



MEMPHIS AND TENNESSEE CONFERENCES 2021

## Service of Licensing and Commissioning

West End United Methodist Church  
Nashville, Tennessee  
June 19, 2021



The Service of Worship  
for  
The Presentation of Licenses for Pastoral Ministry  
The Commissioning of Provisional Members

Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences  
The United Methodist Church

West End United Methodist Church  
Nashville, Tennessee  
June 19, 2021 11:00 a.m.  
Bishop William T. McAlilly, Presiding

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

## GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Andrew Risinger  
Associate Minister of Music and Organist  
West End UMC

SCRIPTURE READING

*Hebrews 12:1-3*

Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel

\*OPENING HYMN

*Lift High the Cross*

**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.*

## 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 LEADERS

Janice McCallen  
George Brown

Bishop McAlilly, on behalf of the laity of local congregations of the Memphis Conference who have examined and approved these candidates,

and on behalf of the laity of local congregations of the Tennessee Conference who have examined and approved these candidates,

CHAIR OF THE BOARDS OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams  
Rev. Dr. Bryan Brooks

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Memphis Annual Conference, which has recommended these persons, and the Annual Conference, which has approved them,

and on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Tennessee Annual Conference, which has recommended these persons, and the Annual Conference, which has approved them,

FELLOWSHIP OF LOCAL PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Phoebe Jowers  
Rev. LaTricia Trull

We present these persons for licensing as local pastors. We present them with our prayers and support:

Lee Alexander  
Kelly L. Breniser  
Charla Ramey Burnette  
Jeffrey M. Farris  
Jackie Renee Gardner

We present these persons for licensing as local pastors. We present them with our prayers and support.

Shaun Michael Hinds  
Jonathan Hayes McHann  
Sarah Elizabeth Millsap  
Patrick Joseph Valentine II  
Randy Weatherington

We present these persons for commissioning as provisional elders:

Luke Benjamin Lea  
Sharlet U. Panhalker

Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel

We present these persons for commissioning as provisional elders:

Donald Johnson Terry  
Samuel Conner Williams

Rev. Regina Hall

*Bishop to congregation*

These persons are, by God's grace, to be licensed 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, 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 and commissioning 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!**

ACT OF PRAISE

*Arise My Soul, Arise*

Charles Wesley/Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears.  
The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
Before the Throne my Surety stands;  
My name is written on His hands.

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received at Calvary,  
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:  
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,  
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die."

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;  
He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear;  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry. Arise, my soul, arise!

## THE PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

OLD TESTAMENT

*Exodus 3:13-17*

George Brown

NEW TESTAMENT

*John 13:1-15*

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lewis

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*"I've Laid Down A Pattern For You"*

Bishop William T. McAlilly

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED

Rev. Regina Hall

**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.**

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

**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.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Rev. Scott Aleridge  
Cumberland River District Superintendent

*Here is the QR code for your offering. Or, you are invited to go to <http://bitly.ws/dz2y> and make your donation.*



OFFERTORY PRAYER

**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 for the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences. 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:* As I call your name, please kneel.

Lee Alexander

Kelly L. Breniser

Charla Ramey Burnette

Jeffrey M. Farris

Jackie Renee Gardner

Shaun Michael Hinds

Jonathan Hayes McHann

Sarah Elizabeth Millsap

Patrick Joseph Valentine II

Randy Weatherington

*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.**

Beautiful Saviour, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.  
Beautiful Saviour, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!

## GENERAL EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING

### *Bishop to congregation*

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

### *Bishop to candidates*

My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to a commissioned ministry. The Church now confirms your calling. As commissioned ministers, you are to be co-workers with the laity, bishops, deacons, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, 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.**

## **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.

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

## THE PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

Bishop McAlilly

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.

Bishop McAlilly *prays for 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.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Andrew Risinger

INVITATION TO CALL TO MINISTRY

Bishop William T. McAlilly

### BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

PRAYER

Bishop William T. McAlilly

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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Go To The World*

Sylvia G. Dunstan

**Go to the World! Go into all the earth.**

**Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Go to the world! Go into every place.**

**Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.**

**As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **BENEDICTION**

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

### **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

Andrew Risinger

Memphis and Tennessee Conference Leadership Participating in the Service

Bishop William T. McAlilly (Nashville Episcopal Area)

Autura Eason-Williams (Memphis Board of Ordained Ministry Chair)

Bryan Brooks (Tennessee Board of Ordained Ministry Chair)

Mary Beth Bernheisel (Memphis Board of Ordained Ministry Vice-Chair)

Janice McCallen (Memphis Conference Lay Leader)

George Brown (Tennessee Conference Associate Lay Leader)

Phoebe Jowers (Tennessee Conference Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Co-Chair)

Latricia Trull (Memphis Conference Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Co-Chair))

Regina Hall (Tennessee Conference Order of Elders Co-Chair)

Jonathan Lewis (Memphis Conference Order of Deacons Co-Chair)

Martha Touchton (Tennessee Conference Order of Deacons Co-Chair)

Scott Aleridge (Dean of the Tennessee and Memphis Conference Cabinet)

Deborah Owens (Office of Leadership Formation and Development)

Anne Hook (Conference Worship Chairperson)

Others Assisting in or with the Service

Andrew Risinger (Associate Minister of Music and Organist, West End UMC)

St. Luke UMC Choir – Memphis, TN

Terri Theil (Director of Music Ministries, St. Luke UMC)

Kameron Myers (Violinist, St. Luke UMC)

Carol Craig (Accompanist, St. Luke UMC)

Jacob Vaughn (Office of Leadership Formation and Development)

Melinda Young Britt (Director of Connectional Ministries)

H. G. Stovall (Nashville Episcopal Area Office)

The Wonderful Staff at West End United Methodist Church

Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon, Pastor

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