2017 Florida Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church

June 8 – 10, 2017

The Buena Vista Palace Hotel
Orlando, Florida

Worship Guide
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING WORSHIP
Thursday Afternoon, June 8, 2017

*GATHERING SONG

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy Is The Lord

Set A Fire

No place I’d rather be
No place I’d rather be
No place I’d rather be
Than here in Your love, here in Your love
Set a fire down in my soul
That I can’t contain and I can’t control
I want more of You God
I want more of You God

Instrumentation continues during the speaking

ONE VOICE: Brothers and sisters, Rejoice!
Our Eternal and Beautiful God is near
The One who gives us new birth by water and Spirit
The One who names us beloved
The One who delights in our very existence
Come and worship

No place I’d rather be
No place I’d rather be
No place I’d rather be
Than here in Your love, here in Your love
Set a fire down in my soul
That I can’t contain and I can’t control
I want more of You God
I want more of You God
OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE  

* O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

The United Methodist Hymnal #57

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

UNISON OPENING PRAYER  

Rev. Sarah B. Miller

Holy Spirit, Holy One
Holy Spirit, Descending Dove
Alight on me that I may know your presence
Anoint me that I may know your call
Fill me that I may know your power
Guide me that I may know your path
Name me that I may know, that I know, that I know who I am
Amen.

SCRIPTURE  

Matthew 3:16-17, NRSV

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.
And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’
INVITATION TO THE FONT

Be Still, Remember

(to the tune of
The United Methodist Hymnal #620)

Refrain
Be still, remember, who you are.
Come touch the water of your birth.
Be dead to sin, alive to God.
Remember who you are in Jesus.

You are beloved.
You are an heir.
You are a child of God. (Refrain)

You are claimed.
You are marked.
You are named by God. (Refrain)

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Bishop Ken Carter

The United Methodist Hymnal #34-35

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ’s holy church and serve as Christ’s representatives in the world? I will.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

COMMUNAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop Carter: Remember your baptism and be thankful.
Congregation: We remember our baptisms and are thankful.

UNISON THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Holy One – Father, Son, Spirit: we remember and rejoice!
Help us live the promise you see in us.
Help us claim our calling and our names. Amen.

*SIGNS OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION*

*CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE And Are We Yet Alive The United Methodist Hymnal #553

And are we yet alive, and see each other’s face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!

Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,
Again in Jesus’ praise we join, and in his sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
Fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!

Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
And still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast of all his redeeming power,
Which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,
And gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.
SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE  
Thursday Evening, June 8, 2017  

*GATHERING MUSIC  
Lord, I Lift Your Name On High  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
(CCLI #117947)  
The United Methodist Hymnal #64

*CALL TO WORSHIP  
Rev. Kathy Nolasco  
Liturgy by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell  
Translation by Rev. Kathy Nolasco

Leader: When we feel alone, when we feel rejected,  
People: Ven, Espíritu Santo, Ven!  
Leader: When we feel drained and dried up and we can’t give anymore,  
People: Ven, Espíritu Santo, Ven!  
Leader: When we are unsure of how to move or where to go or what to do,  
People: Ven, Espíritu Santo, Ven!  
Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Revive us, move in us,  
and encourage us on the journey of faith.  
People: Ven, Espíritu Santo, Ven! Amen!

*OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE  
All Hail The Power of Jesus’ Name  
The United Methodist Hymnal #154

All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;  
exalt the Stem of Jesse’s Rod, and crown him Lord of all.  
Extol the Stem of Jesse’s Rod, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.  
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
**OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Corey Jones
Adapted from Nan Merrill
*Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*

Beloved, how gracious you are to your people;
you restore their souls time and time again.
You forgive their distractions
when they wander far from you;
you give them new life.

Yes, you bless them and raise up new hope;
you awaken their hearts to love.

