



Rebuilding the  
**CHURCH**

Re-membering the  
**BODY**

# *Worship Guide*



FLORIDA  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
**2022**

June 9–11, 2022 | Florida Southern College | Lakeland, FL

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING WORSHIP

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 9, 2022

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Paola Bustillos

Leader: We gather as a people of Pentecost.

**Congregation: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: We gather as a people of promise.

**Congregation: Pour out your Spirit on all flesh!**

Leader: Rebuild your Church, O God. Re-member your Body!

**Congregation: Come, Holy Spirit!**

\*OPENING SONG

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

## RE-MEMBERING THE BODY

Prayer of Confession<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Dr. Bancroft Williams, Rev. Rebecca Rokitowski

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law,**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*1 John 1:9*

*If we confess our sins, [God] who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

<sup>1</sup>Indicates an invitation to rise

\*SONG OF GRATITUDE

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

## REMEMBERING WHOSE WE ARE

SCRIPTURE

*Galatians 3:26-29 (CEB)*

Rev. Eliantus Valmyr

*You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.*

\*SUNG RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Friend of God*

INVITATION TO THE FONT

Bishop Ken Carter

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Bishop Ken Carter

COMMUNAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

**Bishop Carter: Remember your baptism and be thankful.**

**Congregation: Amen.**

\*SIGNS OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

As forgiven people let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

\*CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE *And Are We Yet Alive*

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<sup>1</sup>From *The United Methodist Hymnal*. Copyright 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission. p. 8.

# RETIREMENT RECOGNITION SERVICE

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 9, 2022

\*GATHERING SONG

*Life is Beautiful*

GREETING

Bishop Ken Carter

## RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

PRAYER

*At the Beginning of Retirement*

Rev. Debra Thompson

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.**

SCRIPTURE

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

Rev. Gary Logan, Rev. Nicole Logan

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;*

*a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

*a time to kill, and a time to heal;*

*a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*a time to weep, and a time to laugh;*

*a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;*

*a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*a time to seek, and a time to lose;*

*a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*

*a time to tear, and a time to sew;*

*a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

PRESENTATION OF RETIRING SERVANTS

Rev. Frank Adams, Rev. Caitlin White

CELEBRATION OF RETIREES

Mark Becker	June Edwards	Jim Mitchell	Dan Search
David Branson	Pam Feeser	Gary Morris	Thom Shafer
Kandace Brooks	Kim Griffith	Richard Nussel	Walker Walker
Brian Carr	Howard Grimmenga	Steve Polk	Vic Willis
Kirk Dana	Bruce Jones	John Quinton	
Clarence DeSue	Larry Lake	James Renault	
H. Clark Edwards	Lynn Leonard	Cruz Edwin Santos	

*After all the retirees have been recognized:*

**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 amongst whom you worked, caring for the young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. These things you have done.

At your licensing or ordination, you received authority to read the Holy Scriptures, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to Order the life of the Church. You have equipped the people of God to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. By God's grace you did many things that seemed to be beyond your power. Continue to be true to your calling. May God's love and power be with you always.

Let us pray together.

**All:** **God of grace, we give you thanks for the ministry of these women and men and for the countless lives that have been changed through their faithful witness and service. 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. Jim Mitchell, and a representative of the new full member class, Rev. Tamara Isidore, 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.

\*CLOSING SONG

*Victory in Jesus*

## THE CHARGE

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Bishop Ken Carter

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.

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! Amen.

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*Service adapted from The United Methodist Book of Worship. Copyright 1992 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.*

# SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 9, 2022

GATHERING MUSIC

*Come Thou Fount  
God So Loved*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Greeting<sup>1</sup>*

Rev. Sherlain Stevens, Rev. Sarah Wise

And in the last days it shall come to pass, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

**And your sons and daughters shall prophesy,  
your old shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions.**

When the Day of Pentecost had come,  
they were all gathered together in one place.

**And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind  
and it filled all the house where they were sitting.**

And there appeared to them tongues as of fire,  
distributed and resting on each of them.

