



# **Service of Commissioning and Ordination of Elders and Deacons**

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's UMC, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Oklahoma Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Oklahoma Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church  
2022

The asterisk † denotes that one is invited to stand in body or spirit.



# Service of Commissioning and Ordination of Elders and Deacons

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's UMC, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:6-7 NRSV*

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*PRE-SERVICE CONCERT 6:30 p.m.*

*WORSHIP 7:00 p.m.*

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## **PRE-SERVICE CONCERT –**

St. Luke's Combined Choirs and Orchestra of St. Luke's UMC Downtown and Edmond Campuses,  
Robert Fasol, Organist/Choirmaster

- *Let Everything Praise the Lord* – André J. Thomas
  - *Praise to the Lord* – arr. Dan Forrest
  - *Do Lord* – Spiritual
  - *Beethoven* – Piano Guys
  - *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* – arr. Dan Forrest
  - *God So Loved the World* – John Stainer
  - *The Holy City* – arr. Mark Hayes
  - *Hallelujah Chorus* – G.F. Handel
- 

As we enter into worship please note:

- Silence or turn off all electronic devices.
  - The special offering tonight goes to the Circle of Care Boys Ranch Legacy Campaign. Please make all checks payable to the OKUMC with the memo line indicating conference offering. Join Circle of Care in transforming their historic Boys Ranch into a foster care community.
  - The act of commissioning provisional members includes the acknowledgement and affirmation of God's call and the candidate's response, gifts, abilities, and training for servant leadership. Commissioning also includes credentialing candidates to lead the church and equip others for ministry and calls them to enter a time of evaluation of their effectiveness for lifelong service as ordained ministers. One aspect distinguishing the commissioning of provisional members from the ordination of elders and deacons is duration. Commissioning sends persons to a term of service, while ordination sets persons apart for lifelong service. The services for the ordering of ministry this evening will begin with the celebration of commissioning three elders and two deacons.
  - Ordination is a public act of the Church which indicates acceptance by an individual of God's call to the up-building of the Church and acknowledgement and authentication of this call by the Christian community through prayers and the laying on of hands. United Methodist tradition has entrusted persons in the ordained ministry with the responsibility for maintaining standards: for education and training and for examination and granting credentials to those who seek ordination. This evening's service will celebrate one elder to be received into full connection in the Annual Conference as well as three recognition of orders.
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*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

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

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The host of God in unity combine.

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

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

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

2. 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.*

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

**GREETING AND PRAYER**

Mirissa Tucker

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**  
Our Help is in the name of the Lord.  
**The creator of heaven and earth.**  
Let us pray...

**God of light and truth,  
you led your holy apostles  
to appoint ministers in every place.  
Guide your Church, through the wisdom of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may choose men and women with gifts of grace  
for the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order.  
May we uphold them in their work,  
and may your reign be extended;  
through Jesus Christ, the Shepherd of our souls,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit, is worshiped and glorified,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**WELCOME TO ST. LUKE’S UMC**

Wendy Lambert

**RECOGNITION OF COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

*Bishop Nunn:*  
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:

*(Water is poured into basins by the chairpersons of the Orders of Deacons and Elders.)*

Remember you are baptized, and be thankful.

**We reaffirm our baptism**

**and our common call to ministry.**

**Thanks be to God!**

**PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED AND ORDAINED**

*(All but the bishop and candidates may be seated.)*

*Bishop Nunn:*

Who presents these candidates to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized?

*All Laity:*

**We have recommended them in our local congregations.**

**We present them with our prayers and support.**

*Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry:*

We have examined these candidates according to the standards of our Discipline and this annual conference of The United Methodist Church.

We present them with our prayers and support.

*Greg Tener:*

We present this person for ordination as elder.

We present him with our prayers and support.

**ORDAINED ELDERS – FULL CONNECTION**

Mark Watson

Steven Charles Littrell

*Greg Tener:*

We present these persons for recognition of orders as elders. We present them with our prayers and support.

**RECOGNITION OF ORDERS**

Mark Watson

Sean Sungwoo Cho

Felix Miguel Jones

Kwan Young Kim

*Greg Tener:*

We present these persons for commissioning as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry.

We present them with our prayers and support.

**COMMISSIONED DEACON – PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

Mark Watson

Alyson Elizabeth Shahan

Heather Morris Winner

**COMMISSIONED ELDERS – PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

Mark Watson

Paul Raymond Bussert

John Edward Hiller

Stephanie S. Stephens

*Bishop Nunn:*

These persons are by God's grace  
to be ordained and commissioned for set apart 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, they believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent  
to the ordination and commissioning of these persons.

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

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

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

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

### **THE GENERAL EXAMINATION**

*(All candidates for commissioning, ordination or recognition remain standing and face the bishop.)*

*Bishop Nunn:*

My sisters and brothers in Christ,  
you have been called to an ordained and commissioned status in set apart 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 or licensed 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, participate in the life and work of the community, and 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 by the Holy Spirit may be brought to perfection.