Restore us again, O Spirit of Truth;
burn us with the refining Fire of Love!
We cannot live separated from you;
cast out the demons of fear, doubt, and illusion.
Revive us again, we pray; may your people rejoice in you!
Have compassion on your people, O Holy One,
and grant us your forgiveness.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

**A WORD ABOUT OFFERINGS**

Rev. Icel Rodriguez and Rev. Pam Carter

The offerings celebrate our partnerships with our neighbors in Cuba and Haiti.
One-half of the offering will be directed to each initiative.

**Cuban Pastor Pension Initiative** – in collaboration with the leadership of the Methodist Church of Cuba, we will develop a pension fund for Cuban pastors based on their years of service there and related to their economic scale. The UMC’s General Board of Pension and Health Benefits will help us design and administer the plan.
A matching gift of $50,000 is already in place!

**Abundant Health for Haiti** – One of the four areas of focus for The UMC in 2016-2020 is the development of Abundant Health Initiatives across our planet. *Meds and Food for Kids* fights malnutrition in Haiti, treating children with life-saving medika mamba (medical peanut butter). A gift to mfkhaiti.org feeds desperately hungry children.
This will be developed through our Haiti Partnership.
Lord, you were favourable to your land; 
you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 
You forgave the iniquity of your people; 
you pardoned all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath; 
you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, 
and put away your indignation towards us. 
Will you be angry with us for ever? 
Will you prolong your anger to all generations? 
Will you not revive us again, 
so that your people may rejoice in you? 
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, 
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, 
for he will speak peace to his people, 
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, 
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; 
righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, 
and righteousness will look down from the sky. 
The Lord will give what is good, 
and our land will yield its increase. 
Righteousness will go before him, 
and will make a path for his steps.
El Señor sea con ustedes.
Y también contigo.
Eleven sus corazones.
Los elevamos al Señor.
Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.
Es digno y justo darle gracias y alabar!

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join them in singing:

Singing: 
(Refrain)
Le lo le lo lay lo
Le lo le lo lay lo
Le lo le lo lay lo
Lo le lo le lo lay.

(repeat after leader)
Holy, holy, holy God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  

(Repeat Refrain.)

(repeat after leader)
Santo, santo, santo Dios de gloria y poder.
Cielos y tierra proclaman tu gloria.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna en los cielos.
Bendito aquel que viene en el nombre de Dios.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna en los cielos. 

(Repeat Refrain.)
Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, revived by your Spirit, refreshed by your abiding presence, called out of darkness into your marvelous light.

Pues que la misma noche que fue entregado tomó el pan y habiendo dado gracias lo partió y dio a sus discípulos diciendo: Tomad, comed, esto es mi cuerpo que es dado por vosotros; haced esto en memoria de mí.

Igualmente después de la cena, tomó la copa y habiendo dado gracias, la dio a ellos diciendo: Bebed vosotros todos de esto; porque esta es mi sangre del Nuevo Pacto, que es derramada por vosotros y por muchos para el perdón de los pecados; haced esto, cuantas veces lo bebieras, en memoria de mí.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Cristo ha muerto.**
**Christ is risen. Cristo ha resucitado.**
**Christ will come again. Cristo vendrá otra vez.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. May this Sacrament revive our souls once again, and renew our commitment to be the body of Christ in the world, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit bring peace to your Church, so that we may be one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast, side by side, at his heavenly table.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen!**
THE LORD’S PRAYER

Being made one by the Spirit, let us pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

*SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Let Us Break Bread Together  
_The United Methodist Hymnal #618_

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood  
_The United Methodist Hymnal #622_

One Bread, One Body  
_The United Methodist Hymnal #620_

The Old Rugged Cross  
_The United Methodist Hymnal #504_

I Come with Joy  
_The United Methodist Hymnal #617_

The Blood Will Never Loose Its Power  
_CCLI #11855_

UNISON CLOSING PRAYER  
Bishop Ken Carter  
_The United Methodist Hymnal #11_

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
I know it was the blood
I know it was the blood
I know it was the blood for me
One day when I was lost He died upon the cross.
I know it was the blood for me.

They whipped Him all night long
They whipped Him all night long
They whipped Him all night long for me
One day when I was lost He died upon the cross.
I know it was the blood for me.