**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.**

\*OPENING SONGS OF PRAISE

*Cornerstone / How Great Thou Art  
Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble*

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Bo Sim

God of wind, word, and fire, we bless your name this evening for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit. We give you thanks for all the gifts, great and small, that you have poured out upon your children. Accept us with our gifts to be a living praise and witness to your love throughout all the earth; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

A WORD ABOUT OFFERINGS

Rev. Alex Shanks, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Weems

The Bishop's Offering for Annual Conference 2022 will support technology grants for rural, small membership and ethnic churches as well as Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean.

INTRODUCTION OF BISHOP FRANK M. REID, III

Bishop Ken Carter

\*Indicates an invitation to rise

*But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king.*

*They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.*

*But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. "What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" they asked.*

*I replied, "The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem."*

SERMON

*God Will Help Us Succeed!*

Bishop Frank M. Reid, III

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bishop Ken Carter

OFFERTORY SONGS

*All Glory Be to Christ  
Doxology*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Bishop Frank M. Reid, III, Bishop Ken Carter

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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





# SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 2022

\*GATHERING MUSIC      *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*      First UMC, Miami

\*RESPONSIVE GREETING<sup>1</sup>      Bishop Ken Carter

We have gathered here to celebrate the lives of those  
who have served faithfully through the years  
and now share the triumph of Christ.

**We affirm with praise and thanksgiving the goodness of our Lord.**

Let us rejoice in God's presence with us, in death as in life,  
among those who mourn  
as with those who now see Christ face to face.

**In the midst of our grief we sing with joy,  
for God's love is over all that has been made.  
Blessed be God's glorious name for ever.**

OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>      Rev. Michele Van Son Neill

Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come,  
and to whom our spirits return:  
You have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
You have been our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Grant us your blessing in this hour,  
and enable us so to put our trust in you  
that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted.  
Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth,  
and help us to see the light of eternity.  
So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE      *Isaiah 40:1-2; 6-11; 28-31*      Rev. David Schmidt

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.  
A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.*

<sup>1</sup>Indicates an invitation to rise

*The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"  
See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

SERMON

*A Present Comfort—A Future Hope*

Rev. June Edwards

## **NAMING OF THE SAINTS**

**Naming the Saints:** Rev. Judi New, Rev. Terry Knight, Rev. Debra Thompson

**Lighting Candles of Remembrance:** Rev. Beth Gardner, Rev. Bill Knight, Rev. Ian Campbell

Instrumental underscore begins and continues throughout the Naming of the Saints.

PRAYER<sup>3</sup>

Let us pray,  
We bless your name, O God,  
for all your servants who, having finished their course,  
now rest from their labors.  
Give us grace to follow the example  
of their steadfastness and faithfulness,

\*Indicates an invitation to rise

to your honor and glory;  
through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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

