



# Grace is Sufficient

**Celebration of Ministry**

**June 9, 2025**

**Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center**



**Northern Illinois Conference**  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Celebration of Ministry

## Including A Service of Commissioning and Ordination

**Monday, June 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

You are welcome to stand at the times in the service when individuals are recognized, commissioned and ordained. As we stand where we are in silent, prayerful support, we embody the Church in affirming the work of the Holy Spirit in these persons.

In keeping with the significance of the occasion, please refrain from the use of photography or videography, especially at the times of commissioning and ordination.

Please do not approach the worship platform with phones, cameras or video recorders. Photos will be available online at the UMCNIC Flickr page, [flickr.com/photos/umcnicac](https://www.flickr.com/photos/umcnicac) to download for free.

Following the service, all are invited to greet the honorees in Schaumburg Rooms E-H.

### Gathering Music

*Your Grace is Enough  
I Thank God  
Good Grace*

NIC Praise Team

### \* Processional Hymn

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

UMH #62

### \* Call to Worship

Eugene Williams

Leader: God, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the water and you created everything.  
People: **By your Spirit you create us anew, and we praise you.**  
Leader: Loving Christ, when you rose from the dead you breathed your Spirit into us.  
People: **By your Spirit you raise us up from death, and we thank you.**  
Leader: Holy Spirit, you breathe your love into us and give us your beauty and your courage.  
People: **In your Spirit you make us one body, the Body of Christ, the Body of Love.**  
All: **In your Spirit we bear your love to the world.**  
**We love you; we worship you; we serve you. Alleluia!**

### Centering Prayer

Bishop Dan Schwerin

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Bishop: We come together to praise God, to hear Holy Word, and to seek for ourselves and others the power, presence and direction of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray.  
People: **Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit you gave your apostles many excellent gifts. Give your grace to all servants of your church, that we many 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.**



## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### Recognition of Common Ministry & Reaffirmation of Baptism

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Sherry Steele

Bishop: 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 you are baptized, and be thankful.

All: We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry. Thanks be to God!

### Recognitions and Introduction of Guests

Danita R. Anderson  
Bishop James Boye-Culker, Sierra Leone Annual Conference  
Bishop Karen Oliveto, retired  
Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago

### Reading of the Hebrew Scripture

*2 Kings 10: 15-16 (CEB)*

Paul Lee (Korean)  
Elsa Noemi Mesa (Spanish)  
Victor Melad, Jr. (Tagalog)

Jehu departed from there and encountered Rechab's son Jehonadab. Jehu greeted him, and asked,  
"Are you as committed to me as I am to you?"  
Jehonadab responded, "Yes, I am."  
"If so," said Jehu, "then give me your hand." So Jehonadab put out his hand, and Jehu pulled him up into the chariot.  
Jehu said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord." So Jehu had Jehonadab ride with him in his chariot.

Leader: The Word of God for All  
People: Thanks be to God

## Recognition of Set-Apart Ministries

### Recognition of Consecrated Deaconess

Fabiola Grandon-Mayer

Rhonda Smith-Sumrall

Bishop: In your recent consecration, you publicly declared your commitment:

- To engage in this lifelong work of love, justice and service and to assume its responsibilities, led by the Spirit of God.
- To be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, in mutual relationship with the communities you serve and in all other means of grace available to you.
- To earnestly seek to carry forward your ministry call in sincerity and in love under the direction of the Church.
- To accept responsibility for participation in the mutually supportive deaconess and home missionary covenant community and for a lifetime of loving and supporting your sisters and brothers as part of the world diaconate.

Do you now affirm these commitments publicly in the presence of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference?

Deaconess: I do so publicly affirm these declarations with God being my helper.  
Bishop: Today, we send you forth with our blessings and support.

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

Bishop: Rhonda Smith-Sumrall, I commission you to the appointed ministry of  
St. Franciscan Health Care Hospital System on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop to congregation:

Let us pray: Most Gracious God, source of all mercies, anoint your servant with your Holy Spirit,  
enrich them with your grace, and strengthen them for the tasks which lie ahead.

May their labors glorify your holy name, as they continue their daily work in ministries of  
love, justice and service on behalf of The United Methodist Church. Through your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

To the church gathered here and around the world, I present our deaconess, commissioned to a lifetime of  
Christ-like service under the authority of the Church.