They pierced Him in His side
They pierced Him in His side
They pierced Him in His side for me
One day when I was lost He died upon the cross.
I know it was the blood for me.

He never said a mumblin' word
He never said a mumblin' word
He never said a mumblin' word for me
One day when I was lost He died upon the cross.
I know it was the blood for me.

He hung His head and died
He hung His head and died
He hung His head and died for me
One day when I was lost He died upon the cross.
I know it was the blood for me.

He's coming back again
He's coming back again
He's coming back again for me
One day when I was lost He died upon the cross.
I know it was the blood for me.

*BENEDICTION
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Friday Morning, June 9, 2017

*GATHERING MUSIC
When We All Get to Heaven
*GREETING
Rev. Dennis White
by Rev. Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

A bell sounds.

ONE:
Trust in God at all times, O people
Pour out your heart before God, who is a refuge for us. (Psalm 62:8)

A bell sounds.

ALL:
For God alone my soul waits in silence
My hope is from God
God alone is my Rock
My Salvation
My Fortress
I shall not be shaken (Psalm 62:5-6)

A bell sounds.

*OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE
Marching to Zion
Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.

(Refrain) We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion,
we’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King, may speak their joys abroad. (Refrain)

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets. (Refrain)

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we’re marching through Emmanuel’s ground,
to fairer worlds on high. (Refrain)
Eternal and Beautiful God,
The One who births us and names us and welcomes us home
Grant us perspective
A holy centering of truth, humility, and our belovedness

Not too high that we fall away from you
our need of you
our need of others

Not too low that we fail to trust
to reach out for you
to reach out with you

Grant us perspective, Merciful One
A holy centering in our season of grief
So we may persevere in faith
in following
in becoming
in hope

Amen.

Romans 8:35-39, NRSV

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

An Unshakable Faith

Instrumental underscore begins and continues throughout the Naming of the Saints
Beloved of God,
Let us remember who we are in Jesus – saints, set apart by God and for God
Let us remember our purpose – to lead a devoted life
A life worthy of the calling to which we have been called
A life which inspires faith in others.

Let us recommit ourselves to this life,
by first honoring the lives of those who have inspired us
The heroic and humble who ran the race before us
The martyrs who sacrificed all for the sake of Jesus
And especially those who we name here today. The faithful who we have known and loved. The faithful who followed the call of our Jesus, leading so many to place their trust in him, encouraging so many to deeper faith and service.

You are invited to stand as the person who touched your life in a special way is honored.

