

**North Georgia Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
145<sup>th</sup> North Georgia Annual Conference**

**Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination**

The Classic Center Theatre  
Athens, Georgia

Tuesday, June 14, 2011  
7:30 p.m.

B. Michael Watson, Presiding Bishop

GATHERING MUSIC

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* DUKE STREET

From all that dwell below the skies,  
let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
through every land by every tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
eternal truth attends thy word.  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Your lofty themes, ye mortals, bring,  
in songs of praise divinely sing;  
the great salvation loud proclaim,  
and shout for joy the Savior's name.

In every land begin the song;  
to every land the strains belong;  
in cheerful sounds all voices raise,  
and fill the world with loudest praise.

Text: Isaac Watts

\*GREETING AND PRAYER

*The bishop:*

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

We come together to praise God, to hear the Holy Word,  
and to seek for ourselves and others the power, presence,  
and direction of the Holy Spirit.

\*Let us pray.

**Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit  
you gave to your apostles many excellent gifts.**

**Give your grace to all who have been called to servant ministry,  
that they may with diligence and faithfulness  
fulfill their various ministries.**

**Grant that we your people may follow where you lead,  
perfect our ministries,  
and live in joyful obedience to your will  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

\*RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON MINISTRY  
AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

*The bishop addresses the congregation:*

Ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God.

Through baptism all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers,

The church, Christ's body, made visible in the world.

We all share in Christ's ministry of love and service

for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation.

Therefore, in celebration of our common ministry,

I call upon all God's people gathered here:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

*The congregation responds:*

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

Christ gave this command:

“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.”

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 Holy Spirit,  
they come to declare in public their desire to bind themselves to the service of God  
and to be appointed to share in the ministry of Christ.

The Church has discerned that they are persons of sound learning  
and of Christian character,  
possessing the necessary gifts and signs of God’s grace for ministry.

We gather here to set apart those called to the particular ministries of the church:  
to license those for local pastorates, to commission men and women for  
ministry in the church and to ordain those who are called to the ministry of  
deacons and elders.

*The congregation is seated.*

### ***PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES***

Jane Finley, *Conference Lay Leader*

Quincy D. Brown, *Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry*

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

and on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of this annual conference,  
which has recommended these persons, and this annual conference,  
which has approved them, we present:

persons to be licensed as local pastors,  
these persons to be commissioned as provisional members,  
these persons to be ordained deacons,  
these persons to be ordained elders.

*The bishop addresses the congregation:*

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,  
and possess the necessary signs of God's grace,  
and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

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

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

*The congregation responds:*

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

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

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

*All are seated*

OFFERTORY                      *Throughout All Time (Psalm 89)*                      David Haas

Antiphon (sung by all): **I will sing forever to you, my God;  
throughout all time I will sing to you, throughout all time I will sing to you.**

*The offering supports the expenses of the 2011 session of the North Georgia  
Annual Conference.*

***PROCLAMATION***

SCRIPTURE LESSON

SERMON

Bishop Alfred B. Norris  
*Past President and Dean  
Gammon Theological Seminary*

ANTHEM

*Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire*

Robert J. Powell

### ***LICENSING***

*Candidates for licensing stand:*

These persons have completed the requirements for the license as local pastors and are recommended by the district committees on ordained ministry. We have inquired diligently concerning them and have found them fit for this sacred vocation.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Word is truth,  
in the keeping of which is eternal life:

We thank you for these persons,  
whom we set aside in your name as local pastors.

Prepare them in body, mind and spirit for their task  
and continue them in your grace

that they may increase and bless your church through their labors,  
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*The bishop addresses the candidates:*

You are hereby authorized to serve as a local pastor in the congregation to which you are appointed. Perform these duties faithfully, and trust in God always.

*The congregation responds:*

**Jesus Christ be with you, empower you and sustain you for your ministry.  
Amen!**

*Those licensed are seated.*

### ***COMMISSIONING***

*All candidates for Commissioning stand.*

*The bishop:*

Throughout Christian history, the church has commissioned people for leadership and service.

This commissioning is always a response to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who calls and sends women and men to share in Christ's ministry.

In the early church in Antioch, the Holy Spirit instructed the community to "set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

In the early stages of such ministerial service, ordained leaders walk with commissioned leaders to mentor and form them in Christ's ministry, just as Ananias, the more seasoned leader, guided Paul the newly called evangelist, toward the fullness of his calling.

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

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

*The congregation responds:*

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

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

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

#### PRAYER AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

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, 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. **Amen.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *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 the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,**

**May the grace of ministry rest upon these your servants  
and may the opportunity to serve  
lead them into the fullness of your calling.**

**Clothe them with your righteousness,  
and grant that they may glorify you  
by giving themselves to others,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN

*Lord, You Call Us to Your Service*

CWM RHONDDA

Lord, you call us to your service, summon us for work divine,  
reach to us for life's vocation as the witness you design.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Send us as your kingdom sign.  
Send us as your kingdom sign.

