

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination

The Upper New York Annual Conference

Onondaga Community College

Syracuse, New York

Saturday, June 2, 2018

2:00 PM

Bishop Mark J. Webb

Resident Bishop



Upper New York Area Full Cabinet

The Rev. Nancy Adams	Mountain View District Superintendent
The Rev. Nola Anderson	Crossroads District Superintendent
The Rev. Everett Bassett	Oneonta District Superintendent
The Rev. Aaron Bouwens	Director of Vital Congregations
The Rev. Wayne Butler	Niagara Frontier District Superintendent
The Rev. Vonda Fossitt	Genesee Valley District Superintendent
The Rev. William Gottschalk-Fielding	Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries
Mrs. Susan G. Hardy	Conference Lay Leader
The Rev. David Kofahl	Binghamton District Superintendent
The Rev. Jeffrey McDowell	Finger Lakes District Superintendent
The Rev. David D. Masland	Director of New Faith Communities
The Rev. William Mudge	Adirondack District Superintendent
Mrs. Vicki Swanson	Benefits Officer
The Rev. Sherri Rood	Cornerstone District Superintendent
The Rev. Abel Roy	Mohawk District Superintendent
The Rev. Michael Weeden	Northern Flow District Superintendent
The Rev. Richard Weihing	Albany District Superintendent

Worship Participants

Bishop Mark J. Webb

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, North Eastern Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Preacher

Upper New York Area Full Cabinet

Mr. Fred Willard, Accompanist

Mr. Jeff Stockham, Trumpeter

“InsideOut” – Casowasco Praise Team, Nairobi O. Smith, Praise Team Director

The BOM Elder Trio – The Rev. Robert Kolvik-Campbell, The Rev. Brian Fellows, The Rev. James Stevens

Mr. Sam Smith and Ms. Maria Schermerhorn, UNY Youth Council Co-chairs

The Rev. Deanna Finch, The Rev. Sheila Price, co-chairs, Order of Deacons

Mrs. Susan G. Hardy, Conference Lay Leader

The Rev. Matthew Stengel and The Rev. Susan Russell, Co-Chairs, Upper New York Board of Ordained Ministry

Pastor Anne Cole and The Rev. Timothy Middleton, Co-Chairs of the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors

The Rev. Robert Kolvik-Campbell and The Rev. Heather Williams, Co-Chairs Order of Elders

The Rev. Anne Canfield, The Rev. Glen Hardman, The Rev. Robert Kolvik-Campbell,
Ordination Service Coordinators

To Be Commissioned for the Work of a Deacon

Jessica Faye Glaser

To Be Commissioned for the Work of an Elder

Cheryl Ann Brown

Raymond C. Gilman IV

Linda Kay Haight

Melissa Marie Killenberger McCarthy

Hector D. Rivera

Lisa Dawn Taylor

To be Received as an Associate Member

James Edward Barnes II

To Be Ordained to the Order of Elder

Stephanie Jo Brown

Kevin Duane Slough

Paul D. Winkelman

**The Service for Commissioning and Ordination
Onondaga Community College, Syracuse New York
Saturday, June 2, 2018 2 P.M.**

* Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit

*To honor the difference and diversity in each experience and expression of God,
we seek to embody an expansive understanding of God in our language and music.
May you find yourself in the presence of God in this place today.*

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

"He is Exalted"
Twila Paris

PROCESSION OF CLERGY

* *Praise to The Lord, the Almighty*

UMH # 139

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

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

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,

**Fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need
God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.**

* *Many Gifts, One Spirit*

UMH #114

**REFRAIN: Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways. In our
difference is blessing, from diversity we praise one Giver, one Lord, one
Spirit, one Word known in many ways, hallowing our days. For the
Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

God of change and glory, God of time and space, when we fear the future, give to us your grace. In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise. (REFRAIN)

God of many colors, God of many signs, you have made us different, blessing many kinds. As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear. (REFRAIN)

* *God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH #577

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, (of this hour) for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, (of these days) for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory ever more. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, (we adore) serving thee whom we adore.