**Clergy**
- Rupert Newby Caviness, Jr. May 3, 2016
- Edward Otto Weinrich May 26, 2016
- Robert W. Miller (Local Pastor) June 27, 2016
- Ben Frank Wade August 2, 2016
- Nora Ethel Fairchild Ramirez August 12, 2016
- Robert Soka August 17, 2016
- Robert W. Milby September 3, 2016
- John Thomas Sofge September 10, 2016
- James Delano Johnson (Associate Member) September 11, 2016
- Robert McDonald Bailey September 19, 2016
- Gordon Harris Strickland October 14, 2016
- William Kennedy (Local Pastor) November 4, 2016
- Frank Debelius Seibert, Jr. January 1, 2017
- Arthur Barnes Holmes, Jr. January 8, 2017
- Herbert Frederick Spencer January 28, 2017
- Joseph Willard Howell February 18, 2017
- William Lee Brackman, Jr. February 20, 2017
- Ralph Adam Jones, Jr. (Local Pastor) February 28, 2017
- Victor Mariano Gonzalez (Local Pastor) March 6, 2017
- Ethel Deloris Demps (Local Pastor) March 11, 2017
- James Marvin Sweat, Jr. March 22, 2017
- Inzzia Sorrey Melton (Local Pastor) April 15, 2017
Spouses
Mary Barclay Rice	June 9, 2012
Edna M. Hockin Seizert	March 3, 2014
Katherine Mae Jones Schiller	March 15, 2016
Patricia Moore Buhl	June 15, 2016
Louise Baird Short	June 24, 2016
Annie Delora Pipkin Hardee	July 21, 2016
Hubert Melton	July 27, 2016
Maxine Elsie Spear Malkinski	August 5, 2016
Judith Lovan Haas Cloyd	August 13, 2016
Barbara Kennedy	August 17, 2016
Vissadean Hamilton Frierson	September 5, 2016
Lynette Arlene Dregne Sawyer	September 6, 2016
Elizabeth Goodwin Howell	October 11, 2016
Nancy Lee Sofge	October 18, 2016
Beverly Katherine Clossen Ogsbury Sprague	October 31, 2016
Ernest McDuffie III	November 6, 2016
Myrtis Williams Ferguson	November 9, 2016
Joyce Goodspeed Kirtley	November 10, 2016
Frankie Joan Billington Padgett	November 23, 2016
Francis Beal Davis	December 6, 2016
Barbara Lawyer Startup	December 16, 2016
Roy Ammann	January 30, 2017
Sallie Travis Dickens	January 31, 2017
Carole Margaret Ochandarena McQueen	February 11, 2017
Anna Laura Mackay	February 14, 2017
Helen Grace Griffin Harvester	February 18, 2017
Mary Elizabeth Johnson Bell Stevenson	February 26, 2017
Charlotte Claire Orr Gill	March 3, 2017
Edith Hayes Brown	March 13, 2017
Lucy Grace Fisackerly Whitehead	March 15, 2017
Emily Ruth Tice Warren Forward	March 22, 2017
Ruth Henderson	March 25, 2017
Meta Nicholson Hogue	March 30, 2017

*UNISON PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS AND THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Bishop Ken Carter

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
You surround us with witness after witness to your transforming love
Inspire us and empower us to persevere
Fill our hearts with courage.
Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
You weep with us in our heartbreak and loss
Comfort us and protect us in our mourning
Fill our souls with hope.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
You cry out in victory over sin and the grave
Raise us and release us to fulfill your calling
Fill our lives with faithfulness and good works. Amen.

*CLOSEING HYMN OF TRIUMPH  For All The Saints  The United Methodist Hymnal #711

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia, Alleluia!

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING  Bishop Ken Carter

The peace of God, which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.
And the blessing of God Almighty – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
RETIREMENT RECOGNITION SERVICE
Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2017

GATHERING MUSIC
My Hope Is Built
The United Methodist Hymnal #368

*GREETING
Rev. Juana Jordan
The United Methodist Book of Worship #456

Come to Christ, the living stone,
rejected by the world, but in God’s sight chosen and precious.

We have responded to Christ’s call,
and seek to be built into a spiritual house,
a living reminder of God’s presence on earth.

Once we were no people, but now we are God’s people,
called out of darkness into God’s marvelous light.

Therefore we sing with the Church in all ages:
Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer.
By your mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE
God of Grace and God of Glory
The United Methodist Hymnal #577

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church’s story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour (of this hour),
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days (of these days),
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children’s warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and pour in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal (kingdom’s goal),
lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore (we adore),
serving thee whom we adore.
Eternal God,
you hold the times and seasons,
endings and beginnings, in your hands.
Bless these friends, who now enter a new time of life.
We give you thanks for tasks accomplished,
for the joys and pains woven into the fabric of their years.
Give them the guidance of your Holy Spirit.
May days no longer filled with old obligations
be free for new activities and associations.
May fears and uncertainties about the future
be transformed into quiet confidence.
May each new day be received as a sacred trust and lived to your glory,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.’

