



**SERVICE OF  
COMMISSIONING  
AND  
ORDINATION**

of the

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

of

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Montgomery, Alabama

Monday, June 7, 2010

7:30 p.m.

BISHOP PAUL L. LEELAND, PRESIDING



## PRE-SERVICE CONCERT

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Arranged by Stephen Nielson and Ovid Young

*Hail, Gladdening Light*

Charles Wood

Hail! gladdening Light, of His pure glory poured  
Who is the Immortal Father, heavenly, blest,  
Holiest of Holies, Jesus Christ our Lord!

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest;  
The lights of evening round us shine;  
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine!

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung  
With undefiled tongue,  
Son of our God, Giver of life, alone:  
Therefore in all the world Thy glories, Lord, they own.

*With a Voice of Singing*

Martin Shaw

Men's Chorus

*My God Is a Rock*

Spiritual

Adult Ensemble

*Grace*

Arranged by Mark Hayes

Choir

*Lead Kindly Light*

Arranged by Mack Wilberg

Choir

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom; lead thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home; lead thou me on!  
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene - one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou shouldst lead me on.  
I loved to choose and see my path; but now, lead thou me on!  
I loved the garish day, and spite of fears, pride ruled my will. Remember not past years.

So long thy power hast blest me, sure it still will lead me on  
o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till the night is gone.  
And with the morn those angel faces smile, which I have loved long since, and lost awhile!  
Lead thou me on!

First United Methodist Church Cathedral Choir  
Jack Horner, Director of Music  
Linda Gill, Organist/Assistant Director of Music



# THE SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

## ENTRANCE

WELCOME

Dr. R. Lawson Bryan

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Chorale*

Joseph Jongen

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*All That Hath Life and Breath*  
*Choir*

René Clausen

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 139

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning,  
bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining,  
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.  
Hast thou not known his sustaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
who with his love doth befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee;  
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.  
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,  
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.

\*GREETING AND PRAYER

David Purvis Willis

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 who have been called to servant ministry, that they may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill their various ministries. Grant that we your people may follow where you lead, perfect our ministries, and live in joyful obedience to your will. Amen.**

(\*Stand as you are able.)

## RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

*(Bishop addresses the congregation.)*

Ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God and given to each Christian as vocation. 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. Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.**

*(The people are seated.)*

### PRESENTATION

*Those who serve the Church began their service as lay members of their local church. The laity affirmed the calling of God upon their lives and encouraged them to seek ordination.*

***Bob Reed, Secretary, Board of Ordained Ministry:***

As a Lay Representative on behalf of the laity of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, we are proud to recommend these persons who are being commissioned or ordained. The persons recommended became aware of God's calling toward ordained ministry while serving as lay members of their respective congregations. Having given evidence of their leadership within their local churches, recommended by their congregations, and presented to our Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, we now affirm God's calling upon their lives.

***Larry Bryars, Chairperson, Board of Ordained Ministry:***

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,

*(Candidates stand as their names are read and remain standing.)*

***Cherie Meadows, Chairperson, Division of Deacons:***

we present this person to be commissioned as a provisional deacon for leadership in Christ's holy church:

**PROVISIONAL DEACON**

Steven Todd Brumbeloe

***Cory Smith, Chairperson, Division of Elders:***

we present these persons to be commissioned as provisional elders for leadership in Christ's holy church:

**PROVISIONAL ELDERS**

Olivia Lawrence Poole

Robert Lance Whorton

***Cherie Meadows, Chairperson, Division of Deacons:***

and we present these persons to be ordained as deacons in full connection for leadership in Christ's holy church:

**DEACONS IN FULL CONNECTION**

Aimee Nicole Baxter

Clifton Jason Borders

Jeffrey Marlon Keeman

Rebecca White Rutherford

*Cory Smith, Chairperson, Division of Elders:*

and we present these persons to be ordained as elders in full connection for leadership in Christ's holy church:

### **ELDERS IN FULL CONNECTION**

Debora Katheryn Bishop

Jake Waldon Brady

Patricia Louise Bruner

Mary Ann Gantt

Martha Kathryn Knight

Samuel Gregory McKinnon

Holly Eckert Morales

Douglas Martin Orr

Sean Michael Peters

Susannah Baskervill Pittman

Michael David Precht

Nancy Lou Watson

David Purvis Willis

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

These persons are by God's grace to be commissioned or ordained to ministry. Those authorized by the Church to inquire about them have discerned that they are persons of sound learning and of Christian character. They possess the necessary gifts and evidence 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 in this ministry.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to the commissioning or ordination of these persons. Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be commissioned or ordained?

**We do! Thanks be to God!**

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

**With God's help, we will!**

*(Bishop, presenters, and candidates are seated.)*

## PROCLAMATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*I Samuel 3:1-8*

Robert Lance Whorton

Reader: This is the Word of God, through God's prophet, Samuel.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

*2 Peter 1:3-10*

Rebecca White Rutherford

Reader: This is the Word of God, through God's servant, Peter.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me*  
*Choir*

C. Hubert H. Parry

I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness within thy palaces.