* *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

UMH #064

Holy, holy. Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

* GREETING AND PRAYER

Bishop Mark J. Webb

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: 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.

People: **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 COMMON MINISTRY
AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

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.

Come now, God, and send your Spirit among us,
Trouble for us this water of memory and imagination.
Send your Spirit among us
To enliven our praise,
To strengthen our hands,
To guide us in work and place, in service and love,
To assure us once more and again of your love.

Sisters and brothers,
Know once again that through your baptism
You are claimed and called by God forever.

In celebration of our common ministry, I call upon all God's people gathered here:

Bishop pours water from the pitcher to the basin.

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

**People: We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.
Thanks be to God!**

*The congregation may be seated.
Bishop remains in front facing the people.*

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED, ORDAINED OR RECOGNIZED

Each candidate stands when his or her name is read and remains standing.

Bishop:

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

Susan G. Hardy (Conference Lay Leader):

On behalf of all the laity, we have recommended them in our local congregations. We present them with our prayers and support.

The Rev. Matthew Stengel and The Rev. Sue Russell (Co-Chairs Board of Ordained Ministry):

On behalf of the Upper New York Conference 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.

The Rev. Dee Finch and The Rev. Sheila Price (Co-Chairs Order of Deacons):

On behalf of all deacons of the Upper New York Conference, we present these persons who have been elected provisional members to be commissioned for the work of a deacon. We present with our prayers and support:

Jessica Faye Glaser

The Rev. Robert Kolvik-Campbell (Co-Chair Order of Elders):

On behalf of all elders of the Upper New York Conference, we present with our prayers and support these persons who have been elected provisional members to be commissioned for the work of an elder.

Cheryl Ann Brown

Raymond C. Gilman IV

Linda Kay Haight

Melissa Marie Killenberger McCarthy
Hector D. Rivera
Lisa Dawn Taylor

The Rev. Heather Williams (Co-Chair Order of Elders):

On behalf of all elders of the Upper New York Conference, we present with our prayers and support these persons to be ordained for the work of an elder who have been elected full members.

Stephanie Jo Brown
Kevin Duane Slough
Paul D. Winkelman

Pastor Anne Cole and The Rev. Timothy Middleton (Co-Chairs of the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors):

We also present James Edward Barnes II to be received as an Associate Member.

Bishop: These persons are by God's grace to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized 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, 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 their call. Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be commissioned, ordained or received?

People: We do! Thanks be to God!

Bishop: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

People: With God's help, we will!

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

All remain seated except the candidates and the bishop, who stand facing one another. The bishop examines the candidates for commissioning and ordination:

Bishop: My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to an ordained, commissioned or recognized status in set apart ministry. The church now confirms your calling. As commissioned or ordained 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?

Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do so believe and confess.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I am so persuaded, by God's grace.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: Will you give yourself fully to the work of God in the world and to servant leadership in the life and work of Christ's church?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: 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, commissioned, received or recognized? 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: 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.

All: Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Isaiah 41: 1-3a

Mrs. Susan G Hardy
Conference Lay Leader

* Psalm 36: 5-10

UMH 771

Mr. Sam Smith, CCYM

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; Your judgments are like the great deep; O Lord, humans and animals you save!

O God, how precious is your steadfast love!

They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you the fountain of life; In your light do we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart.

Titus 1:5

The Rev. Sheila Price

PRAISING THE LORD IN SONG

“InsideOut”

“Joyful, Joyful” Words and Music by Mark Hall and Bernie Herms

SERMON

“Living in Crete” Bishop Dennis V. Proctor
North Eastern Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

THE OFFERING

The Prayer of Dedication

New Faith Community Fund
The Rev. William Gottschalk-Fielding
Executive Assistant to the Bishop and
Director of Connectional Ministries

Offertory

“Inside Out”

“Only Hope” Words and Music by Randall Goodgame

RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Persons to be recognized as associate members may now stand and present themselves before the bishop and the congregation.

Bishop: You have served among us faithfully as (a) local pastor(s), demonstrating your commitment to accept and uphold the doctrine, liturgy and discipline of The United Methodist Church, under the appointment of the bishop.

