

**The Service of Commissioning and Ordination**

The Upper New York Annual Conference

*Cicero United Methodist Church*

Cicero, New York

Saturday, June 19, 2021

3:00 PM

**Bishop Mark J. Webb**

Resident Bishop



## Upper New York Area Full Cabinet

The Rev. Nancy Adams	Binghamton/ Oneonta District Superintendent
The Rev. Nola Anderson	Crossroads/Finger Lakes District Superintendent
The Rev. Aaron Bouwens	Director of Vital Congregations
The Rev. Carlos Rosa-Laguer	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
Mr. Drew Griffin	Conference Lay Leader
The Rev. Jeffrey McDowell	Mountain View District Superintendent
The Rev. Debbie Earthrowl	Adirondack/Albany District Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Latessa	Director of HR/Benefits
The Rev. Suzanne Block	Cornerstone District Superintendent
The Rev. Abel Roy	Mohawk District Superintendent
The Rev. Michael Weeden	Northern Flow District Superintendent

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## Worship Participants

Bishop Mark J. Webb  
Upper New York Area Full Cabinet  
Rev. Bruce Webster, Accompanist  
Pastor Christiane Depestre, Pastor Brandin Greco, and  
Miss. Priscilla Roy, Soloists  
Mr. Drew Griffin, Conference Lay Leader  
The Rev. Brian Fellows and The Rev. Carmen Perry, Co-Chairs, Upper New  
York Board of Ordained Ministry  
The Rev. Steve Smith and The Rev. Heather Williams, Co-Chairs Order of  
Elders  
The Rev. Carrie Wolfe, The Rev. Rebecca Naber, co-chairs, Order of Deacons

Special thanks to all who have helped with this service in any way.

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**To Be Commissioned for the Work of an Elder**

Olga E. Gonzalez Santiago  
Sherry Lynn Mahar  
Jennifer K. Piatt

**To Be Commissioned for the Work of a Deacon**

Deborah M. Coatsworth

**To be Ordained to the Order of Deacon**

Brian P. Lothridge  
Jessica Faye Glaser

**To Be Ordained to the Order of Elder**

Cheryl Ann Brown  
Jongdeok Park  
Cindy L. Schulte  
Rachel Erin Stuart

**The Service for Commissioning and Ordination**  
**Cicero UMC, Cicero New York**  
**Saturday, June 19, 2021 3 PM**

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\* 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

Rev. Bruce Webster

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Arr. By Joel Raney

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Arr. By Joel Raney

"He Leadeth Me"

Arr. By Joel Raney

"All Hail the Power"

Arr. By Joel Raney

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Arr. by Joel Raney

VOCAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Christiane Depestre

"Laudate Dominum"

By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

English Translation: Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord, all nations;

Praise Him, all people.

For He has bestowed

His mercy upon us,

And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever,

and for generations of generations.

Amen.

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?

Drew Griffin (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. Brian Fellows (Co-Chair 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. 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 who have been elected provisional members to be commissioned for the work of an elder.

Olga E. Gonzalez Santiago

Sherry Lynn Mahar

Jennifer K. Piatt

The Rev. Carrie Wolfe (Co-Chair Order of Deacons):

On behalf of all deacons 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 a deacon:

Deborah M. Coatsworth

The Rev. Carrie Wolfe (Co-Chair Order of Deacons):

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

Brian P. Lothridge

Jessica Faye Glaser

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.

Cheryl Ann Brown

Jongdeok Park  
Cindy L. Schulte  
Rachel Erin Stuart

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!**

## **HISTORIC QUESTIONS**

*Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection and Ordination as Deacon*

Bishop W: (1) Have you faith in Christ?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (2) Are you going on to perfection?

Candidates respond: YES! God being my helper

Bishop W: (3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?

Candidates respond: YES! God being my helper

Bishop W: (4) Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?

Candidates respond: YES

Drew G.: (5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W : (6) Do you know the General Rules of our Church?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (7) Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (8) Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (10) Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (11) Do you approve our Church government and polity?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (12) Will you support and maintain them?

Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (13) Will you exercise the ministry of compassion?

Candidates respond: YES

Drew G.: (14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?

Candidates respond: YES

Drew G.: (15) Will you visit from house to house?  
Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (16) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?  
Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (17) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?  
Candidates respond: YES

Bishop W: (18) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?  
Candidates respond: No.