## CLERGY

Robert Morrison Brittain . . . . . *May 30, 2021*  
Gary Wayne Buhl. . . . . *June 19, 2021*  
J. Ralph Burton . . . . . *January 26, 2022*  
Wilton “Wilt” Cary Carter . . . . . *September 5, 2021*  
Charles Webb Courtoy . . . . . *October 3, 2021*  
Gregory Floyd Duncan . . . . . *August 22, 2021*  
Walter Dale Edwards . . . . . *July 22, 2021*  
Lee Monroe FerDon . . . . . *December 30, 2021*  
Marion “Mac” McCoy Gibbs . . . . . *July 21, 2021*  
John Heyward Green . . . . . *May 31, 2021*  
H. Trall Heitzenrater . . . . . *July 22, 2021*  
Albert Leroy Hicks (Local Pastor) . . . . . *December 11, 2021*  
George W. Holston, Jr. (Associate Member) . *November 11, 2021*  
James (Jim) Isaacson (Provisional Member) . . *January 1, 2022*  
Paul Douglas Juvinall (Full Deacon) . . . . . *April 10, 2021*  
Neal Long . . . . . *January 6, 2022*  
Lloyd C. McClelland, Sr. . . . . *May 2, 2021*  
Israel James Mitchell (Associate Member) . *September 3, 2021*  
Howard Donald Mizell . . . . . *November 25, 2021*  
Russell Mound Moore . . . . . *July 10, 2021*  
Richard W. Neal . . . . . *August 24, 2021*  
James Lynn Niemeyer (Local Pastor) . . . . . *August 2, 2021*  
George W. Norsworthy . . . . . *November 2, 2021*  
Richard Carson Pedigo . . . . . *November 13, 2021*  
Hazel Jessie Porter (Provisional Member). . . *December 7, 2021*  
Erle Leslie Prevatt (Local Pastor) . . . . . *July 25, 2021*  
Samuel Harry Russell . . . . . *December 6, 2021*  
John Paul Sampley . . . . . *September 25, 2021*  
Louis L. Shields (Associate Member). . . . . *September 21, 2021*  
Booker C. Short Jr. . . . . *February 18, 2022*  
William Arthur Smalling . . . . . *June 1, 2021*  
David Douglas Spaulding . . . . . *August 19, 2021*

Mark Michael Stiles (Local Pastor) . . . . . *April 11, 2022*  
 William Bruce Walden . . . . . *November 14, 2021*  
 Phillip Leonard White (Associate Member) . . . *August 24, 2021*  
 Timothy C. Willcox . . . . . *August 25, 2021*  
 Gabriela “Gabe” Wright . . . . . *August 3, 2021*

## SPOUSES

Joseph Benson . . . . . *April 18, 2021*  
 Irene N. Bourn . . . . . *November 13, 2021*  
 Edna Marie (Thompson, Mitchell) Brown . . . *October 20, 2021*  
 Kathleen G. Carlson . . . . . *January 23, 2022*  
 Vivian R. Colson . . . . . *March 2, 2022*  
 Lois M. Craig . . . . . *February 13, 2022*  
 Frances T. Cross . . . . . *December 9, 2021*  
 Norma Mae DeRuyter . . . . . *September 19, 2021*  
 Annabelle Foster Fisackerly . . . . . *August 22, 2021*  
 Carolyn Mae Folsom . . . . . *October 31, 2021*  
 Annie Mae George . . . . . *June 16, 2021*  
 Patricia Singletary Gray . . . . . *November 13, 2021*  
 Catherine L. Griffith . . . . . *January 30, 2022*  
 Marilyn Pemble Hayes . . . . . *July 10, 2021*  
 Ivory Travis Johns . . . . . *August 3, 2021*  
 Clarice Anita Johnson . . . . . *January 4, 2022*  
 Tomas Lee . . . . . *August 12, 2021*  
 Jerry Countryman Marshall . . . . . *March 3, 2022*  
 Dorothy “Dotsy” Lee Stewart McGahey . . . . . *August 15, 2021*  
 Mary M. Middlebrooks . . . . . *September 19, 2021*  
 Elizabeth “Joyce” (Lakin) Mitchell . . . . . *December 6, 2021*  
 Christine Moody-Mills . . . . . *March 1, 2022*  
 Rosalie B. Green Morris . . . . . *August 18, 2021*  
 Diane E. Eschrich Mullinax . . . . . *May 22, 2021*  
 Irma Lee Pickard Norman . . . . . *August 14, 2021*  
 Anna Marie Otto . . . . . *November 16, 2021*  
 Geraldynne “Gerrie” Dorothy Schultz Parsons . . . *March 2, 2021*  
 Beverly Brown Peace . . . . . *May 12, 2021*  
 Marcia Polischuck . . . . . *June 21, 2020*  
 Ed Russell, Jr. . . . . *July 8, 2021*  
 Hazel Wainwright Ryan . . . . . *January 22, 2021*  
 Lavada W. Sain . . . . . *February 24, 2022*



# FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 2022

INTRODUCTION OF CABINET MEMBERS AND PRAYERS FOR THE DISTRICTS  
CHARGE TO LICENSED, COMMISSIONED, CONSECRATED, ORDAINED CLERGY

*The Bishop:*

We are sent into the world by our missional God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The love of God has been poured out for us in these days, reminding us of who we are, and is now poured through us for the world that God loves.

