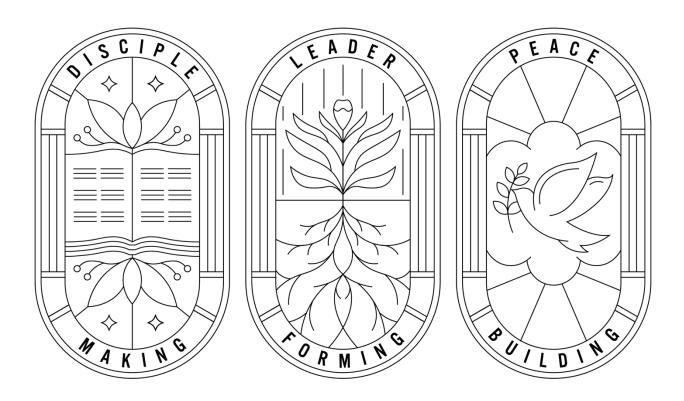
# Service for the Ordering of Ministry

The North Carolina Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church



Saturday, June 15, 2024 ● 11:00 am Greenville Convention Center Greenville, North Carolina **Certified Lay Ministers** 

Jeanne Gregory Sue Ann Campbell Jatko Mary McLeod Richard G. Morrison Lisa O'Donnell Shannon Perkins Lusi Radford Rick Stanford

**Commissioned as a Deaconess** 

Amy Nicole Balfour

**License for Pastoral Ministry** 

Joshua Thomas Abraham Takudzwa Chipeke Asya Denise Coles Angela Carraway Denton Grace McGee Timothy Odell Nicholson Kevin Lee Rollison Andrew Mark Watkins

**Commissioning as Deacon** 

Anne Louise Pass

Commissioning as Elder

Cole Gunther Breit Robert Tyler Daniels Schylar Ann Ferguson Saul Gastelum Flores Amanda Gail Hedden Miles Baker Hunt James Logan Jackson Kudakwashe Kagura Joseph Dawson Lane Heather Marie Locklear Sarah Jane Majors Austin Anthony Meadows Howard Keith Porter Han Sol Sim Joshua Andrew Tester

Ordination as Deacon

Catherine Earle Neal

**Ordination as Elder** 

Gordon John Christen Rebecca Ellen Detterman Jacob Marshall Dye Mark Edward Gustafson Rachel Elise Price Kwashe Stephan Thomas Margeson Kathryn M. Medinas-Lockley Tobi Anne Nguyen Donald Clayton Parker Damion Taj Quaye Cassidy Anna Salter Benjamin Cornelius Van Staalduinen

Changing from Order of Deacons to Order of Elders

Kristina Johnson Yeatts

### **WE GATHER**

Prelude	The Majesty and Glory of Your Name Conference Choir	Fettke
*Processional Hymn	Lift High the Cross	UMH 159

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

Verse 1: Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.

#### Refrain

Verse 2: Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

#### Refrain

*Verse 3*: O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

## Refrain

Verse 4: So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

#### Refrain

\*Greeting and Prayer ...... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Bishop: 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:

People: Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit you gave to your apostles many excellent gifts. Give your grace to all servants of your church, that we may with joy 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.

(The people are seated.)

## WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM AND AFFIRM OUR COMMON MINISTRY

(The bishop, standing near the baptismal font, begins:)

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 God's people gathered here:

(The bishop pours water from the font:)

Bishop: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

People: We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.

## PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE LICENSED, CERTIFIED, COMMISSIONED, AND ORDAINED

(Those who are to be certified as lay ministers, licensed, commissioned, and ordained are presented to the bishop.)

(Mr. John Hall, Conference Lay Leader)

This day, these are the witnesses who have come forth from among us. They are responding to their call by the Holy Spirit to set apart ministry. Bishop Shelton, on behalf of the laity of local congregations who have examined and approved these candidates, we present these persons who are certified as lay ministers:

(Certified Lay Ministers stand)

(Rev. Dr. Sangwoo Kim, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry)

and on behalf of the district committees on ordained ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry of this annual conference, which has recommended these persons, and this annual conference, which has approved them, we present these persons who are licensed for pastoral ministry, these persons to be commissioned for ministry, and these persons to be ordained as deacons and elders.

(Licensed, commissioned, and ordained stand. Certified lay ministers remain standing)

Bishop: These persons are by God's grace to be certified, licensed, commissioned, and 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, and possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to the certifying, licensing, commissioning, or ordaining of these persons.

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

People: We do! Thanks be to God!