People: Thanks be to God!

### Recognition of Newly Licensed Local Pastors

Brenda Morris

Rene Bello  
Kurt Beystehner  
Saturnino Espinoza  
David Profitt  
Sanha Kang  
Robert Wandell

Leader: Eternal God, you call each and every one of us to love you and love our neighbors.

People: **Today we celebrate those who have answered your call as local pastors in past year.**

Leader: Fill them with the presence, power, and hope your Spirit brings.

People: **Empower them to spread your Word connecting all into the body of Christ.**

Leader: Sanctify their lives that they may reveal your love.

People: **Use them as your means of grace as they go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give themselves for others. Amen!!**

Bishop: I invite you to extend your hands in blessing toward these persons.

Let us pray:

Bless these local pastors who have committed their lives— their gifts and skills, time and resources to your service.  
They are the lifeblood of our mission, bringing Christ to the world.

May they experience the joy of service as they invite and lead others in your church. Amen.

### Gospel Proclamation

*Halle, Halle*

NIC Praise Team

#### \*The Proclamation of the Gospel

*Luke 8:40-56, CEB*

Grant Showalter-Swanson

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ recorded according to Luke 8:40-56

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they had been waiting for him. A man named Jairus, who was a synagogue leader,  
came and fell at Jesus' feet. He pleaded with Jesus to come to his house because his only daughter, a twelve-year-old, was dying.

As Jesus moved forward, he faced smothering crowds. A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had  
spent her entire livelihood on doctors, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the hem of his clothes, and  
at once her bleeding stopped.

"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When everyone denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are surrounding you and pressing in on you!"

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

But Jesus said, “Someone touched me. I know that power has gone out from me.”

When the woman saw that she couldn’t escape notice, she came trembling and fell before Jesus. In front of everyone, she explained why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed.

“Daughter, your faith has healed you,” Jesus said. “Go in peace.”

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader’s house, saying to Jairus, “Your daughter has died. Don’t bother the teacher any longer.”

When Jesus heard this, he responded, “Don’t be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed.”

When he came to the house, he didn’t allow anyone to enter with him except Peter, John, and James, and the child’s father and mother. They were all crying and mourning for her, but Jesus said, “Don’t cry. She isn’t dead. She’s only sleeping.”

They laughed at him because they knew she was dead.

Taking her hand, Jesus called out, “Child, get up.” Her life returned and she got up at once. He directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were beside themselves with joy, but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Leader: The gospel of our Lord!

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reprise	<i>Halle, Halle</i>	NIC Praise Team
Song	<i>Precious Lord</i>	NIC Praise Team
Sermon	<i>Give Me Your Hand</i>	Bishop Karen Oliveto
Song	<i>Lean on Me</i>	NIC Praise Team
*Response to the Word	<i>The Immigrants’ Creed</i>	Luis F. Reyes-Rosario

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus,  
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home,  
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger,  
and returning to his own country suffered the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power,  
who then was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured, accused and condemned to death unjustly.  
But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead, not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God’s kingdom among us,  
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.

I believe that the church is the secure home for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it,  
who speak the same language and have the same purpose.

I believe that the communion of the saints begins when we accept the diversity of the saints.

I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal, and in reconciliation,  
which identifies us more than does race, language, or nationality.

I believe that in the resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct, and all are alike at the same time.

Beyond this work, I believe in life eternal in which no one will be an immigrant,  
but all will be citizens in God’s kingdom which will never end. Amen.

# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## Presentation of Persons to Be Commissioned, Recognized and Ordained

### To be commissioned for the work of a deacon:

Alexander Dade Dungan

### To be commissioned for the work of an elder:

Dawn Marie Gardner

Michael Mitchell, Sr.