Bishop W: (19) Will you observe the following directions?  
(a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.  
(b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.  
Candidates respond: YES

SPECIAL MUSIC

Pastor Brandin Greco  
"The Potter's Hands"  
by Darlene Zschech

## 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

Old Testament Scripture

2 Chronicles 16: 7-9

Mr. Drew Griffin  
Conference Lay Leader

Gospel Scripture	Matthew 22: 34-40; Philippians 3:7-21	Bishop Mark J. Webb
SERMON	“God Chasers”	Bishop Mark J. Webb
SPECIAL MUSIC	“Worship Medley”-	Pastor Brandin Greco “Reckless Love” “O Come To The Altar” “Great Are You Lord”

## 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.*

## **EXAMINATION OF DEACONS**

*Deacon candidates stand and face the Bishop.*

*The Bishop examines the deacon candidates:*

A deacon is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood, to relate the life of the community to its service in the world, to lead others into Christian discipleship, to nurture disciples for witness and service,

*The Asbury Bible is lifted*

to lead in worship, to teach and proclaim God's Word, to assist elders and appointed local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion,

*A towel and basin with pitcher is lifted*

to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes, to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed, and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice, liberation and reconciliation, especially in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice. This is the rule of life and work of a deacon.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a deacon?

*Candidates: I do so believe.*

## **LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR DEACONS**

*The Bishop calls the people to prayer.*

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

*The Bishop, with hands extended over those being ordained, prays:*

We thank you, Living God, that in your great love you sent Jesus Christ to take the form of a servant, becoming obedient even to death on the cross,

and now resurrected and exalted in the heavens. You have taught us, by his word and example, that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.

Give these servants grace to be faithful to their promises, constant in their discipleship, and always ready for works of loving service. Make them modest and humble, gentle and strong, rooted and grounded in love. Give them a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

*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 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 a deacon in Christ's holy Church.

**ALL: Amen.**

*The candidate places hands on a Bible  
as the Bishop lays hands on the hands of the candidate and says:*

*Name*, take authority as a deacon  
to proclaim the Word of God  
and to lead God's people  
in ministries of compassion and justice;  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Miss Priscilla Roy  
"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd"  
Arr. by G. F. Handel

## 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.**

## THE CALL

Bishop Mark Webb

*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.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Pastor Christiane Depestre  
"Here I Am, Lord"

## \*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 Rev. Carrie Wolfe: 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!**

## POSTLUDE

Rev. Bruce Webster  
"All Creatures of Our God and King"  
Arr. By Mark Hayes

## To Be Commissioned for the Work of an Elder



**Olga E. Gonzalez Santiago**

*Residence:* Lyndonville, NY

*Family:* Andre's A. Gonzalez (husband)

*Current Appointment:* Lyndonville UMC

*MDiv:* Northeastern Seminary, 2021

*Statement:* My call to ministry goes back to 1998. It was on a mission's conference where I felt very intensely in my heart that God was calling me for ministry. I began my call as a missionary 2012 with The Global Ministries of the UMC. In 2013, as part of my mission service at Brown Memorial UMC in Syracuse, New York, my former supervisor, the Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell, my husband, and I began a new Hispanic ministry in the West Side of Syracuse. When we had our first meeting on December 6, 2013, my heart was filled with so much joy and passion that my thought was "this is what I want to do for the rest of my life, to preach the Good News, and serve the Lord and His people."

Commissioning is one more step on my calling; one more victory that I have reached by the grace of God. It has been a hard and exciting journey, but I would not be able to accomplish it without my loving husband Alexis Gonzalez, my Lyndonville UMC family, my mentor (the Rev. Sherri Shaus), the Professors and staff of Northeastern Seminary and some other sisters and brothers who have been praying, encouraging, and walking with me through this journey. I praise my God and Father; I glorify my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I adore the Holy Spirit for his grace, love, and the great privilege of calling me to serve Him.



**Sherry Lynn Mahar**

*Residence:* Lockport, NY

*Family:* Donald “DJ” (husband), Olivia (daughter), Joshua (son)

*Current Appointment:* Pendelton Center UMC, Niagara Falls First UMC

*MDiv:* United Theological Seminary, 2019

*Statement:* After reconnecting with my faith after several years of disconnection, I remember realizing that my greatest desire was to serve God. The recognition surprised me, as it hadn’t been my plan! But I had an incredible longing and love for God that was filling my life. I began to grow in devotion and discipleship, and eventually began to work full-time in lay ministry. Awareness grew, and continues to grow, of how God was moving in my life. God had been preparing me for ordained ministry over my lifetime of experiences.

Many years ago, I felt the call to become a pastor, and I squelched it. The reasons, the excuses, were numerous. I wrestled with God about it for a few years, until finally the call was so overwhelming that I stepped out in faith and began the journey to become clergy. I entered seminary at 50 years old, terrified, and yet I loved it. Commissioning is the continuation of stepping out in faith, going where God is leading, and boldly living into the call placed upon my life many years ago. I am thankful and trusting in God to use this time of provisional membership to prepare me for leadership in full connection as an elder in the United Methodist Church.