*\*Clergy rise. The Bishop addresses the clergy:*

You are called to announce the good news, to share the grace of God with all people, to order the life of the church with integrity, to be signs of justice and compassion in communities across Florida and beyond. Will you accept these assignments, to build up the body of Christ and to make new disciples in new places and in new ways?

*\*Clergy:*

**We will go where we are sent, to spread scriptural holiness, to feed the multitudes, to share leadership with laity, and to live in covenant with each other.**

*Clergy are seated.*

CHARGE TO THE LAITY

*\*Laity rise. 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 men and women as your leaders? And will you join them in connecting with God’s mission-field that surrounds you?

*\*Laity:*

**We affirm our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we receive these persons as servants among us, and will support them in our shared ministries.**

*\*Clergy join Laity in standing. The Bishop addresses all:*

The Holy Spirit has led us in the discernment of gifts, and in listening to the needs of local churches, communities, and specialized ministries, for a larger purpose: that God’s kingdom will come, on earth as it is in heaven. I declare the fixing of these appointments for the year 2022-2023.

*\*All:*

**May the God who has called us equip us for every good work. Thanks be to God!**

*Following the Fixing of Appointments, we ask Branscomb Auditorium to be cleared to reset the room for the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination. Thank you.*



# SERVICE OF LICENSING, COMMISSIONING, AND ORDINATION

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 2022

\*PROCESSIONAL SONG *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

\*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

*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 CANDIDATES

The Conference Co-Lay Leaders, Alice Williams and Derrick Scott III, and the Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, The Reverend Magrey deVega, present to the Bishop those who are to be licensed, commissioned, and ordained.

*The Bishop stands before the Lord's Table, facing the people.*

*Co-Lay Leaders:*

**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 Co-Lay Leaders 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*)**

Steve DeDea	Cindy Long	David Schmidt
Tom Emigh	James Bryant Manning	Chandra Snell
Kolby Gollither	Esther Morey	David Toombs
Jeremy Knight	Staci Plonsky	Lorayne Vallejo
Brian Lawson	Richard Anthony Purcell	Cedeño
Nicholas Lee	Inez Robinson	

**These persons to be commissioned as provisional deacon (*provisional deacon stands*)**

Carlene Barbeau	Carey Stevens	Erin Wagner
Paola Bustillos	Anna Swygert	

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

Tim Jones Barton	Shawn Klein	Sherlain Stevens
Lucas Bonates	Gary Logan	Kaylee Vida
Mary Jackson	Clark McClain	Sarah Wise
William Kendust	Kipp Nelson	

**These persons to be ordained deacons (*deacons stand*)**

Michele Van Son Neill	Sharon Surrency
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These persons to be ordained elders (*elders stand*)

Frank Adams

Jana Hall-Perkins

Keith Harcombe

Victoria Harrison

Tamara Isidore

Nicole Logan

Rebecca Rokitowski

Debra Thompson

Eliantus Valmyr

Caitlin White

*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.

SCRIPTURE

*Mark 4:1-9*

Rev. Magrey deVega

*Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:*

*"Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."*

*And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"*

SERMON

*The Parable of the Soils*

Bishop Ken Carter

**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

Our offering at the Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination Service  
goes to support **The Ministerial Education Fund**

*The Ministerial Education Fund was established by the action of the 1968 General Conference. It is nurtured and funded by United Methodists to provide vitally needed scholar-*

*ships through annual conferences, essential funds for our 13 United Methodist seminaries in the United States, programs that encourage women and men to respond to the call to ordained ministry, continuing education for pastors across the connection and basic and advanced course of study education for local pastors. Every clergyperson who has served the United Methodist Church over the past 50 years has been shaped in part by the ministries and institutions supported by the Ministerial Education Fund.*