You have now fulfilled the requirements and been elected by the clergy session of this annual conference as associate members.

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

James Edward Barnes II we now recognize you as an associate member in the name of the annual conference.

The newly recognized associate members are given a certificate of associate membership and return to their seats.

****Spirit of The Living God***

UMH #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMISSIONING

*The candidates for commissioning as an elder and a deacon
come forward and face the bishop.*

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."

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 ordained colleagues 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.

THE PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

*The candidates kneel. The bishop, facing the congregation and
extending arms over all of the candidates, prays:*

Bishop: 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.

All: Amen.

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

Kindly refrain from applauding until all have been commissioned.

The Bishop, laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate, prays:

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 of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

When all have been commissioned, the Bishop will invite the class to be greeted.

Special Music: "Sois la Semilla - You Are The Seed" UMH#583
The "Elder Trio"
Rev. Robert Kolvik-Campbell & Rev. Brian Fellows, Rev. James Stevens

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

Elders to be ordained stand at their seats.

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

The Asbury Bible is lifted

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

Chalice and paten are lifted

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?

Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God, and the help of my sisters and brothers in the order of elders.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

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

We praise you, eternal God, because you have called us to be a priestly people, offering to you acceptable worship through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Apostle and High Priest, Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. We thank you that, by dying, Christ has overcome death, and having ascended into heaven, has poured forth gifts abundantly on your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and 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.**

Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for each ordinand. Kindly refrain from applauding until all have been ordained.

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

Almighty God, pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy Church. **Amen.**

The candidate places hands on the Asbury Bible as the bishop says:

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.**

When all have been ordained, the Bishop will invite the class to be greeted.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop: Let us pray together:

All: 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.

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship you, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what you hear,
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

THE CALL

The Bishop offers a call to ministry and invites persons to come forward. Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry will be present to greet those who come forward. While persons respond to the call, the congregation sings.

*** Here I Am, Lord**

UMH#593

**Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? (REFRAIN)**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne by people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a-lone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (REFRAIN)**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will
set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (REFRAIN)**

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

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

Deacon Dee Finch: 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!

*** Lord You Give the Great Commission**

UMH#584

REFRAIN: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

**Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word." Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness To your purpose with renewed integrity.
(REFRAIN)**

**Lord, you call us to your service; "In my name baptize and teach." That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.
(REFRAIN)**

**Lord, you make the common ho-ly: "This my body, this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heav-en-ward, asking that the World a – round us share your children's liberty.
(REFRAIN)**

**Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive." Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give. May your care and mercy lead us to a just so society.
(REFRAIN)**

**Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and,
amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.
(REFRAIN)**

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe and Water Musik
Handel

To Be Commissioned for the Work of a Deacon



Jessica Faye Glaser

Residence: Tonawanda, N.Y.

Family: Spouse: Matthew Wolcott

MDiv: 2016, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Statement: I first felt the call to ministry close to 10 years ago. I had been learning more about theology and The Church after graduating from college and realized that God had something that God wanted me to do: pursue ordained ministry in social justice work. I had good examples for this kind of work in my pastoral leadership team in my UMC church in Denver, Colo., so I spoke with them, and they encouraged me as I considered my initial call. I chose to relocate to Buffalo, N.Y., during this time and attend Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School while working in primary care quality improvement, with my passion particularly surrounding the practices who serve vulnerable populations. My work in this area has been very rewarding, and we have had significant improvements in important care markers and outcomes for our patients. Now I am beginning a new chapter in my call, and I am very excited to see what God has in store as I continue my health care advocacy work and begin new efforts as the Conference's Abundant Health Ambassador while exploring my passion for theological writing. At the same time, my family and I will be discovering what it is to welcome the newest member of our family, as I am expecting our first child in early September. God has amazing and exciting new challenges in store for me and for all of us in the coming year, and I am happy to meet them.

To Be Commissioned for the Work of an Elder



Cheryl Ann Brown

Residence: Lockport, N.Y.