Bishop: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

People: With God's help, we will!

(The bishop, presenters, and candidates are seated.)

### PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD AND RESPONSE

Offering		Bishop Paul L. Leeland
theological education i term, sustainable salar	Professors in Methodism, a special n Africa, Europe, and the Philippine ry support for teaching positions in a over 30 United Methodist-related th tes.	es. It provides long- Methodist history,
Anthem	We Are Your Church Conference Choir	Tina English/John Purifoy
Prayer for Illumination		Rev. Dr. Regina H. Moore
your Ho and your	pen our hearts and minds by the poly Spirit, that as the Scriptures a Word is proclaimed, we may hea what you say to us today. Amen	are read ar with joy

 Scripture Lesson
 Isaiah 40:1-2, 9-11, 27-31
 Rev. Dr. Regina H. Moore

 Sermon
 "God's Plan for God's People"
 Rev. Dr. Sangwoo Kim

 \*Affirmation of Faith
 The Apostle's Creed
 Rev. Dr. Regina H. Moore

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith we now declare as we unite our voices in the historic confession of the Christian Faith.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe 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. (UMH 881)

#### \*Gloria Patri

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.

## **GENERAL EXAMINATION**

(All are seated except the candidates and the bishop, who stand facing one another.)

(The bishop examines the candidates:)

Bishop: Licensing, 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.

You have been called to licensed, commissioned, or ordained ministry. The church now confirms your calling.

By the grace of God, you are to be coworkers with the laity, bishops, deacons, diaconal ministers, local pastors, associate members, commissioned ministers, 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 licensed, commissioned, or 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.

(The bishop addresses the candidates:)

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.** 

(Candidates for licensing, commissioning and ordination are seated.)

(The candidates for commissioning as Certified Lay Ministers come to the front of the stage and stand facing the bishop.)

#### THE CERTIFICATION OF LAY MINISTERS

(The presiding bishop examines the candidates.)

Bishop: Do you believe you are moved by the Holy Spirit to serve as a certified lay minister? **Candidates: I do.** 

Bishop: Will you strive to live a life in keeping with what you proclaim?

Candidates: I will.

Bishop: You are hereby authorized to serve as a certified lay minister in the congregations to which you are assigned. Take care that you perform these duties faithfully as you are able, the Lord being your helper. **Amen.** 

(The candidates for commissioning as Certified Lay Ministers move back to their seats.)

(The candidate for commissioning as a Deaconess comes to the front of the stage and stands facing the bishop.)

## THE COMMISSIONING OF A DEACONESS

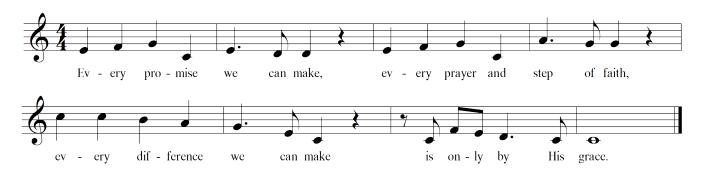
**Bishop Shelton:** The call of God is always profound, and our response can be no less extraordinary. In the varied ministries of love, justice and service to which the Holy Spirit is leading you, you will testify to the infinite love of God in Christ Jesus. Such a lifetime vocation confers a great privilege; it also lays upon you a solemn responsibility. In your consecration, 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 missioner covenant community and for a lifetime of loving and supporting those in the covenant community as part of the world diaconate

Do you now affirm these commitments publicly in the presence of this assembly? I do so publicly affirm these declarations with God being my helper.

Today, we send you forth with our blessings and support.

("Grace Alone", verse 1)



(Those being commissioned kneel as able. Designated representatives from the community assist the bishop in the laying on of hands)

(The bishop, laying both hands upon the candidate, prays:)

*Name*, I commission you to the appointed ministry of *[name appointment]* on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

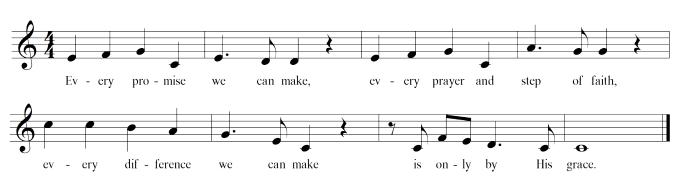
### Let us pray:

Most Gracious God, source of all mercies, anoint this your servant with your Holy Spirit, enrich her with your grace, and strengthen her for the tasks which lie ahead. May her labors glorify your holy name, as she continues her daily work in ministries of love, justice and service on behalf of The United Methodist Church. Through your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(The candidate for commissioning as deaconess moves back to their seat.)