**Please give generously!**



<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/MinisterialEducationFundDonations>

OFFERTORY HYMN

*Called Me Higher*

Meg Phillips + Eleven20 Worship

## 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.

Steve DeDea  
Tom Emigh  
Kolby Gollither  
Jeremy Knight  
Brian Lawson  
Nicholas Lee

Cindy Long  
James Bryant Manning  
Esther Morey  
Staci Plonsky  
Richard Anthony Purcell  
Inez Robinson

David Schmidt  
Chandra Snell  
David Toombs  
Lorayne Vallejo  
Cedeño

*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, 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.**

*The Bishop introduces and greets those licensed:*

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**

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 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:

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 minis-  
try?

**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.**

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 supervi-  
sion 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

*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 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 “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.**

**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.**

Candidates for ordination as deacon proceed onto the stage.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

EXAMINATION OF DEACONS

\*Indicates an invitation to rise



*The Bishop examines the deacon candidates:*

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 the Chair of the Order of Deacons.*

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 the Chair of the Order of Deacons.*

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:*

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.**

Candidates for ordination as deacon are 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 the 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.**

*After all have been ordained the Bishop says:*

**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.**

*The Bishop introduces and greets those ordained:*

**I present to you the newly ordained deacons of the Florida Annual Confer-  
ence of The United Methodist Church!**

The newly ordained deacons proceed 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 the Chair of the Order of Elders.*

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

*Here a paten and chalice may be lifted by the Chair of the Order of Elders.*

**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 peo-  
ple, 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.**

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 the 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 candidate  
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, 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.**

*The Bishop introduces and greets those ordained:*

**I present to you these newly ordained elders of the Florida Annual Confer-  
ence of The United Methodist Church!**

The newly ordained elders and deacons proceed to their seats.

\*INVITATION TO THOSE FEELING CALLED TO LEAD THE ONE CHURCH

*Take My Life and Let It Be (Here I Am)*

\*CLOSING SONG OF PRAISE      *Lay Me Down*

\*BENEDICTION

Bishop Ken Carter

\*RECESSIONAL SONG    *O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing*

Please remain standing as clergy recess.

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<sup>1</sup>*From The United Methodist Hymnal. Copyright 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.*

# FULL CONNECTION DEACONS



**Sharon Grubbs Surrency** - I ignored God's call early in my life pursuing a career that I thought God had chosen for me in nursing. Little did I know that God was preparing me for even greater work. God never gives up on us! I answered the call to ministry in 2013 and followed that path that leads me here today. I attended Asbury Theological Seminary earning a Certificate in Christian Studies adding theological courses to my bachelor's in nursing and my master's in public health. I am called as a Deacon to a life of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice serving as the nurse in the child welfare program at Partnership for Strong Families, Inc in Gainesville and at Hawthorne First UMC serving as the Outreach Coordinator at Hawthorne Area Resource Center, Inc, a food pantry/information, and referral center serving persons who are marginalized and making disciples this kingdom work.



**Michele Van Son Neill** - Reverend Michele Van Son Neill is the Founder of and appointed to Crave of Florida, Inc. A five-year-old 501(c)3 as a supporting organization to the Florida Conference, Crave spiritually forms, professionally develops, and expands the networks of underserved social entrepreneurs. Crave is a transformational diverse collection of change-makers who believe that the incarnational community that practices the disciplines of personal and social growth, creativity, accountability, purpose-finding, and radical belonging. Crave Leaders and Alumni are on a spiritual journey of social impact who yearn to learn, desire to be an inclusive community, and are called to transformational work because of their own experiences of pain healed, injustice restored, and brokenness met with salvation. [www.cravefla.org](http://www.cravefla.org) #cravefla

# FULL CONNECTION ELDERS



**Frank G. Adams** - Rev. Frank G. Adams is a lifelong Methodist and follower of Jesus Christ. I served in many lay leadership roles within a local U.M.C for over nine years. I have become passionate about clergy care, anti-racism, families, marriages, social justice, inclusion, and the successful continuance of Christian discipleship. I received my call to ordained ministry while serving on a mission trip to Missions of Charity in Miami. After much discernment and prayer, I resigned from a successful career at Disney. I attended and graduated from Candler School of Theology where I discovered a growing desire to be a servant of God who is grateful to walk with God and others as the shepherd of New Horizon Church in Haines City. Thus far, God has challenged and humbled me to "walk by faith and not by sight" while leading my church and myself to a greater dependence on God's Spirit and amazing love.