*Psalm 122*

\*GOSPEL LESSON

*Mark 1:14-20*

Nancy Lou Watson

Reader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Who's Calling"

Bishop William W. Morris

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*  
*Choir*

Arranged by Diane Bish

\* THE DOXOLOGY

(\*Stand as you are able.)

*After the Doxology, the candidates remain standing for the General Examination.*

## GENERAL EXAMINATION

*The bishop, on behalf of the whole Church, inquires of the readiness of these persons for commissioning and ordination. The candidates are asked about their call, their personal faith, their understanding of Scripture, and their openness to spiritual growth.*

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.

My brothers and sisters, you have been called to representative ministry. The Church now confirms your calling through commissioning and ordination.

As commissioned and ordained clergy, you are to be coworkers with the laity, bishops, deacons, diaconal ministers, commissioned ministers, elders, and all of the faithful.

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 trust that God has called you to the life and work of ordained ministry?

**I do so trust.**

Do you believe in the Triune God, 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, God being my helper.**

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, 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, God being my helper.**

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.**

## INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

\*HYMN 648

*God The Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

HYFRYDOL

1. God the Spirit, guide and guardian,  
windsped flame and hovering dove,  
breath of life and voice of prophets,  
sign of blessing, power of love:  
give to those who lead your people  
fresh anointing of your grace;  
send them forth as bold apostles  
to your church in every place.

2. Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd,  
word made flesh, love crucified,  
teacher, healer, suffering servant,  
friend of sinners, foe of pride:  
in your tending may all pastors  
learn and live a shepherd's care;  
grant them courage and compassion  
shown through word and deed and prayer.

*(As hymn is being sung, those to be commissioned as provisional deacon and provisional elders  
come forward to the altar rail, facing the bishop. All others are seated.)*

## COMMISSIONING

*By prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Church has always "sent" persons in various forms of ministry and service. Commissioning persons is a first step toward ordination as a deacon in full connection or an elder in full connection. Commissioning is not the equivalent of ordination, so commissioned persons who will be serving as pastors of local churches also need to be licensed for pastoral ministry. The bishop represents the whole Church in this act of commissioning.*

## EXAMINATION OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a solemn hour in your life and the life of the Church. You have shared in the ministry of all the baptized and you have witnessed that Christ calls you into ordained ministry. Serving among us as faithful disciples, we have seen in you gifts and graces for leading the people of God in service.

Will you give yourself fully to the work of God in the world and to servant leadership in the life and work of Christ's Church?

**Following Christ, I will.**

Will you join with other provisional members for mutual support in the practice of leadership among the people of God?

**With God's help, I will.**

*(The bishop extends his hands over those to be commissioned and prays:)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, let us pray for these persons to be commissioned.

We are a grateful people, gracious God, that in your great love you have sent us the example of servant and leader in the person of your son, Jesus Christ. By that example, guide these persons in their ministry to your people. By your Holy Spirit, help your servants to understand and live the mystery of your love. Deepen their sense of purpose as they fulfill commissioned ministry, and prepare for ordination. Amen.

### COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

*(Family Members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer as the candidate is commissioned. Those to be commissioned kneel at the altar rail.*

*Then, the bishop, extending hands over each candidate, prays:)*

Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit help your servants to understand and live the mystery of your love. Deepen their sense of purpose as they fulfill commissioned ministry, and prepare for ordination.

*(Name)*, I commission you to be a faithful servant leader among the people, to lead the Church in service, to proclaim the Word of God, and to equip others for ministry, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The bishop then prays:*

Lord, help these your servants to understand and live the mystery of your love more completely each day. Deepen their sense of purpose as they fulfill the commissioned ministry of the Church, and prepare for the ordained relationship. Fill them with the spirit of your love so that they may be wholehearted in proclaiming salvation to the people, and in making disciples for the glory of your name. We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(The bishop presents each commissioned minister a certificate.)*

### HYMN 648

*God, The Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

HYFRYDOL

3. Great Creator, life bestower,  
truth beyond all thought's recall,  
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy,  
giving and forgiving all:  
as you know our strength and weakness,  
so may those the church exalts  
oversee her life steadfastly  
yet not overlook her faults.

4. Triune God, mysterious being,  
undivided and diverse,  
deeper than our minds can fathom,  
greater than our creeds rehearse:  
help us in our varied callings  
your full image to proclaim,  
that our ministries uniting  
may give glory to your name.

*(As hymn is being sung, Provisional members are seated and those to be ordained deacons come forward and stand at the altar, facing the bishop.)*

## ORDINATION

*Ordination is chiefly the work of the Holy Spirit. This sign and act confirms the Spirit's call and seeks the gifts and grace needed for ordained ministry. From New Testament times, the Church has used the laying on of hands to recognize the Spirit's action.*

### EXAMINATION OF DEACONS

*The bishop examines the candidates for deacon in full connection, reminding them of the duties of a deacon, asking them of their call and willingness to participate through the Order of Deacons.*

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 teach and proclaim God's Word, to lead in worship, to assist elders at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, to nurture disciples for witness and service, to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed, to interpret to the Church the world's hurts and hopes, 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 this life and work?