(The candidates for licensing come to the front of the stage and stand facing the bishop.)

("Grace Alone", verse 1)



## THE LICENSING OF LOCAL PASTORS

#### **EXAMINATION**

(The presiding bishop examines the candidates for licensing:)

Bishop: Do you believe you are moved by the Holy Spirit to serve as a licensed local pastor? **I do.** 

Will you strive to live a life in keeping with what you preach?

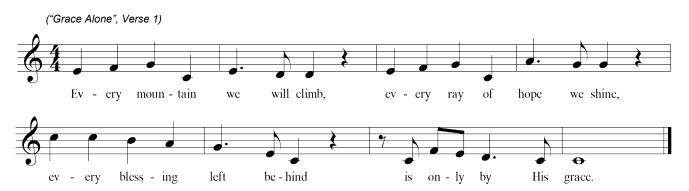
#### LICENSING FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

(The bishop authorizes the candidates for licensed local pastor as a group:)

You are hereby authorized to serve as a licensed local pastor in the congregations to which you are appointed. Take care that you perform these duties faithfully as you are able, the Lord being your helper. **Amen.** 

(The licensed local pastors return to their seats.)

(The candidates for commissioning come forward).



## THE COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS FOR SERVICE

#### INTRODUCTION

(The bishop introduces the act of commissioning:)

Bishop: Throughout Christian history, the church has commissioned people for leadership and service. This commissioning is always a response to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who calls and sends people to share in Christ's ministry.

In the early stages of ministerial service, ordained leaders walk with commissioned leaders to mentor and form them in Christ's ministry, just as Ananias, the more seasoned leader, guided Paul, the newly-called evangelist, toward the fullness of his calling. (Acts 9)

#### **EXAMINATION**

(The bishop examines the candidates to be commissioned:)

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 have witnessed to Christ's call to leadership among the people of God.

Serving among us as faithful disciples, you have shown gifts and graces for leading the people of God in living and proclaiming the gospel to all people.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a commissioned minister? **I do so believe.** 

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?

I will, with the help of God.

(The bishop addresses the candidates:)

May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace to perform them, that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection. **Amen.** 

#### PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

(The bishop, extending arms over all the candidates, prays:)

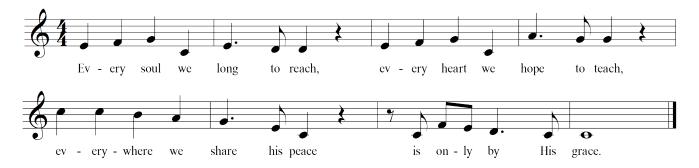
God of the apostles and prophets, of the martyrs and teachers, you raise up people to be apostolic leaders in your church.

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, with all of your people, to heal the sick, love the outcast, resist evil, preach the Word, and to give themselves freely for your name's sake.

("Grace Alone", Verse 2)



(Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer and support during the laying on of hands for each commissioned minister.)

(The bishop, extending hands over each candidate, prays:)

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Name.

Send *name* 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. **Amen.** 

(The newly commissioned ministers return to their seats.)

#### **PRAYER**

(After all the candidates have been commissioned, the bishop says:)

Let us pray.

(Then all but those being commissioned pray:)

Almighty God, may the grace of ministry rest upon these your servants and may the opportunity to serve lead them into the fullness of your calling. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that they may glorify you by giving themselves to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(The candidate for ordination as deacon come forward.)

#### THE ORDAINING OF DEACONS

The Ministry of Deacons ...... Rev. Joyce Day

#### **EXAMINATION**

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,

(Here a large Bible is lifted by an assistant.)

to lead in worship, to teach and proclaim God's Word, to assist elders and local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes, (Here a towel and basin with pitcher may be lifted by an assistant.)

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 those in the order of deacons.

#### LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR DEACONS

(The bishop, facing the deacon candidate, calls the people to prayer:)

As this person is ordained by God and the church for the ministry of the deacon to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for them.

(The bishop, with hands extended over the candidate, prays:)

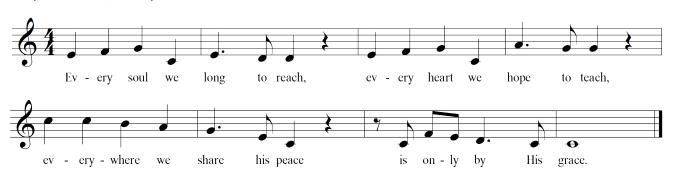
We thank you, Lord God, that in your great love you sent Jesus Christ to take the form of a servant, becoming obedient even to death on the cross, and now resurrected and exalted in the heavens. You have taught us, by his word and example, that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.