**Jana Hall-Perkins** - Rev. Jana Hall-Perkins was born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Kissimmee, Florida. She earned a B.S. in Public Relations at the University of Florida. While involved in campus ministry, Jana began to explore a call to ordained ministry. Jana received a M.Div. from Vanderbilt University. At Vanderbilt, Jana worked with the Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, studying the impact of faith on the life of people with disabilities. In 2017, Rev. Jana was appointed as the first female senior pastor of McCabe United Methodist Church in Saint Petersburg. Jana continues to faithfully serve this congregation and community. Jana is married to Lee Hall-Perkins, an ordained Elder in the Church of God in Christ, a current Provisional Elder in the Florida Annual Conference, and the senior pastor of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Clearwater. Revs. Jana and Lee are the proud parents of Aniya and Elijah.



**Keith Harcombe** - Keith Harcombe is originally from Liverpool, England and moved to the United States in 2003 with his wife Julie. He first heard the call to ministry while serving in the Royal Navy as a volunteer church officer. While witnessing to a young man on a Royal Naval warship the tingles he felt down his spine confirmed in his heart God's desire for people to be led to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. He knew from this moment on that this was what he was to commit his life to. As a young man he was blessed with mentors and friends who poured into him, who understood what the gospel meant, both in the UK and the USA. This long journey toward ordination confirms this call on his life and he relishes in the fellowship the connection it provides. He lives in Tampa and has four grown children.





**Victoria Harrison** - One of the amazing things about the call is that it keeps changing. I was ordained a Deacon in June of 2018, serving on a church staff in mission and working with the most vulnerable in our community. I truly loved my job! But as the need arose, my role in the church changed and I began to sense my call changing as well. I was preaching and teaching more, leading teams, serving in senior leadership, and basically ordering the life of the church. I felt God strongly leading me to pursue the Elder path so that I could formalize what God was already doing in my life. This also allowed me to administer the sacraments, pointing people to God's love, grace, and atonement in a powerful way. It began to feel like this was what God designed me to do. Through this process, I've learned that God is always at work doing something new. We simply need to pay attention and be open to that next new thing!



**Tamara Isidore** - Tamara Isidore, a native of Haiti, has been an active member of FLUMC since 1991. She served five churches in Tampa Bay from 1995 to the present. Married to Jean-Robert Isidore, her high school sweetheart, they have seven children and seven grandchildren. A graduate of Elim Bible Institute and College in New York and of Asbury Theological Seminary, Tamara served as President of the Florida Conference Haitian Committee on Ministry, Vice-President of Haiti/Florida Covenant, Justice for Our Neighbors Host, Equitable Compensation, Ware Trust, Haitian League of Pastors of Tampa Bay, South Tampa District Reconciliation, Gulf Central Leadership Council, former South Central District Nomination and the South Central District Board of Ordained Ministry. She partnered with colleagues and churches to raise funding and alleviate suffering in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Tamara is a bond servant of Jesus Christ and of God's people on a mission to love as Jesus loves her. She will be the first Haitian woman ordained in the Florida Annual Conference!



**Nicole Deanne Logan** - I'm a geeky wife and mama bear of seven, who leads and loves with purple hair and cowboy boots. I'm an empath, an enneagram 4, and an ENFP. I'm called to preach and shepherd and help folks see that God's story is still being written with us, through us, and in us, with grace upon grace upon grace. God and I wrestled over my calling- I'm unlikely and unexpected- but I think that offers hope for other redeemed prodigals like me, especially those who've been hurt by the Church or who wonder how we're still relevant in the world. As a pastor, I invite ALL to experience the amazing grace of Christ, the extravagant love of God, and the crazy beautiful, intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit. Most of all, the word of God burns in my heart, and I cannot keep it to myself. Nevertheless, she preaches...