**I do so believe.**

Will you, anticipating lifelong servant leadership, give yourself to this time of preparation, examination, and discernment, trusting God to form within you the ability to lead and equip others for ministries of service in the world?

**I will, with the help of God.**

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.**

## ORDINATION OF DEACONS AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

*(The bishop extends his hands over those being ordained and prays:)*

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us pray for these persons to be ordained as deacons.

We give thanks to you, Gracious 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, now resurrected and exalted in the heavens, and that you have taught us, by His word and example, that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.

Give to these your servants the grace and power they need to serve you in this ministry. Clothe them with your righteousness so that your people may be strengthened and your name glorified in all the world. Amen.

*(As each deacon comes forward to be ordained, family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for support and silent prayer during the laying on of hands.)*

*The bishop lays both hands on those to be ordained deacon in full membership praying:*

Almighty God, pour upon *(name)* the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of a deacon.

*(Name)*, take authority as a deacon in the Church to proclaim the Word of God, and to lead God's people to serve in the world in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*(The bishop shall deliver to each deacon a Bible. Ordained deacons are seated and those to be ordained elder come forward and stand at the altar, facing the bishop.)*

## EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

*The bishop examines the candidates for elder in full connection, reminding them of the duties of an elder, asking of their call and willingness to participate through the Order of Elders.*

An elder in the Church, in covenant with other elders in this Annual Conference, 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 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 of the people committed to your care, order the life of the congregation, counsel the troubled, and declare the forgiveness of sin; to lead the people of God in obedience to 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.

Do you believe that you are called by God to the life and work of an elder?

**I do so believe.**

Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission and for mutual support 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 my sisters and brothers in the Order of Elders.**

## ORDINATION OF ELDERS AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

*(The bishop extends his hands over those being ordained and prays:)*

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us pray for these persons to be ordained elders.

We praise you, Eternal God, because you have called us in your infinite love to be a priestly people, offering to you acceptable worship through Jesus Christ, 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, the Church, 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 Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*(As each elder comes forward, family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for support and silent prayer during the laying on of hands for each person ordained.)*

*Bishop* Almighty God, pour upon (*name*) the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder.

(*Name*), take authority as an elder in the Church to preach the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*(The bishop shall deliver to each elder a Bible.)*

## SENDING FORTH

### PRAYER AND DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*Bishop* 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.

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.

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

1. "Go, make of all disciples." We hear the call, O Lord, that comes from thee, our Father, in thy eternal Word. Inspire our ways of learning through earnest, fervent prayer, and let our daily living reveal thee everywhere.

2. "Go, make of all disciples," baptizing in the name of Father, Son, and Spirit, from age to age the same. We call each new disciple to follow thee, O Lord, redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.

3. "Go, make of all disciples." We at thy feet would stay until each life's vocation accents thy holy way. We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart, revealing in our witness the master teacher's art.

4. "Go, make of all disciples." We welcome thy command. "Lo, I am with you always." We take thy guiding hand. The task looms large before us; we follow without fear; in heaven and earth thy power shall bring God's kingdom here.

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 571**

*Go, Make of All Disciples*

LANCASHIRE

**\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Fanfare*

William Mathias

*(\*Stand as you are able.)*

## **RECEPTION**

A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall in honor of the commissioned and ordained persons immediately following the benediction.

## **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND**

Thank you for supporting the Ministerial Education Fund! As we celebrate this great moment in the life of the church, we also celebrate the role of the Ministerial Education Fund in the preparation of persons for ordained ministry. Through the Ministerial Education Fund, we directly support seminaries, scholarships to seminary students, and the recruitment of candidates for ministry. When your local church paid its Ministerial Education Fund apportionment, you invested in the lives of these persons who are commissioned and ordained this evening.

## **THE ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFER FOR THE SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**

**James Benjamin Mangum, Crucifer**  
**Amy Catheren Shannon, Acolyte**  
**Elizabeth Riddle Thrower, Acolyte**

## **THE PREACHER FOR THE SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**

**Bishop William Wesley Morris**

William Wesley Morris was born in Baltimore, Maryland and was educated in the Baltimore school system. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan with an A.B. degree, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary with a B.D. degree, Scarritt College with an M.A. degree with distinction, and Vanderbilt University with a D.Min. degree.

While serving student appointments, Bill was ordained deacon in 1959 and elder in 1961. He served Bethany Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois, Union Avenue Community Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois; Christ Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois; Stanley Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee; John Wesley United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, and First United Methodist Church, Gallatin, Tennessee. He also served as an Associate Council Director, Council Director and District Superintendent of the Clarksville and Murfreesboro Districts, and on the General Council on Ministries.

On July 15, 1992, he was elected a bishop of The United Methodist Church at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, where he was assigned to the Alabama-West Florida Area. In July of 2000, he was assigned to the Nashville Area. He served as president of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits from 2000 to 2004, and is currently a Trustee at Emory University.

He is married to Princilla Smart Evans, and he has four children: Loretta, Eva, Michael, and Mark.



