

North Georgia Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church

**Service of Ordination and Commissioning**

The Classic Center Theatre  
Athens, Georgia

Tuesday Evening

June 12, 2001

7:30 p.m.

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**ENTRANCE**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mr. Tom Alderman, organist

*Brethren, We Have Met To Worship-Hustad*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Cantemos

*Nzamuranza ("I Worship Christ")*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *The Church's One Foundation*

arr. Aurelio

\*GREETING AND PRAYER

Bishop G. Lindsey Davis

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.**

**RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON MINISTRY**

(Bishop Davis addresses the congregation)

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:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

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

(The people are seated.)

## **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Joe Whittemore (Representative of the laity)

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

Reverend Dr. David Jones (Representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry)

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 these persons who will be ordained or commissioned:

Probationary Members:  
Deacons in Full Connection:  
Elders in Full Connection:

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

(Bishop Davis)

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, 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 commissioning and  
ordination of these persons.

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

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

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

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

(All are seated)

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Cantemos

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

### PROCLAMATION

INTRODUCTION OF PREACHER

Bishop G. Lindsey Davis

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Psalm 139*  
Cantemos  
Catherine Holt, dancer

Allen Pote

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Dr. Russell Richey

SERMON

Dr. Russell Richey

### GENERAL EXAMINATION

(All candidates stand. The Bishop faces the candidates and says)

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

As commissioned or ordained ministers, you are to be coworkers with the bishops, commissioned ministers, deacons in full connection, diaconal 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 a commissioned or ordained minister?

**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 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.**

\*HYMN

*O Holy Spirit, By Whose Breath*

Hamburg LM

1. O Holy spirit, by whose breath life rises vibrant out of death Come to create, renew, inspire; come, kindle in our hearts your fire.
2. You are the seeker's sure resource, of burning love the living source, Protector in the midst of strife, the giver and the Lord of life.

3. In you God's energy is shown, to us your varied gifts make known. Teach us to speak, teach us to hear; yours is the tongue and yours the ear.
4. Flood our dull senses with your light, in mutual love our hearts unite. Your power the whole creation fills; confirm our weak, uncertain wills.
5. From inner strife grant us relief; turn nations to the ways of peace. To fuller life your people bring that as one body we may sing.
6. Praise to the Father, Christ his Word, and to the Spirit; God the Lord, To whom all honor, glory be both now and for eternity.

(After the hymn, the people, the deacon in full connection, and elder candidates are seated. The probationary member candidates remain standing.)

### **EXAMINATION OF PROBATIONARY MEMBERS**

(The Bishop examines the candidates)

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 grace 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 probationary 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.

(The probationary member candidates are seated. The deacon in full connection candidates stand.)

### **EXAMINATION OF DEACONS IN FULL CONNECTION**

(The Bishop examines the deacon in full connection candidates)

A deacon in full connection  
is called to exemplify Christ's servanthood,  
to participate in the leadership of worship,  
to teach the gospel,  
to counsel the troubled,  
to serve God's people with special concern  
for love, justice, and ministry with the poor, the sick, and the  
oppressed,  
to equip the baptized for ministry,  
and to embody the unity of the congregation's worship  
with its life in the world.

These are the duties of a deacon in full connection.

Do you believe that God has called you to this life and work?

**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.**

(The bishop extends his hands over those being ordained 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 ordained as deacons in full  
connection.

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

(The deacon in full connection candidates are seated. The elder candidates stand)

## **EXAMINATION OF ELDERS**

(The Bishop examines the elder candidates)

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 to remind us that we are to faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

The paten and chalice is to remind us that we are 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 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 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.**

(The Bishop extends his hands over those to be 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 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, 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, on God, now and forever. Amen.

(The elder candidates are seated.)

### **THE LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR PROBATIONARY MEMBERS**

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

(The Bishop lays both hands on those to be commissioned probationary members praying)

*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 LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR DEACONS IN FULL CONNECTION**

(The Bishop lays both hands on those to be ordained deacon in full connection praying)

Almighty God, pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit  
for the office and work of a deacon. **Amen.**

(The candidate places hands on the Bible, as the Bishop says)

*Name*, take authority as a deacon to proclaim the Word of God, and to lead God's people to serve the world.

### **THE LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR ELDERS**

(The Bishop lays both hands on those to be ordained elder praying)

Almighty God, pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit,  
for the office and work of an elder. Amen.

(The candidate places hands on the Bible, as the Bishop says)

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

### **SENDING FORTH**

\*PRAYER

(After all are commissioned and ordained, the bishop says)

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.**

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

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

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!**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Go Make of all Disciples*

Lancashire

POSTLUDE

Mr. Tom Alderman, Organist

*Fanfare On Old Hundreth-Bock*

\*GOING FORTH

\*Congregation May stand as they are able

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Preacher: Dr. Russell Richey

Special Music: Cantemos,

Barbara Day Miller, Director

Kappitola Williams, Choreography/costumes

Johette Johnson Page, Marianne Travis, accompanists

Organist: Mr. Tom Alderman

Service Coordinator: Reverend Richard H. Moeller