D. Josiah Montgomery

Hyesang Jay Shin

Jacob R. Tipantasig-Wolverton

### To be ordained as a elder:

Kicheon Ahn

Paul Lee, sponsor

Jaeon Cho

Saeah Yoon, sponsor

Chan Ik Choi

Viang Hong, sponsor

Clayton Scott Edwards

Caitlin Edwards, sponsor

G. Morris K. Jarkloh, Jr.

Myron McCoy, sponsor

Matthew James Smith

Lisa Schickert Smith, sponsor

Bishop addresses the Laity:

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 address all the Elders:

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

### All Elders in Full Connection:

**We present Kicheon Ahn, Jaeon Cho, Chan Ik Choi, Clayton Scott Edwards, G. Morris K. Jarkloh, Jr.,  
and Matthew James Smith for ordination as elders.**

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

Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

We present Dawn Marie Gardner, Michael Mitchell, Sr., D. Josiah Montgomery, Hyesang Jay Shin, and  
Jacob R. Tipantasig-Wolverton for commissioning as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as elders  
and Alexander Dade Dungan preparing for ordained ministry as deacon.

We present them with our prayers and support.

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

**Bishop:** These persons are by God's grace to be 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 commissioning, and ordination of these persons. Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be commissioned, recognized or ordained?

**People:** **Yes! Worthy! Thanks be to God!**

**Bishop:** Will you uphold them in their ministry?

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

*Let there be applause, shouts and rejoicing!*

### The General Examination

After the examination, the candidates for ordination are seated and commissioning sponsors will robe those to be commissioned.

### The Examination of Persons Being Commissioned and Ordained

**Song of Worship**

*Oceans*

NIC Praise Team

### The Prayer of Commissioning with the Laying on of Hands

Bishop Dan Schwerin

**Bishop:** 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."...

... 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.

**The bishop, standing behind and laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate, prays:**

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

Send them 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 Triune God. Amen.

**People:** Let all the people of God say:  
**Amen.**





# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## The Ministry of the Deacon (Renewal)

Bishop: **A deacon**

is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood,  
to relate the life of the community to its service in the world,  
to lead others into Christian discipleship,  
to nurture disciples for witness and service,  
to lead in worship,  
to teach and proclaim God's Word,  
to assist elders and appointed local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and  
where contextually appropriate, to preside at the celebration of the sacraments.  
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,  
even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.  
This is the rule of life and work of a deacon.

Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission,  
reaffirm your covenant to continue your participation in the order of deacons?  
Will you continue giving yourself to God through the order of deacons  
in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

Response: I will, with the help of God, and with the help of my siblings in the order of deacons.

## The Ministry Of Elders

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 and the connection,  
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?

Response: I do so believe.





## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### Laying on of Hands

The candidate for ordination as an elder is invited to kneel before the bishop as directed.

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

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

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

The candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the ordinand and says:

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 our Triune God.

All: Amen.

Scan QR code to  
donate online



### Invitation to Offering

The offerings given today will go towards the United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) to support the ongoing work of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, through whose work candidates for ministry are recruited, empowered, and sent to serve on behalf of our conference locally and around the world.

### Prayer for the Offering

Sejoon Jang, Board of Ordained Ministry Treasurer

### The Word in Music

*Praise His Holy Name*

NIC Mass Choir

### Celebration of Eucharist

Bishop Dan Schwerin  
Sherry Steele

### Invitation to the Table

### Confession and Peace

People: 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.

*Silently confess your sins to God.*

Leader: 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!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven! Glory be to God! Amen.

### \*The Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

*Signs of reconciliation and love may be exchanged*

# Celebration of Ministry (continued)

## The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop: God is with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Bishop: Lift up your heart.

**People:** **We lift them up to God.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**People:** **It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.**

Bishop: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People:** **Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

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

**People:** **Dying, Christ destroyed our death.  
Rising, Christ restores our life.  
Christ will come again in glory.**



## The Lord's Prayer

(Please pray in the language or form of your preference.)

## Breaking the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

All communion elements are vegan and gluten free.

They will be distributed to the congregation by the newly ordained and commissioned and others at the direction of the ushers.

## Communion Hymns

*For Everyone Born  
One Bread, One Body  
Let Us Break Bread Together*

See words on the screen

## Prayer After Receiving

Bishop: Let us pray.

**People:** **We thank you, gracious God, for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us,  
And united us in the communion of your Holy Spirit.  
We bless you for raising up among us faithful servants. Clothe them and us with your righteousness  
And grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Celebration of Ministry (continued)

### \*Dismissal with Blessing

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Sherry Steele

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

Deacon: Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

People: We are sent in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!