Family: Husband: James E. Brown; Son: Matthew James Althoff;

Grandchildren: Brandon, Noah and one on the way

Current Appointment: Asbury (Amherst) UMC

MDiv: 2014, United Theological Seminary

Statement: Growing up, I always wanted to be a lawyer, so when I begin to hear a call to ministry after 20 years in the legal field, it was not something I expected or, to be honest, wanted. I was pretty sure God was making a poor choice. However, I finally accepted that God was serious, after the decline, and eventually, death of my granddaughter, Maya, from Tay Sachs. It was my faith in God, the love and support of my husband, and the care of the Middleport UMC church family that helped me cope with Maya's loss and become a more committed disciple of Christ. I started feeling called to ministry. This was definitely not what I

was expecting. Not being able to sleep one night, I finally told God I accepted this call into ministry, knowing I needed to obey God even with all my doubts. I have found that my experiences in life are used by God in my ministry, from my legal background to being an adoptive parent to raising a difficult child to watching a beloved child die. We pastors are not perfect, and it is in our brokenness that we connect with others and share the good news of salvation, redemption and healing. What an amazing journey of grace and faith it has been!



Raymond C. Gilman IV

Residence: Lakewood, N.Y.

Family: Wife: Andrea Gilman; Son: Dylan Gilman; Daughters: Katherine Gilman, Victoria Gilman, Alexandra Gilman

Current Appointment: Ashville and Lakewood United Methodist churches

MDiv: 2017, United Theological Seminary

Statement: The nature of my calling and the leadership role for which I am preparing is not one that is to be taken lightly nor viewed as a result of my own work or personal gifting. It is a sacred calling to which I must devote myself completely in mind, body, and spirit in order that I may be as effective as possible in the tasks that I am called to. It is to recognize that, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30, NRSV). My relevance, my spectacle, and my power must cease to exist in the presence of God. I must simply be as genuine as I am and myself, with no honor or glory beyond that which I reflect from the Son. I seek only to do the will of the Lord and feel the need to re-emphasize the sacramental in life. Not just at the table and the baptismal font, but in the life we live and the love we share. Perhaps in this, we can pass over our conflict and recognize our oneness within Christ.



Linda Kay Haight

Residence: Albion, N.Y.

Family: Spouse: Michael Haight; Children: Michael Haight, Jr. and Ryan Haight

MDiv: 2017, United Theological Seminary

Statement: God has been a faithful presence since I was a young girl but it took me some time and maturity before I recognized a called toward ordination for my life. I am amazed at the way God works to gain our attention, and I could spend many words describing the mighty acts God displayed around and within my life to bring me to this point. I was asked to be brief, therefore I will only state, "God is amazing." As I move toward ordination as a commissioned elder in The United Methodist Church, I continue to see God's hand moving within my life and in the lives of those around me. This step is my way of allowing God to direct my path and use my gifts to serve as God directs. I have been

blessed with a desire placed upon my heart to step out in faith and allow Christ to increase in my life and in my vocation. I answer as Moses, Isaiah, and Saul once answered, “Here, I am.” I see commissioning and ultimately seeking full elder orders within the United Methodist Church as my way of heading the direction of Christ to “go and tell” as Mary Magdalene was once told to do.



Melissa Marie Killenberger McCarthy

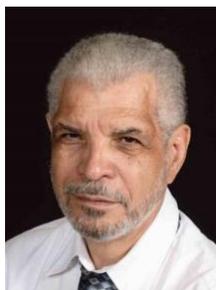
Residence: Adams, N.Y.

Family: Spouse: John McCarthy; Children: Abigail and Caleb McCarthy

Current Appointment: Adams and Sulphur Springs United Methodist churches

MDiv: 2016, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Statement: I am so excited to be commissioned this year to the order of Elders of The United Methodist Church. I am also humbled to be affirmed in my call to share the love of God with others. As Paul tells us in Romans 8:38-39, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. I get to share that amazing truth every day. It is why I exist – to help people understand that truly nothing can separate us from God that is not of our own making. Not only does God love us, but that love also actually transforms us, making us into better people and more like Jesus with each and every “yes” we say to God. I am so excited to say yes to this call in my life as I work towards full ordination to the order of Elders.