Great Creator of the living, in the dark your light shines through.  
Out of nothing you have made us priestly people, holy, true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Make our lives as song to you.  
Make our lives as song to you.

Words: William H. Willimon and Stephen P. West

## ***ORDINATION***

### **GENERAL EXAMINATION**

*All candidates for ordination stand. The Bishop faces the candidates and says:*

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, you have been called  
to an ordained ministry.

The Church now confirms your calling through ordination.

As ordained ministers,  
you are to be coworkers with the bishops, deacons, elders,  
diaconal ministers, commissioned ministers, and all the faithful.

Remember that you are called to serve rather than to be served,  
to proclaim the faith of the Church and no other,  
to look after the concerns of God above all.

So that we may know that you believe yourselves  
to be called by God and that you profess the Christian faith, we ask you:

Do you trust that God has called you to the life and work  
of an ordained minister?

*The ordinands respond:*

**I do so trust.**

Do you believe in the Triune God,  
and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

**I do so believe and confess.**

Are you persuaded that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments  
contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ,  
and are the unique and authoritative standard for the church's faith and life?

**I am so persuaded, by God's grace.**

Will you be faithful in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures,  
and with the help of the Holy Spirit  
continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you 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 its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline,  
committing yourself to be accountable  
with those serving with you, and to the bishop  
and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

**I will, God being my helper.**

May God, who has given you the will to do these things,  
give you grace to perform them  
that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection. **Amen.**

*The candidates for ordination as elders are seated; deacon candidates remain standing.*

## EXAMINATION OF DEACONS

*The Bishop addresses the Deacons:*

A deacon is called to exemplify 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 at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion,  
to counsel the troubled,  
to serve God's people  
with special concern for love, justice,  
and ministry with the poor, the sick, and the oppressed,  
to equip the baptized for ministry,  
and to embody the unity of the congregation's worship  
with its life in the world.

These are the duties of a deacon.

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

*The Deacons respond:*

**I do so believe.**

Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission,  
covenant to participate in the order of deacons?

Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Deacons in order  
to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

**I will, with the help of God,  
and with the help of my sisters and brothers in the Order of Deacons.**

## PRAYER FOR DEACONS AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

As these persons are ordained by God and the church for the ministry of deacon to which they 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 the grace to be faithful to their promises, constant in their discipleship, and always ready for works of loving service. Give them a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. **Amen.**

*Laying on of hands:*

Almighty God, pour upon *name* the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a deacon in Christ's holy church. **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

*Here I Am, Lord*

Dan Schutte

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.

## EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

*The candidates for ordination as elders stand.*

*The bishop:*

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.

These are the duties of an elder.

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

*The Elders respond:*

**I do so believe.**

Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission  
covenant to participate in the Order of Elders?

Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Elders  
in order to sustain and build each other up  
in prayer, study, worship, and service?

**I will, with the help of God,  
and the help of my sisters and brothers in the Order of Elders.**

#### PRAYER FOR ELDERS AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

As these persons are ordained by God and the church for the ministry of elders  
to which they 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 Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Laying on of hands:*

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

*Name*, take authority as an elder  
to preach the Word of God,  
and to administer the Holy Sacraments  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE                      *Take, O Take Me as I Am*                      John Bell  
Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be.  
Set your seal upon my heart, and live in me.

\*DOXOLOGY    *Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow*    LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## ***SENDING FORTH***

### **\*PRAYER**

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.**

### **\*RETIRING PROCESSION *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian* HYFRYDOL**

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-sped flame and hovering dove,  
breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:  
give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;  
send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.

Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, word made flesh, love crucified,  
teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:  
in your tending may all ministers learn and live a shepherd's care;  
grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall,  
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:  
as you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts  
oversee her life steadfastly yet not overlook her faults.

Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,  
deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:  
help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,  
that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.

### **\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

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

Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.  
**We are sent in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!**

\*The assembly is invited to rise in body or spirit.

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## Worship notes

### Musicians:

Singers: members and friends of the Candler Singers, Candler School of Theology

Music Coordinator: David Daniel, *Director of Music Ministries, Duluth First UMC*

Organist: Jamie Shiell, *Music Assistant, Candler School of Theology*

Flute: Ellouise Daniel; Clarinet: Carrie Yoder

### Service Coordinators:

Barbara Day Miller, *Associate Dean of Worship and Music, Candler School of Theology*

Jordan Thrasher, *Pastor, Bold Spring UMC*

Ellynda Lipsey, *Pastor, St. Timothy UMC*

Betsy Butler, *Local Committee, Athens FUMC*

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The organ for the 2011 North Georgia Annual Conference is supplied by Chapel Music Company, Lithonia, Georgia.

The stole on the altar, which will also be used in the Recognition of Retirees and Passing of the Mantle, was made by Julie Moor.