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.
For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
PRESENTATION OF RETIRING SERVANTS
Readers: The Reverend Juana Jordan and The Reverend Erwin Lopez

CELEBRATION OF RETIREES

Betty Batey	Linda K. Mobley
Nancy Case	Walter Eugene Monroe
Geraldine Christopher	Doug Steven Pareti
Richard B. Fife	Sandra Anne Parsons
Timothy Ted Haas	Richard H. Quackenbush
John Lenwood Hay Jr.	Dennis Ray Redstone
Barbara A. Hynes	Olin Bruce Simpson
Joseph E. Jursa	Dennis Bryan Simpson
Luis Euriaio Losada	Wayne Cooper Stone
C. Dennis McCullough	Wayne E. Williams

Bishop: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you came to us from congregations where the Spirit of the Lord was upon you; and you were charged to love, serve and pray for all the people among who you worked, caring for the young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. These things you have done.

All: We give thanks to God for the lives that have been changed through your faithful witness and service.

Bishop: At your licensing or ordination, you received authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to Order the life of the Church. At your commissioning, you received authority to equip the people of God, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There were times that the road was rough and the way unclear, but God’s goodness and guidance has seen you through.

All: We give thanks to God for the light you have shone and the seeds you have sown.

Bishop: Never think lightly of the great good that God was wrought through you. And continue to be true to your calling. This is a transition, not a finale. This is an opening to new horizons of service, not the end of the road. May God’s love and power be with you always. Let us pray together.

All: God of grace, you fill your servants with vision. You empower your servants with your Spirit. We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them as they built connections and built your Kingdom. Give them a sense of your abiding presence that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.
THE PASSING OF THE MANTLE

A representative of the retiring class, Rev. Linda Mobley, and a representative of the new full member class, Rev. Corey Jones, kneel.

The bishop takes the mantle and places it on the shoulders of the representative of the retiring class.

The representative of the retiring class rises and says

In the book of Kings we read of the Prophet Elijah’s ministry. The mantle, symbolic of submission to God, fell upon the younger prophet, Elisha, and the spirit of Elijah rested upon Elisha.

The representative of the retiring class then places the mantle on the shoulders of the representative of the new full member class and says

I transfer this mantle from our generation to the young, indicating thereby that the responsibilities and dedication of the older generation will be caught up and carried on by the young, and the spirit of today’s Elijahs will rest upon today’s Elishas.

The representative of the new class rises, turns to the retiring class and says

We who come after you take up the mantle, which falls upon us. May we inherit a double share of your spirit.

THE CHARGE

Bishop: For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven. So, too, there is a time for movement, new adventure, fields of service not yet touched. With love, we send you forth in the spirit of John Wesley: May the world be your parish.

All: Go into the world and respond to the love of Christ in all you do. Live out the vision God has given you. May God’s mercy, grace, and peace be with you. May you be channels for God’s mercy, grace, and peace to the world wherever you may be.
To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!
God of the living, with all Your creatures great and small
we sing Your bounty and Your goodness, for in the harvest of land and ocean,
en las estaciones del año and the wonders of each creature,
Tú revelas Tu generosidad.
Teach us the gratitude that dispels envy, that we may honor each gift as You cherish
Your creation,Y alabarte en todo tiempo y lugar.

That this day may be holy, good and joyful: **we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.**

Que podamos ofrecerte nuestra adoración y alabanza
junto con la obra de nuestras manos, mentes, y corazones:
**oramos en gratitud a Ti, Señor.**

That we may strive for the well-being of all creation:
**we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.**

Que en los placeres y dolores de la vida podamos conocer el amor de Cristo y ser
agradecidos: **oramos en gratitud a Ti, Señor.**

That we may be bound together by Your Holy Spirit, in communion with all Your
holy ones, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:
**we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.**

Que podamos siempre y en todas partes dar gracias a Ti, oh Dios,
por todas nuestras bendiciones y dones:
**oramos en gratitud a Ti, Señor. Thank you, Lord! Amen.**
FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS  
Saturday, June 10, 2017

INTRODUCTION OF CABINET MEMBERS and PRAYERS FOR THE 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._

_The 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._

_The 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._
SERVICE OF LICENSING, COMMISSIONING, AND ORDINATION
Saturday, June 10, 2017

*PROCENSIONAL HYMN  The Church’s One Foundation  The United Methodist Hymnal #545

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

*GREETING AND PRAYER  Bishop Ken Carter

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 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.