Hector D. Rivera

Residence: North Chili, N.Y.

Family: Wife: Maria S. Rivera; Hector R. Rivera; Rosa E. Rivera; Sumarie Lopez; Alexis Lopez; Sasha V. Negron

Current Appointment: Rochester: Aldersgate and LeRoy United Methodist churches

MBA: 2007, Franklin University

Statement: As I continue this journey and look beyond, it is clear to me that God always places people where He needs them. I have no doubt that the ordained ministry is where God has called me. I have served six years as a part-time local pastor in The United Methodist Church and as an ordained elder in another denomination for nine years in the past. Up to this time, God continues to open doors and bless me as I continue the process toward the recognition as an “Elder from another denomination” in The United Methodist Church. I truly understand the seriousness and importance of God’s calling to me. For that reason, I am always willing to

continue to serve God. Therefore, my visions are to continue to develop leaders in the congregation that I am serving, and to look for ways to invite people from others culture to be part of our Christian family. I feel that this presents the opportunity and challenge for me to achieve my potential.



Lisa Dawn Taylor

Residence: Buffalo, N.Y.

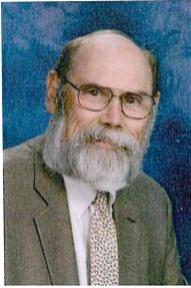
Family: Husband: Romney; Children: Bonnie, Molly, Carly, and Aaron

Current Appointment: Pendleton United Methodist Church and Joshua Connection

MDiv: 2019, United Theological Seminary

Statement: Specific instances throughout my life have consistently pointed me to help others recognize and live into their gifts and talents, and encourage and help them, whenever possible, to develop who they are, who they are meant to be. The practice of ministry and continuing seminary study has confirmed my call to make disciples of Jesus Christ and equip the saints for ministry through the institution of the church and in the wider world. The senior pastor, staff, and parishioners at the church where I am appointed and fulfilled my field education requirement, along with my mentor, have repeatedly affirmed my God-given abilities to teach and nurture others in their personal devotional lives, and church worship settings, as well as their ministries. Ministering through preaching, teaching Bible studies, and administering the sacraments as I work to help parishioners discover and develop their unique gifts and graces is an essential part of who I am as I relate to them. Encouraging them in their practice of the various means of grace gives me great satisfaction. It has been a lifelong road toward this place of commissioning as a Provisional Elder. I am grateful the time has come to move on to this next step. Knowing that God is leading me, and that I can trust God to provide all I need to accomplish this purpose for my life is a constant source of assurance that my pursuit of ordination as an elder is the right path. There is nothing more important to me than helping people come to faith in Jesus Christ, discover their own calls to Christian service, and nurture their growing faith as I am there for them as their pastor in times of blessing and times of trouble. Godly leadership embodies the truth of Scripture and God’s unfailing love. As I allow my authentic self to lead God’s people, I pray my leadership motivates them to “Follow me, as I follow Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1 MEV).

To be Received as an Associate Member



James Edward Barnes II

Residence: Clarence Center, N.Y.

Family: Wife: Marge; Children: Justin, Melanie and Adam

Current Appointment: Clarence Center United Methodist Church

MDiv: 2005, Wesley Theological Seminary

Statement: Growing up, I debated between law school and seminary. Not identifying a call, I chose law school. The choice gave me time to develop a deeper faith, stronger skills, life experience, and the ability to recognize the call when it finally came in the form of a lay speaking class and the surprise announcement from a Baptist pastor that she was praying for me to enter the ministry. With a wife and three children, seminary was not an option, so I sought to be licensed as a local pastor and received my theological education through the course of study. Although not required by The UMC to itinerate, I made a commitment to Christ to do so. After seven years near the Mohawk River, I was moved north to the St. Lawrence and then 13 years later to the Niagara Frontier. This year, my 23rd in formal ministry, I finally sought and obtained the Board of Ordained Ministry's recommendation for associate membership. I believe that the new status, with its expanded sacramental authority, will make me more valuable to the Conference in retirement.

