

# **Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination**

*Saturday Morning*



# **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

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Praise to the Lord,  
the Almighty, the King of creation.  
O my soul, praise him,  
for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear,  
now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,  
who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigning  
bears thee on eagle's wings,  
e'er in his keeping maintaining.

God's care enfolds all,  
whose true good he upholds.  
Hast thou not known  
his sustaining?

Praise to the Lord,  
who doth prosper thy work  
and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy  
here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
who with his love  
doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord,  
who doth nourish thy life  
and restore thee,  
fitting thee well for the tasks  
that are ever before thee.

Then to thy need  
God as a mother doth speed,  
spreading the wings  
of grace o'er thee.

Praise to the Lord!  
O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!

Let the amen  
sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.

# Greeting and Prayer

*Bishop Carter*

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

The grace of Jesus Christ be with  
you all.

*CONGREGATION:*

**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 Carter*

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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.**

# Presentation of Ordinands

*Paulette Monroe, Conference Lay Leader  
Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski, Chairperson of  
the Board of Ordained Ministry*

*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,

*LAY LEADER AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD:*

With our prayers and support we  
present:

These persons to be licensed as  
local pastors.

This person to be commissioned as  
provisional deacon.

These persons to be commissioned  
as provisional elders.

These persons to be ordained  
deacons.

These persons to be ordained  
elders.

*BISHOP CARTER:*

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?

*CONGREGATION:*

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

Will you uphold them in their  
ministry?

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

# Scripture Reading

*Bishop Ken Carter*

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

*Matthew 22:34-40*

# Scripture Reading

*Bishop Ken Carter*

For you were called to freedom,  
brothers and sisters; only do not  
use your freedom as an opportunity  
for self-indulgence, but through love  
become slaves to one another.

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

*Galatians 5:13-14*

# **A New Connection, A New Evangelism**

*Bishop Ken Carter*

# The Nicene Creed

*Rev. Justin LaRosa*

**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.**

# Offertory Prayer

*Rev. Sara McKinley, Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski*

**For the Beauty  
of the Earth**

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies;

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light;

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight;

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild;

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thy church, that evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love;

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best Gift Divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

# Licensing of Local Pastors

*Bishop Ken Carter, Rev. Sara McKinley*

*REGISTRAR OF THE BOARD  
OF ORDAINED MINISTRY:*

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.

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

Do you believe you are moved by  
the Holy Spirit to serve as a local  
pastor?

*LOCAL PASTORS:*

**I do.**

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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

*LOCAL PASTORS:*

**I will.**



*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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.

As we pray, I invite the church to extend your arms towards these persons.

We thank you, O God, 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.**

I present to you these newly  
licensed local pastors of the Florida  
Annual Conference of The United  
Methodist Church!

**General Examination  
of Those to be  
Commissioned  
and Ordained**

*Bishop Ken Carter*

*BISHOP CARTER:*

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 missionaries, 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:

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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

*CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING  
AND ORDINATION:*

**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 or commissioned?

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.**

# Commissioning of Provisional Deacons and Elders

*Bishop Ken Carter*

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 Commissioning and Laying On of Hands