*RECOGNITION OF OUR ONE MINISTRY AND OUR ONE BAPTISM

Bishop Ken Carter

The bishop, standing near a baptismal font, shell, or vessel of water, begins:

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 may scoop and pour water from the font, shell, or vessel and say:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.
We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.

All people are seated.

PRESENTATION OF ORDINANDS

The Conference Lay Leader, Paulette Monroe, and the Chairperson of the Board of
Ordained Ministry, The Reverend Dr. Brett Opalinski, present to the Bishop those who
are to be licensed, commissioned, and ordained. The Bishop stands before the Lord’s
Table, facing the people.

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

Chair 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,

Together the Lay Leader and the member of the Board of Ordained Ministry:
With our prayers and support we present
These persons to be licensed as local pastors (local pastors stand)

Robert Simmons Bledsoe Robin Jocelyn
Daniel Chronister Dennis R. Roebuck
Dawn Renne Fryman Carter Myron Rhodes
Richard Conner David Schutte
Carlos M. Cortes Kathleen Teushcel Sheehan
Scott William Didriksen Lisa C. Stamp
Haley Grace Unkefer Eccles Eyelyn Teran
Jana Imani Hall-Perkins Peyton K. Tobin
Gary Hallam Linda E. VanPutte
Paul Kisner Christine E. Webb
Patricia Nemazie Tanner White

These persons to be commissioned as provisional deacons (provisional deacons stand)

Mary Lee Downey George S. Pellington

These persons to be commissioned as provisional elders (provisional elders stand)

Robert Holcombe Brooks Sarah Kiviniemi McIntosh
Benjamin Conrad Collins José D. Nieves
Nelson Cowan Anna Dolores Scharbo
David Wayne Killingsworth Latricia Edwards Scriven
Meghan Nicole Killingsworth Stacey Spence
Perri Bevan Martin Timothy Carl Willcox
Jonathan Daniel McCurley Dawn Elizabeth Worden

These persons to be ordained deacon (deacon stands)

Samantha Tyburski Cowan

These persons to be ordained elders (elders stand)

Michael Adam Beck Juana Renee Jordan
Daniel Lucas Bennett Jason David Knott
Jennifer Potter Buff Erwin Adrian Lopez
Melanie Joy Fierbaugh Odalis Quevedo
Ryan Franklin Frack Donald Robert Thompson Jr.
Corey Jones Michael John Zdorow
After all candidates have been presented, they remain standing, and the Bishop says:

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 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 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 Bishop, presenters, and candidates are seated.

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**SCRIPTURE**

John 17, NRSV

*After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said,*

‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.*

*And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God,*

*and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.*

*I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world,*

*They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.*

*Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.*

*I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world,*

*but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.*

*All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.*

*And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.*
Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me.

I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.

I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

SERMON

Bridges

Bishop Ken Carter

OFFERING

Our offering this morning will go to the Florida Conference Ministerial Education Fund to help clergy reduce educational debt. These funds will provide tuition grants for Local Pastors attending Course of Study, and seminary tuition for Deacons and Elders pursuing Ordination.

Please join us by offering your generous financial support for our next generation of clergy so that they might be able to embrace the ministry in your church without the burden of educational debt.
We believe in one God,
  the Father, the Almighty,
  maker of heaven and earth
  of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
  the only Son of God,
  eternally begotten of the Father,
  God from God, Light from Light,
  true God from true God,
  begotten, not made,
  of one being with the Father;
  through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
  he came down from heaven,
  was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
  and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
  in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
  and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
  to judge the living and the dead,
  and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
  who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
  who with the Father and the Son
  is worshiped and glorified,
  who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
  for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
  and the life of the world to come. Amen.
LICENSING OF LOCAL PASTORS

Those who are to be licensed, rise and proceed to the stage. When all are standing upon the stage, the Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry says:

Dear friends, these persons have completed the requirements for the license as a local pastor and are recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry. We have inquired diligently concerning them and have found them to be fit for this sacred vocation.