To Be Ordained to the Order of Elder



Stephanie Jo Brown

Residence: Cortland, N.Y.

Current Appointment: Virgil and Harmony United Methodist churches

MDiv: 2012, Drew Theological Seminary

Statement: To be ordained is a dream that I have had for many years, but one that I have often wondered: "Would it ever come to be?" Would I truly give up the lifestyle I had grown accustomed to, with all its many perks, after so many years? The answer is a resounding, "Yes!" All that I had in my prior life could never hold a candle to what I am experiencing now. When I am able to wear the yoke of the servant represented by the stole, I will know that everything I have done thus far was truly "worth it." To me, being ordained means that I have responded to the gospel call to serve, full time, with no other secular responsibilities pulling me in another direction. Ordination means that I lead my flock, sometimes without a clear destination in mind, but always with the cross of Jesus Christ in sight. I model what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a world that so

desperately needs people to place their own selves into the hands of God. As I go before the Bishop and the Conference, I do so knowing it is all about God's grace, and that I am being accepted with my warts, sins, failures, and limitations to model that we all must "love in spite of ..." I know that I will never be able to live a sin-free life, but I know with all my heart and soul that I will try every day to search, with others, for that home far away that we all hear about and talk about but have never seen. I come to ordination with a sense of hope, not only to make this life better, but also to serve in a way that is pleasing to God.



Kevin Duane Slough

Residence: Rochester, N.Y.

Family: Wife: Debbie Slough; Children: Megan, Kaitlyn and Kyle Slough;

Stepson: Ian Brunskill

Current Appointment: Elmgrove United Methodist Church

MDiv: 2014, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Statement: I am Pastor Kevin Slough, and it is with much joy that I will join you in the unique and special covenant made in the Order of Elder through The United Methodist Church. I feel blessed and honored to have already served 13 years as a pastor in our denomination and look forward to many years to come. My personal mission statement is: "To reach people for Christ, for the salvation of the world." It was 16 years ago that I was "hit over the head" born again. The Lord Jesus felt so close to me that I could not even drive down a road without seeing telephone poles or mailboxes as an image of the cross. I was so grateful for the new life God gave me that I prayed one Saturday morning, "Lord, you have done so much for me and have been so present in my life. I feel blessed that you have done all this for me that I want to do something in return for you. Whatever it is, I just pray you will literally hit me over the head with it, as you know I am slow in that sort of understanding." The very next day, I arrived at church. The usher handed me a bulletin. My bulletin, from within, appeared to be glowing the most beautiful florescent green I have ever seen. I could not wait to get to my seat, so I could open it up and figure out how the bulletin was illuminating this shade of green. I thought the bulletin had to have some sort of battery in it, yet it was so light in weight. I sat down, opened my bulletin up, and the insert was an advertisement for the United Methodist Student Special Offering. Aside from this insert still appearing to glow, all I could see were the words, "Answering the Call." I stand before you this day, grateful, humbled, and blessed to do just that, "Answering the Call." Praise be to God!



Paul D. Winkelman

Residence: Freeville, N.Y.

Family: Spouse: Melissa E. Watkins

Current Appointment: Freeville and Cortland: Homer Avenue United Methodist churches

MDiv: 2014, United Theological Seminary

Statement: Having grown up in various Christian denominations, and while spending many years in The United Methodist Church, I saw from my earliest years the love of God through Jesus Christ. This love shined through so many of God's people that loved me, mentored me, and nurtured my gifts and graces. Having known Christ as my Lord and Savior since I was young, my call to ministry gradually emerged in my mid-to-late twenties as I took on more leadership roles within the church. After being a Lay Leader, giving sermons, and attending seminary, my call to preach the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ, serve others, and equip people to transform the world in Christ's name continued to grow. I am humbled, honored, and overjoyed to be moving into this next phase of service to Christ, the church, and the world. Ordination in The United Methodist Church for me is not an "award" or just a "title," rather it is the affirmation of what God is doing in and through me, as well as the others I serve. I am excited to continue to grow into the role of an ordained Elder in our church. In doing so, that I might serve with humility, love with boldness, and care deeply, all while preaching, living, and growing vital and relevant community, through the great hope of Jesus Christ and his gospel.