**Amen.**

*(All may be seated.)*

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### † SCRIPTURE READING

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:6-14

Janey Thomas

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

*I'll Fly Away*  
arr. Brandon Boyd

Choir

### SERMON

“The Gift Received”

Bishop Nunn

### † APOSTLES CREED

Paula Gradney-Garner

Do you believe in God?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and 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.**

### † GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

### INVITATION TO GIVE TO THE CONFERENCE SPECIAL OFFERING

David Burris

*If you are writing a check tonight, please make it payable to OKUMC with “Conference Offering” in the memo line.*

### OFFERTORY

*Crown Him!*  
arr. Dan Forrest

Choir

## † DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

*(Congregation is seated while candidates for commissioning approach the chancel rail.  
The Bishop addresses the congregation.)*

*Bishop Nunn:*

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 brothers and sisters 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 Holy 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 & LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Bishop Nunn:*

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 your 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.

*(Candidates will kneel at the prayer rail)*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_.  
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.

**Amen.**

**RESPONSE**

*“Christ Beside Me” (verse 1)*

TFWS 2166

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

### **RECOGNITION OF ORDERS**

*(The candidates for recognition of orders stand and join the Bishop on the chancel.)*

*Bishop Nunn:*

After due examination  
of your call and ministry in another part of Christ’s holy church,  
we now welcome you to this communion.

You have given assurance of your faith and Christian experience.

You have renewed the vows of your ordination  
and embraced our own,  
committing yourself to accept and uphold faithfully  
the doctrine, liturgy, and discipline of The United Methodist Church.

We rejoice that you have been called to serve among us,  
and pray that God may guide your ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_, we now recognize you as an elder in full connection  
in The United Methodist Church.

**Amen.**

**RESPONSE**

*“Christ Beside Me” (verse 2)*

TFWS 2166

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising light of my life.

### **EXAMINATION OF ELDERS**

*(The Candidate for ordination as elder will rise and join the Bishop on the chancel.)*

*Bishop Nunn:*

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,  
to order the life of the congregation and the connection,  
to 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 candidate for ordination comes forward)*

*Bishop Nunn:*

As this person is ordained by the church for the office and work of elder  
to which we believe he has been called by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for him.

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 this your servant the grace and power he needs  
to serve you in this ministry.

Make him a faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise counselor.

Enable him 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.

*(The candidate kneels before the bishop.)*

*Bishop Nunn:*

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

**Amen.**

\_\_\_\_\_, 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.**

**RESPONSE**

*"Christ Beside Me" (verse 3)*

TFWS 2166

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

*Bishop Nunn:*

Let us pray.

**We thank you, gracious God,  
for raising up among us faithful servants.  
Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that we, with them,  
may glorify you by giving ourselves to others. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO ANSWER A CALL TO MINISTRY**

Bishop Nunn

† **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"*

UMH 581

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

† **DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

*Bishop Nunn:*

The grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always.

**Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL**

*Toccata (Symphony V) – C. M. Widor*

Robert Fasol

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Bishop Jimmy Nunn, resident bishop, Oklahoma Annual Conference  
Wendy Lambert, senior executive pastor, St. Luke's UMC, Oklahoma City  
Mark Watson, registrar of elders/deacons, Board of Ordained Ministry, Oklahoma Annual Conference  
Greg Tener, chairperson, Board of Ordained Ministry, Oklahoma Annual Conference  
Brandon Blacksten, vice-chairperson, Board of Ordained Ministry, Oklahoma Annual Conference  
Don Kim, lay leader, Oklahoma Annual Conference  
Cali Depue-Eck, Chair of the Order of Deacons/ associate pastor, New Covenant UMC, Edmond  
Valerie Jones Steele, Chair of the Order of Elders/ senior pastor, Quail Springs UMC, Oklahoma City  
Mirissa Tucker, ImpactOK2 resident, Langston University  
Janey Thomas, campus minister, ECU Wesley Foundation, Ada  
Paula Gradney-Garner, director of young children and weekday preschool, Boston Avenue, Tulsa  
David Burris, Circle of Care board member, Retired Elder  
Robert Fasol, organist/choirmaster, St. Luke's UMC, Oklahoma City  
Candace Fish, Edmond Campus Director of Traditional Worship  
Sydney Arrendell, conductor  
St. Luke's Choir and Orchestra (Downtown Campus)  
Chancel Choir (St. Luke's Edmond Campus)  
Corey Shirey, acolyte  
Kyla Powers, acolyte  
Micah Shahan, crucifer

Cover photo by Tabitha Beckman

Top: Bishop Nunn, Steve Littrell, Paul Bussert, John Hiller, Felix Jones, Greg Tener

Bottom: Alyson Shahan, Heather Morris Winner, Stephanie S. Stephens, Kwan Young Kim, Sean Sungwoo Cho

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*God So Loved the World*, words from John 3:16-17, music by John Stainer  
*The Holy City*, written by Stephen Adams, arranged by Mark Hayes, published by Shawnee Press  
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OKLAHOMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

**Rekindle**  
*the Gifts of God:*

LOVE, POWER & SELF-DISCIPLINE

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. 2nd Timothy 1:6-7 NRSV

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