### \* Hymn of Celebration (Recessional)

*All the People Said Amen*

NIC Praise Team

### Postlude

*Rattle!*

NIC Praise Team

### Thank you to Our Participants

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Bishop James Boye-Culker, Bishop Karen Oliveto, Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, members of the NIC Mass Choir, members of the NIC Praise Team, Danita R. Anderson, John Bell, Norval I. Brown, Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Abby Holcombe, Sejoon Jang, Drew Jones Marquez (Worship Leader), Paul Lee, Kimberly Lewis Davis, Alka Lyall, Mary Gay McKinny, Victor Melad, Jr., Elsa Noemi Mesa, Brenda Morris, Lucas Pepper, Eric Reniva, Luis F. Reyes-Rosario (coordinator), Grant Showalter-Swanson, Sherry Steele, Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton (Chair of Annual Conference Worship), Eugene Williams

### Copyright Acknowledgments

*Your Grace is Enough*, © 2003 Thankyou Music Ltd; spiritandsong.com, CCLI #4477026

*I Thank God*, © 2021 Bethel Worship Publishing; Heritage Worship Music Publishing; Maverick City Publishing; Aaron Moses Chiriboga Music; Be Essential Songs; Holmeboy Music Group; Jesse Cline Publishing Designee; Jord A Lil Music; MJ George Music, CCLI #7169680

*Good Grace*, © 2018 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia, CCLI #7122177

*All Creatures of Our God and King*, Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain, CCLI #1503

*Halle, Halle*, © 1998, 2020 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #2659190

*Precious Lord*, © Words: 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.; Music: 1983 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. CCLI #7205306

*Lean on Me*, Copyright © 1972 INTERIOR MUSIC CORP. Copyright Renewed All Rights Controlled and Administered by SONGS OF UNIVERSAL, INC. All Rights Reserved Used by Permission

*The Immigrants' Creed* by Revd. Jose Luis Casal in the Book of Common Worship: 2018. Presbyterian Church

*Oceans*, © 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia, CCLI #6428767

*Praise His Holy Name*, © 1998 earthsongs, Words & Music by Keith Hampton, OneLicense #AFMUS240123

*For Everyone Born*, © Words: 1998 Murray, Shirley Erena; Music: 1999 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #4065421

*One Bread, One Body*, © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, OneLicense #230252

*Let Us Break Bread Together*, Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain OneLicense #84125

*All the People Said Amen*, © 2013 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; Thankyou Music Ltd; Valley Of Songs Music; Trevor Morgan Music, CCLI #6518275

*Rattle!*, © 2020 Brandon Lake Music; Maverick City Publishing Worldwide; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing; Bethel Music Publishing, CCLI #7149088