- *Praise to The Lord, the Almighty, The United Methodist Hymnal #139; Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1,3,5 trans. By Catherine Winkworth, 1863 st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (ps. 103:1-6; 150); Music: Erneuertem Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. By William Sterndale Bennett, 1864*
- *Many Gifts, One Spirit, The United Methodist Hymnal #114; Words: Al Carmines, 1973; Music: Al Carmines, 1973*
- *God of Grace and God of Glory, The United Methodist Hymnal #577; Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; Music: John Hughes, 1907*
- *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, The United Methodist Hymnal #64; Words: Reginald Heber, 1826 (Rev. 4:8-11); Music: John B Dykes, 1861*
- *I Love You Lord, The Faith We Sing #2068, Words: Laurie Klein (Ps. 35:9); Music: Laurie Klein*
- *Psalm 36 The United Methodist Publishing House, The United Methodist Hymnal #771*
- *Joyful, Joyful, words and music by Mark Hall and Bernie Herms*
- *Only Hope, words and music by Randall Goodgame, additional P.D. lyrics by Charles Wesley*
- *Spirit of the Living God, The United Methodist Hymnal #393, Words and Music by Daniel Iverson, 1926.*
- *Here I Am, Lord, The United Methodist Hymnal #593; Words: Dan Schutte, 1981; Music: Dan Schutte, 1981*
- *Lord You Give the Great Commission, The United Methodist Hymnal UMH #584 Words: Jeffery Rowthorn, 1978, (Lk. 9:2; Mt. 28:19-20; Lk. 22:34); Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941*

Music used with permission, CCLI #11004960

The Bible used in today's worship service was presented by Bishop Francis Asbury to the Genesee Conference at its founding session in 1810. All those who have been ordained in the Genesee, East Genesee, Central New York, North Central New York, and Upper New York Conferences have placed their hands upon the *Asbury Bible*.

The kneelers used during the *Service of Commissioning and Ordination* were gifted to the Annual Conference by the Buckton United Methodist Church and refurbished by the Rev. Chad Sayers and his wife, Jessica Sayers.

The fused-glass Crucifer, made by the Rev. Meredith Vanderminden, was first presented at the 2013 session of Annual Conference.

Guidelines for Vesting for Worship in the Upper New York Annual Conference

By virtue of our baptism, each of us is called by God to a particular form of ministry. Over the centuries, the Church has developed traditions of dress for worship that hold up and celebrate the many forms of Christian ministry. Vestments signify our calling and order, not our rank or status. In that spirit of honoring and celebrating various forms of ministry, The Upper New York Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry offers a guideline for the wearing of vestments. Based on information from the General Boards and the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, let these recommendations be our guidelines for vesting:

Laity: Because the ministry of the laity is in the society in which we live, they vest for worship in the contemporary dress of society.

Certified Lay Ministers & Local Hires: Those who have been hired to serve in the local church, but have no license are lay persons and should dress for worship as a lay person.

Lay persons consecrated to a specific ministry may wear the symbols of their consecrated office such as Deaconess scarves, chaplain pins, symbols of diaconal ministry, etc.

Provisional Members, Associate Members and Licensed Local Pastors may choose to vest in an alb or a preaching robe to designate their calling to lead in the ministry of a local congregation.

The Stole is uniquely a symbol of ordination and should be worn only by those ordained individuals as follows:

Deacon: Ordained deacons vest in the alb or robe with a stole placed diagonally across the body lying on the left shoulder and joined under the right arm to indicate their ordination to the ministry of Service and Word.

Elder: Ordained Elders vest in an alb or robe with a stole yoked behind the neck to indicate their ordination to Word, Service, Sacrament, and Order.

Bishop: Bishops are elders who have been consecrated to a special ministry of supervision. The Crosier, (shepherd's staff), is added to the vestments of the elder and indicates this ministry of supervision.

Revised 2/29/12