deacons Co-Chair)
Regina Hall (Order of Elders Co-Chair)
Trey Carey (Order of Deacons Co-Chair)
Jerry Wallace (Order of Elders Co-Chair)
Johnny Jeffords (Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, Memphis Conference)
Max Mayo (Dean of the Tennessee Conference Cabinet)
Meredith Day (Nashville Episcopal Area Office of Ministerial Concerns Coordinator)

Others Assisting in the Service

Jefferson Furtado, David Ssebulime, Toi King, Steph Dodge, Lisa Martin,
Enrique Hernandez, & Michele Morton

Choirs: Sanctuary Choir and Open Door Singers of Belmont UMC, Nashville; Gayle Sullivan, Director
Adult Choir and Youth Choir of Madison Street UMC, Clarksville; Jared Wilson, Director
Wesley Foundation, Tennessee State University; Elvie Williams, Director
First United Methodist Church, Crossville; Kimberly White, Director

Instrumentalists: Dr. Jared Wilson, Organist
Steve Patrick, Trumpet
Jeff Bailey, Trumpet
Anna Spina, French Horn
Barry Green, Trombone
Joe Murphy, Tuba
Scott Corey, Timpani

Appreciation is expressed to Meredith Day, Gayle Sullivan, Jacob Vaughn, & Tommy Ward
for the coordination of the worship service.

We welcome members of the Memphis Conference Extended Cabinet
who are sitting among clergy from the Tennessee Conference.

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