# **Celebration of Ministry (continued)**

## **Order of Procession**

**Marshals: John Bell & Alka Lyall**

**Cross: Luke Pepper**

**Bible: Brenda Morris**

**Processional Candles: Abby Holcombe & Eric Reniva**

**Chalice: Paul Lee**

**Bowl, Pitcher & Towel: Sherry Steele & Grant Showalter-Swanson**

**2025 Candidates for Commissioning and Ordination, and Sponsors**

**2025 Class of Local Pastors**

**Rhonda Smith-Sumrall, Deaconess**

**The Licensed, Commissioned, Consecrated, and Ordained Ministers of the Northern Illinois Conference**

**The Leadership Team of the Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet**

**Eugene Williams, Co-Lay Leader**

**Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago**

**Bishop Karen Oliveto, Retired**

**Bishop James Boye-Culker, Sierra Leone Annual Conference**

**Bishop Dan Schwerin, Resident Bishop**

## **Order of Recession**

**Marshals: John Bell & Alka Lyall**

**Cross: Luke Pepper**

**Bible: Brenda Morris**

**Processional Candles: Abby Holcombe & Eric Reniva**

**Chalice: Paul Lee**

**Bowl, Pitcher & Towel: Sherry Steele & Grant Showalter-Swanson**

**Bishop Dan Schwerin, Resident Bishop**

**Bishop James Boye-Culker, Sierra Leone Annual Conference**

**Bishop Karen Oliveto, Retired**

**Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago**

**Danita R. Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop**

**Eugene Williams, Co-Lay Leader**

**Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Director of Connectional Ministries**

**Christian Coon, Director of Congregational Development**

**Victor Melad, Jr., Superintendent, Lake North District**

**Audrea Nanabray, Superintendent, Lake South District**

**Wendy Hardin Herman, Superintendent, Prairie Central District**

**Hwa-Young Chong, Superintendent, Prairie North District**

**Brian Gilbert, Superintendent, Prairie South District**

**Sejoon Jang, Treasurer, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Luis F. Reyes-Rosario, Chair of Conference Relations, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Sherry Steele, Co-chair, Order of Deacons**

**Paul Lee, Chair, Order of Elders**

**Mary Gay McKinney, Elders Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Kimberly Davis, Deacons Registrar, Board Ordained Ministry**

**Norval I. Brown, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Tiffany Garcea, Secretary, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Caleb Hong, Vice Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry**

**2025 Newly Commissioned and Ordained Clergy and Sponsors**

**2025 Class of Local Pastors**

**Rhonda Smith-Sumrall, Deaconess**

## The Ministerial Education Fund

On behalf of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and each of the persons set apart for ministry today, thank you for participating in this ordination service!

Because you are interested in each of these ministers and in quality ministry for each local church, we want you to know how vital the Ministerial Education Fund is in funding the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, at both the national and conference levels.

The Ministerial Education Fund is a beautiful example of connectional ministry at its best! The fund is a portion of the “Support of the General Church” category within the Apportionment figure for each local church and is 5.8% of the entire apportionment.

The Northern Illinois Conference retains 25% of the funds given to MEF, and uses these funds for (among other things) seminary scholarships, continuing education grants, and developing continuing education events.

Of the 75% of MEF funds sent on to the General Church — approximately 84% is used to support our 13 United Methodist seminaries, and most of the remaining portion supports and enhances the Course of Study, which prepares local pastors.

Therefore, you can see that the MEF has a direct impact upon the quality of ministry at the local church level! We hope and expect that you will be a staunch supporter of the Ministerial Education Fund.

## Commissioning and Ordination Glossary

Commissioning relates persons to the annual conference and to the ministry of the provisional clergy members within the annual conference. Commissioning confirms that the person is being sent for service and the church invokes the Holy Spirit to empower commissioned ministers during their time of provisional membership. The provisional period is a time of full service in which one is licensed for the practice of ministry (¶¶ 317.1) and a period of formation in one's journey toward ordination and full membership in the annual conference (2020/24 Book of Discipline).

Ordination of deacons and elders is both to an office and for a lifetime. Ordination confers a new identity as well as authority for ministry. The new identity of the ordained is always claimed in relation to Christ and his call to leadership and service with the baptized for the life of the world. The authority is always exercised in stewardship of the mysteries of the gospel and of the church's mission in the world. Ordination has to do with who the person is as well as what the person does in ministry (2020/24 Book of Discipline).

**Deaconesses and Home Missioners** are laity called by God to a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice and service (¶ 1913). They are consecrated by a bishop, then commissioned in their local annual conference.

**Local Pastors** answer God's call to serve the mission of Jesus Christ in a local congregation under the authority of a license for pastoral ministry. They are not itinerant ministers and are not ordained or elected into full membership of the annual conference. A local pastor's authority is within their appointment setting and does not extend beyond it.

**Deacons** are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. They serve the community and congregation in a ministry that connects the two. The deacon's ministry connects the church's worship with its service in the world (¶¶ 328-331).

**Elders** are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. The elder serves in ministry and servant leadership giving pastoral leadership to order the life of the congregation (¶¶ 332-335).

**Commissioned/Provisional Members** are in the ordination step between candidacy and full membership. Those applying for ordination serve as a provisional member for a minimum of two years. Provisional membership ends with ordination. (¶¶ 324-327).

**Clergy Members in Full Connection** have been ordained as a deacon or elder and have been voted into conference membership. Their lives and work are amenable to the annual conference and they are supported by and accountable to that annual conference.



**Northern Illinois Conference**  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

303 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2020  
Chicago, IL 60601  
[www.umcnic.org](http://www.umcnic.org)