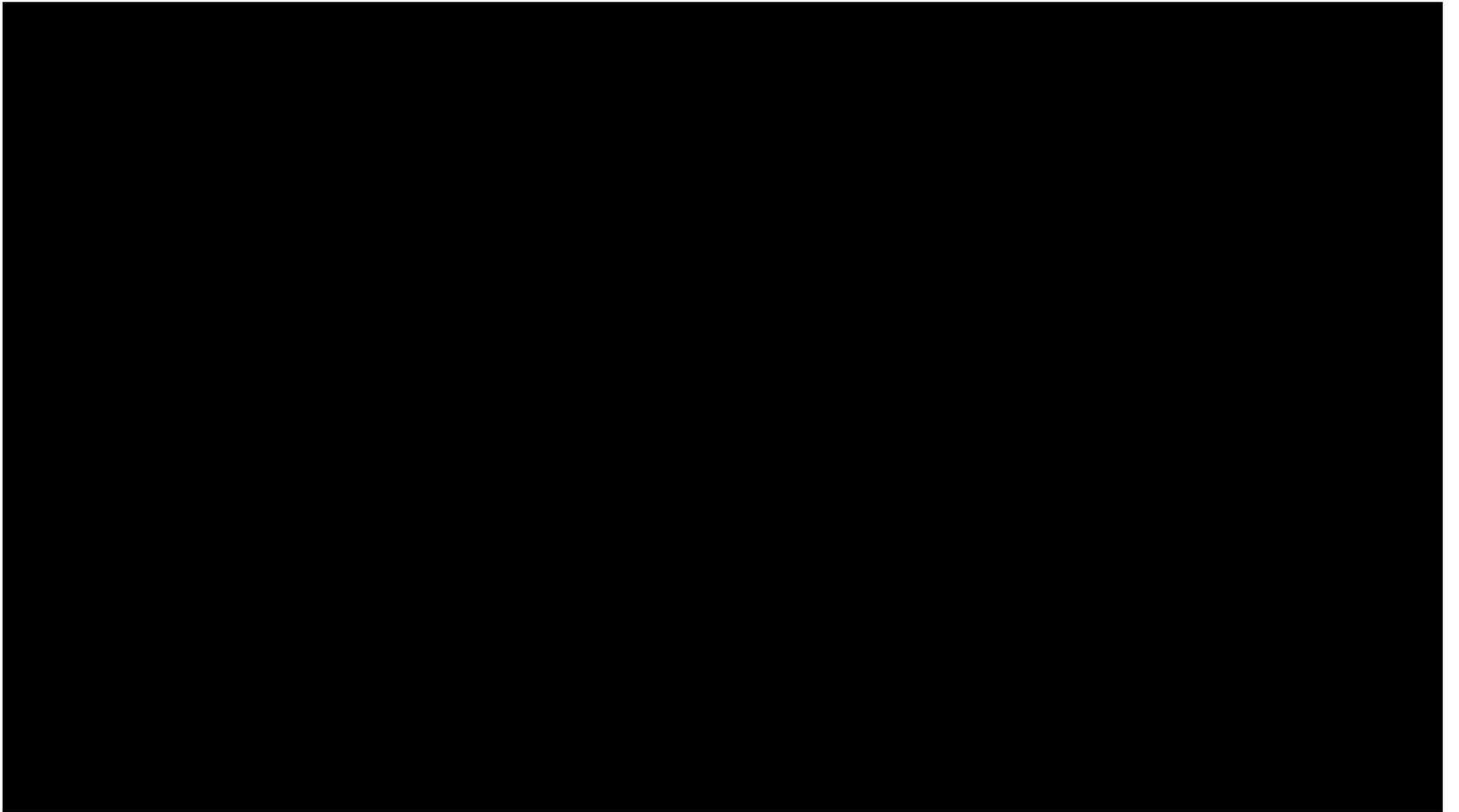
*Bishop Ken Carter*

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



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  
commissioned provisional deacons  
and elders of the Florida Annual  
Conference of The United  
Methodist Church!

# Introduction to the Act of Ordination

*Bishop Ken Carter*

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.

# Examination of Deacons

*Bishop Ken Carter*

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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...

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

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...

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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

*CANDIDATES FOR ORDAINED DEACON:*

**I do so believe.**

# Laying On of Hands and Prayer for Deacons

*Bishop Ken Carter*

As these persons are ordained by God and the church for the ministry of deacons to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for them.

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 these servants grace to be faithful to their promises, constant in their discipleship, and always ready for 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.

**Amen.**



Friends, let us pray together, and 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 the newly ordained  
deacons of the Florida Annual  
Conference of The United  
Methodist Church!

# Examination of Elders

*Bishop Ken Carter*

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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

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

to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, 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.

*BISHOP KEN CARTER:*

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

*CANDIDATES FOR ORDAINED ELDER:*

**I do so believe.**

# Laying On of Hands and Prayer for Elders

*Bishop Ken Carter*

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.

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.