**Rebecca Lynn Rokitowski** - Rebecca Lynn Rokitowski first felt called to ordained ministry while serving on Team at Warren Willis Camp. Her home church is First UMC Plant City. She served on staff at Skycrest UMC in Clearwater, then was appointed as the Pastor at Riviera UMC in St Pete for 4 years and is currently the Associate Pastor at Saint Paul's UMC in Tallahassee. Becky has been married to Ted Rokitowski for 17 years and they have two boys, Kaden, and Adam. Becky loves working with all ages, but particularly with teenagers and with the elderly. She believes God has called her to the ministry of binding up the brokenhearted and helping all people to feel welcome at Christ's table.



**Debra Ann Thompson** - I was called to ministry while actively working as an Occupational Therapist. God was shaping me for ministry in the church as I began to understand the intersection of faith and healing. This realization motivates my passion for loving God and loving God's people. Cautiously leaving my career and family in Jacksonville, Florida to attend seminary at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia was a faith walk. God will give us the strength to do everything God desires us to do. Let me forever be mindful of my ecclesiastical responsibilities to live my life according to God's will, and exhibit that commitment in all areas of behavior. God has called me to serve in several local churches, with my next assignment to love God and love God's people at Lakeside United Methodist Church, Lake Worth, Florida. I am thankful for everyone with whom I have crossed paths.



**Eliantus Vetus Valmyr** - I received my call from God to vocational ministry when I was fifteen, just after baptism. One day, I decided to visit my grandmother and went by myself. The distance was 45 miles. I walked for hours before reaching her house. While I was walking, I heard a voice calling my name. I looked around to see who was calling me. Immediately, I felt something burning in my heart like the Holy Spirit was talking to me. I was passing through a forest; the voice was so loud I looked behind me and around me to see if someone was there calling my name. I did not see anybody. I sat down for a moment to see if I could hear the same voice again. However, I did not hear anything. I continued to walk to my grandmother's house. Some days later, I realized that voice was the voice of Almighty God calling me into ministry.



**Caitlin Allyn White** - Caitlin Allyn White grew up in an unchurched family and came to faith in an unusual church plant that was birthed from an AA group. "Normal church" has never worked for her. A graduate of Millsaps College (BS, Psychology) and Boston University School of Theology (M.Div.), Caitlin specializes in campus ministry, interfaith engagement, community organizing, and social justice advocacy. Her experience of calling has always been connected with cultivating new Christian communities beyond the walls of the traditional Church. She also enjoys intergenerational faith formation, helping families and communities share stories and engage faith across generations. She is passionate about the inclusion of those who, like her family, have been hurt or marginalized by religion. She currently serves as the Director and Campus Pastor of the Stetson Wesley Foundation and the Associate Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, DeLand. She is also a nature lover, avid trail runner, and long-distance hiker.

FLUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

Rebuilding the  
**CHURCH**  
Re-mem-bering the  
**BODY**

CREATING A SPIRITUAL HOME FOR ALL



**OUR OFFERING AT THE LICENSING, COMMISSIONING  
AND ORDINATION SERVICE GOES TO SUPPORT:**

**THE MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND**

The Ministerial Education Fund was established by the action of the 1968 General Conference. It is nurtured and funded by United Methodists to provide vitally needed scholarships through annual conferences, essential funds for our 13 United Methodist seminaries in the United States, programs that encourage women and men to respond to the call to ordained ministry, continuing education for pastors across the connection and basic and advanced course of study education for local pastors.

Every clergyperson who has served the United Methodist Church over the past 50 years has been shaped in part by the ministries and institutions supported by the Ministerial Education Fund.

**Please give generously!**

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