Give this servant grace to be faithful to their promises, constant in their discipleship, and always ready for the works of loving service.

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

(The candidate for ordination as a deacon moves to the stage)

(Grace Alone, Verse 2)



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

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

(Immediately the ordinand places a hand on the Bible as the bishop lays hands on the ordinand's hands and says:)

*Name*, take authority as a deacon 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 newly ordained deacon returns to their seats.)

(The candidates for ordination as elders come forward.)

#### THE ORDAINING OF ELDERS

The Ministry of Elders......Rev. Ben Williams

Bishop: 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 those in the Order of Elders.

#### LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

(The bishop, facing the elder candidates, calls the people to prayer:)

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 for them.

(The bishop, with hands extended over those being ordained, prays:)

We praise you, eternal God, because you have called us to be a priestly people, offering to you acceptable worship through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Apostle and High Priest, Shepherd, and Bishop of our souls.

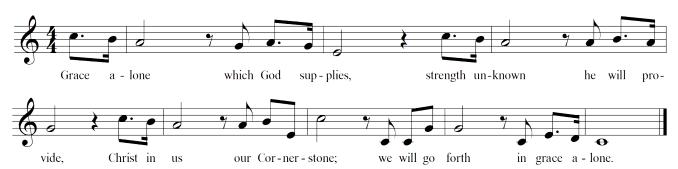
We thank you that, by dying, Christ has overcome death and, having ascended into heaven, has poured forth gifts abundantly on your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up Christ's body, and to fulfill your gracious purpose in the world.

Give to these your servants the grace and power they need to serve you in this ministry. Make them faithful pastors, patient teachers, and wise counselors.

Enable them to serve without reproach, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, to administer the sacraments of the new covenant, and to offer with all your people spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(Representatives from the laity and the order of elders who are to join in the laying on of hands stand with the bishop. The candidates for ordination as an elder move to the altar.)

("Grace Alone", Chorus)



(When the bishop lays hands on the head of the candidate, others may lay hands on the candidate's back or shoulders.)

(Family members and friends may stand where they are for silent prayer and support during the laying on of hands for each ordinand.)

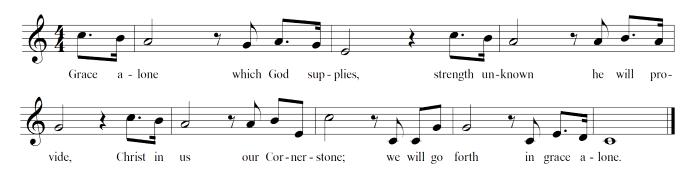
(The bishop lays both hands on the ordinand, praying:)

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

(Immediately the candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop says:)

*Name*, take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God, and 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.** 

("Grace Alone", Chorus)



## WE ARE SENT FORTH FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop: Let us pray.

All: We thank you, gracious God, for raising up among us faithful servants. Clothe them with your righteousness as they go forth, and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves generously to others. Amen.

Verse 1: I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I have made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

Verse 2: I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

#### Refrain

Verse 3: I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

#### Refrain

#### \*Dismissal with Blessing

(Bishop sends the people forth:)

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

As you have received, freely give.

Go, to share generously in Christ's ministry. **Amen.** 

Postlude	Because He Lives	Hayes

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton	Resident Bishop, Raleigh Area
Bishop Paul L. Leeland	Retired Bishop
The Reverend Dr. Sangwoo Kim	Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
The Reverend Dr. Regina H. Moore	Extension Ministry, Columbia, South Carolina
The Reverend Beth H. Hood	Assistant to the Bishop for Clergy Life
The Reverend Bruce Petty	Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members
The Reverend Joyce Day	
The Reverend Ben Williams	
Ms. Brenda Brown	Deaconess
Mr. John Hall	Conference Lay Leader
Ms. Anggie Thompson	Co-Leader, Lay Servant Ministries
Mr. Paul Saik	Accompanist
Mr. Robert Burkett	Oboe
Mr. Matt Driscoll	Trombone
Mr. Jebb Lamm	Trumpet
Mr. Chris Wilson	Violin

## Lift High the Cross

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#### Grace Alone

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#### The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Words: Linda Lee Johnson

Music: Tom Fettke

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## We Are Your Church

Words and Music: Tina English, arranged by John Purifoy

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