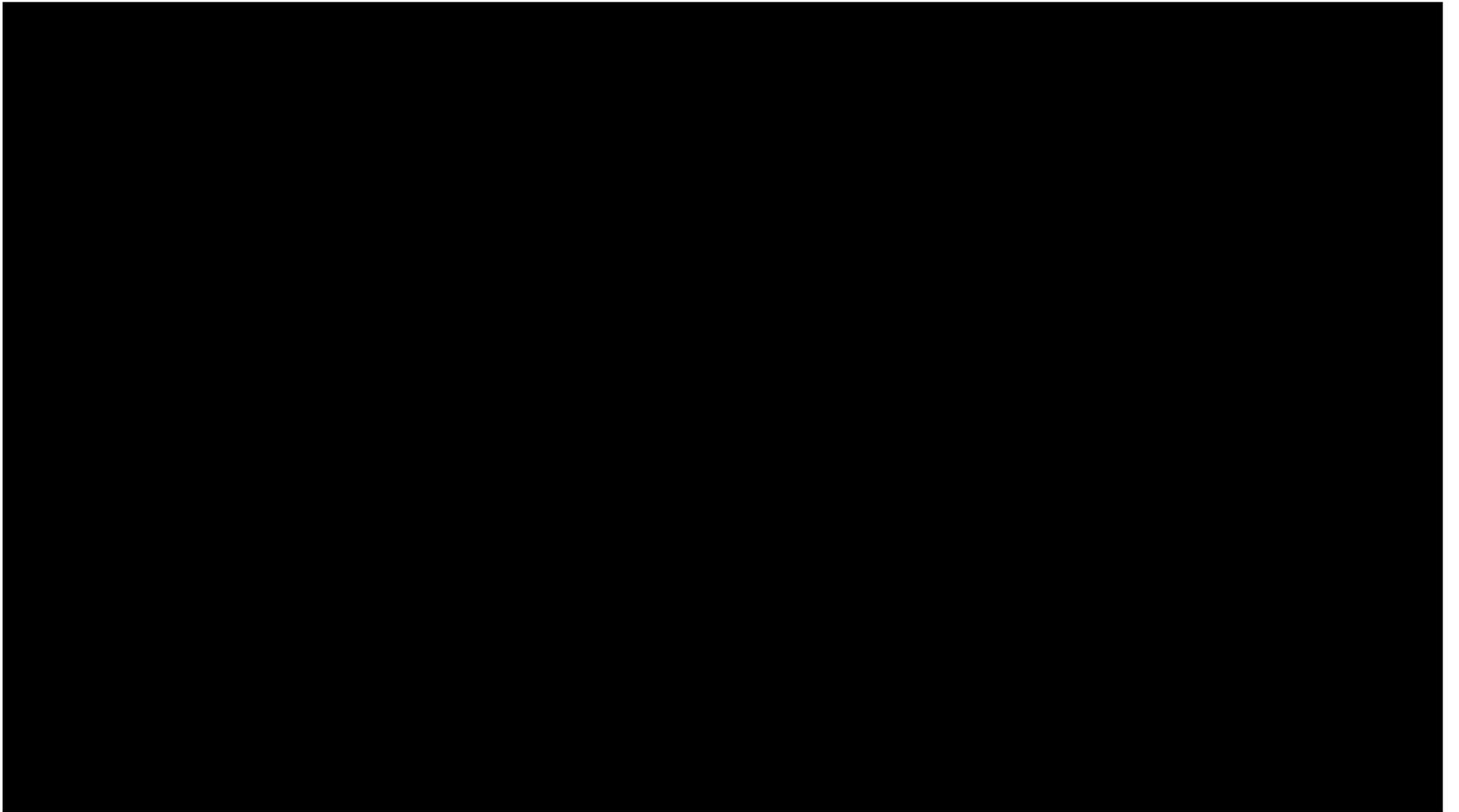
Give to these your servants the  
grace and power they need  
to serve you in this ministry.

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.

**Amen.**



Friends, let us pray together, and 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!

**Here I Am, Lord**

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, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

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.

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 words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

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.

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?

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.

**A Charge to  
Keep I Have**

A charge to keep I have,  
a God to glorify,  
a never-dying soul to save,  
and fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,  
my calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage  
to do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,  
as in thy sight to live,  
and oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare  
a strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,  
and on thyself rely,  
assured, if I my trust betray,  
I shall forever die.



**Come, Thou Fount  
of Every Blessing**

Come, thou Fount  
of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.