The Bishop then asks the following questions of the Local Pastors to be licensed:

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.

As the registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry reads the names of those being licensed, the Bishop presents each candidate with the license for pastoral ministry.

The Bishop addresses the candidates:
You are hereby authorized to serve as a local pastor in the congregation to which you are appointed. Take care that you perform these duties faithfully as much as you are able, the Lord being your helper.

The Bishop turns to the congregation:
As we pray, I invite the church to extend your arms towards these persons. 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 task and continue them in your grace, that they may increase and bless your Church through their labors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop introduces and greets those commissioned.
I present to you these newly licensed local pastors of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church!

Those who have been licensed proceed to their seats.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
GENERAL EXAMINATION OF THOSE TO BE COMMISSIONED AND ORDAINED

PRESENTATION

The candidates for commissioning and ordination stand at their seats while the Bishop stands facing them. The Bishop examines all candidates for commissioning and ordination:

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
you have been called to a commissioned or ordained ministry.
The church now confirms your calling.

As ordained or commissioned ministers, you are to be coworkers with all the people of God: with laity, bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors, provisional members, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missioners, supply pastors, with all who serve God in the Church.

Remember 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 we may know 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 and upholding 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.

Will you, for the sake of the church’s life and mission, covenant to participate in the life of the order, into which you are ordained, commissioned, received or recognized? Will you give yourself to God through the order in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service under the rule of life set forth in the vows you take this day?

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.

Amen.

Those who are to be commissioned proceed to the stage while those to be ordained take their seats.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL DEACONS AND ELDERS

Candidates for commissioning may rise and face the congregation.
The Bishop addresses 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 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 colleagues in full connection and by being appointed to share as servant leaders in the body of Christ.

Today we commission them to service as they continue to prepare for ordained ministry among us.
PRAYER OF COMMISSIONG AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Bishop, facing the congregation and extending arms over all of the candidates, prays:

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 our 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 laying on of hands for each candidate for commissioning.

The Bishop, standing behind and laying both hands up the shoulder of each candidate, prays:

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Full 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.

Upon rising, a gift and “The License for the Practice of Ministry of the Deacon” or “The License for Pastoral Ministry” is presented. After all the candidates have been commissioned the Bishop says:

As we pray, I invite the church to extend your arms towards these persons. Let us 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 Bishop introduces and greets those commissioned.
I present to you these newly commissioned provisional deacons and elders of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church!
Those who have been commissioned proceed to their seats.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS

*The Bishop introduces the act of ordination:

Ordination is a gift from God to the Church and is exercised in covenant with the whole Church and within the covenant of the order of deacons or elders. My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to an ordained ministry. The Church now confirms your calling through ordination.

*Candidate for ordination of deacon proceed onto the stage.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

EXAMINATION OF DEACONS

*The Bishop examines the deacon candidate:

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 may be lifted by an assistant.*

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

*Here a towel and basin with pitcher may be lifted by an assistant.*

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, especially in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.

This is the rule of life and work of a deacon.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a deacon?

I **do so believe**.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR DEACONS

*The Bishop calls the people to prayer using these or similar words:

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.

Candidate for ordination as deacon is invited to kneel before the bishop as directed.

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

The Bishop lays both hands on the head of the ordinand, praying:

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

Immediately the candidate places hands on a Bible as the Bishop lays hands on the hands of the candidate and says:

Full 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. Amen.

The Bishop turns to the congregation and says:

Friends let us pray together: As we pray, I invite the church to extend your arms towards this person.

Almighty God, may the grace of ministry rest upon this your servant and may the opportunity to serve lead her into the fullness of your calling. Clothe her with your righteousness, and grant that she may glorify you by giving herself to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I present to you the newly ordained deacon of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church!

The newly ordained deacon proceeds to the side of the stage to stand in witness and celebration as the candidates for elders proceed to the stage.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

The Bishop examines the candidates for ordination or recognition as elder:

An elder is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church: to preach and teach the Word of God

*Here a large Bible may be lifted by an assistant.*

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

*Here a paten and chalice may be 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.

This is the rule of life and work of an elder.

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

*I do so believe.*

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

The Bishop, facing the ordinands, calls the people to prayer, using these or similar words:

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 the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Candidates for ordination as elder are invited to kneel before the bishop one at a time as directed.

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

The Bishop lays both hands on the head of each ordinand, praying:

Almighty God, pour upon Full 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 lays hands on the hands of the ordinand and says:

Full Name, take authority as an elder to preach 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.

After all have been ordained the Bishop says:

Friends let us pray together: As we pray I invite the Church to extend your arms towards these persons.

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.

I present to you these newly ordained elders of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church!

The newly ordained elders proceed to their seats.
MUSICAL INTERLUDE

INVITATION TO THOSE FEELING CALLED TO MINISTRY OF LEADERSHIP

*CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE  Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

The United Methodist Hymnal #581

Lord, whose love through 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.

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.

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.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord in freedom may your mercy, know and live.

*BENEDICTION  Bishop Ken Carter

*RECESSIONAL SONG  Lift High the Cross

The United Methodist Hymnal #159

Please remain standing as clergy recess.

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.
Rev. Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia was born in Tampa, Florida, one of a long line of native Floridians and teachers. She and her beloved Ed have been married 28 years. They are blessed with two grown daughters. In addition to serving as the pastor of Trinity UMC Sarasota, Lisa enjoys leading retreats, photography, theatre, and writing. She is indebted to the many wonderful mentors and teachers in her life, including her mother who first gave her a love for words. You are welcome and encouraged to explore more of her writing at www.revlisad.com.

Rev. Kathy Nolasco has been serving as a deacon at Plantation United Methodist Church since 2010, where she leads a vibrant, growing, multiethnic and multicultural music ministry, in addition to other pastoral duties. She and her husband have a home overflowing with energy, thanks to their two young boys and two German Shepherds.

The center altarpiece is inspired by the work of Eleanore Feucht Sudbrock in her resource Seasons for Praise: Art for the Sanctuary (St. Louis: Creative Communications for the Parish, 2000.). In description of this piece, Sudbrock writes,

St. Peter Lutheran in Mishawaka created a giant circular wall hanging in quadrants, a beautiful Easter and year-round addition to their worship space. The hanging represents the entire church year with all of its liturgical colors in the outer area and a portion of the yellow and gold sunburst on the center part. Narrow fabric strips in various shades of green, purple, blue, red, orange, and yellow were glued to the white backgrounds, and when the four quadrants are arranged in a circle with space in between, they form a cross and a glorious Easter resurrection sunburst in the center.

The sisters of the Mary Martha Group at Tuskawilla UMC, serving the communities of Casselberry and Winter Springs, crafted together for over six months to create this banner – from prototype to completed piece. Thank you

Marti Aldridge  Yvonne Hardee  Rev. Kate Ling  Joanna Polk
Norma Burnette  Joan Harrison  Donna Morris  Connie Sloane
Tessie Davey  Connie Hicks  Corrine Paulus  Debbie Spitzer

I am grateful for the dedicated work these women. I am honored to serve as their pastor.

Bishop Ken Carter and 2017 Annual Conference Planning Team:

Thank you, Bishop Carter, for the invitation and privilege to serve as the Worship Coordinator for the 2017 Gathering of The Florida Annual Conference. These worship experiences are the result of incredible teamwork and discernment. I am grateful for the partnership and friendship of Rev. Alex Shanks, Rev. Sara McKinley, Rev. Melissa Cooper, Rev. Andrew Miller, Rev. Debbie Casanzio, Robert McMichael, Jarvis Wilson, Gretchen Hastings, Shannon Redden, Holly Finley, and MABE Productions.

In God’s Service,
Rev. Sarah B. Miller, Senior Pastor
Tuskawilla UMC serving Casselberry and Winter Springs
Dedicated to Moving Hearts and Souls

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