**Jennifer K. Piatt**

*Residence:* Binghamton, NY

*Family:* Rev. Dr. David C. Piatt (husband), Children: David

Luke, Rachel (Josh) Dettman, Erin Luke, Dan Rhinevault,

Grandchildren: Braedon Luke, Aubrianna Luke, Sloane Dettman

*Current Appointment:* Nimmonsburg UMC

*MDiv:* Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, on track for 2022

*Statement:*

I believe that God is calling me to use my personal experiences to help others in their walk with Jesus. I have been aware of God’s call on my life since the

age of 10. God knew an early start was best, as it took quite a few years to really get me to hear and answer. Each door that God has opened from lay speaking to commissioning has been the confirmation I needed to continue walking in this calling. No matter where I end up; no matter what God's ultimate plan for me and my ministry is, I have no doubt that I will honor God and answer the call one step at a time. Commissioning is the next step in this life-long journey and I am honored, humbled, and very excited to follow the call.

### **To Be Commissioned for the Work of a Deacon**



**Deborah M. Coatsworth**

*Residence:* Elma, NY

*Family:* Jim Coatsworth (husband), Robert Coatsworth (son), Samuel Coatsworth (Son)

#### *Statement:*

I am the Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries at the Elma United Methodist Church. I am married to my wonderful husband of 30 years and we are blessed with two sons, Robert and Samuel. I received a call to be a deacon on July 11, 2013 at 7:44 a.m. The call to deacon began a journey that gave me clarity and direction during a time of uncertainty in my life. This journey has been overwhelming at times, but has also been humbling and given me a sense of great responsibility.

Each day presents new opportunities to share my love of God and God's love with others. This process has allowed me to grow in ways I could never ever have imagined. God is fine tuning me every day and I am excited to be able to share my gifts and graces with others.

The very last question asked of me during my BOM interview was, *where do you see yourself on the bridge between the Church and the world?* My answer without hesitation was, I am standing in the middle of the bridge. My

journey is about compassion and love toward others, to laugh and to find humor, to be creative, to live faithfully, to look for and protect the underdog, and to make a difference every day for someone. I love animals, nature, the guttural laughter of a child, sports, and those aha moments that occur. I love how the Holy Spirit is present in my life. I am unique because God made me unique.

Joy and heartache, despair and challenges, love and grace, forgiveness and mercy are all factors in my growth and maturity as a Christian. My experiences in life have paved a place in history. My life is unfinished, and I look forward to continually evolving and transforming into something new. Life is a journey and, in this journey, how I reach my destination is based on changes and decisions God places before me. My call is devoted to a life of God's service, compassion, and justice.

### **To Be Ordained for the Work of a Deacon**



**Brian P. Lothridge**

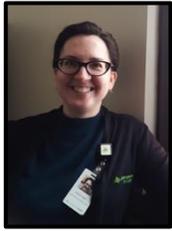
*Residence:* Rome, NY

*Family:* Sherri Lothridge (wife), Elliot Lothridge (son)

*Current Appointment:* Delta UMC, Rome First UMC

*MDiv:* Union Theological Seminary, 2016

*Statement:* I feel called to the ministries of compassion and justice. While I have always been drawn to these, I believe my provisional experience has helped sharpen this call for me. This is why I decided to pursue ordination as a deacon as opposed to my initial desire to be an elder. My experience in ministry has led me to be sure that I am a deacon. While I have grown in my faith and capabilities of leadership as a provisional elder, I have found that I enjoy leading the church in service. This is what lights me up. I have found myself prioritizing my church activity to service-related things. When I organize around Worship Without Walls, Laundry Love, work with the NAACP, talk or write to politicians from a faith perspective, etc., I feel like I am living into who God has called me to be.



**Jessica Faye Glaser**

*Residence:* Tonawanda, NY

*Family:* Mathew Wolcott (husband), Susannah Wolcott (daughter)

*Current Appointment:* Asbury Amherst UMC, Evergreen Health Services

*MDiv:* Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, 2016

*Statement:* This is the culmination of a 10-year journey which I embarked on with some fear and trembling, but also trusting in the wisdom and mystery of God. I have emerged from it changed in ways I couldn't have anticipated, in absolute awe of the work of the Holy Spirit in human hearts and minds and in the wonders of creation. Gardens can grow in places considered barren and health can return to even the sickest person, so long as you nurture compassion and seek justice. I am deeply thankful and grateful for the guidance, support, prayers, and mentorship of my many friends, colleagues, teachers, and fellow Methodists on this journey. I thank God every day for the love of my husband Mathew and my daughter Susannah. Now I embark on the next stage of my pilgrimage. Let's see where the journey takes me...

**To Be Ordained to the Order of Elder**



**Cheryl Ann Brown**

*Residence:* Amherst, NY

*Family:* James Brown (husband, deceased), Matthew (son) and Brandon, Noah and Remington (grandsons)

*Current Appointment:* Asbury Amherst UMC

*MDiv:* Union Theological Seminary, 2014

*Statement:* I am extremely humbled at the prospect of ordination. It is remarkable to me that God has called such an unworthy person as I am to be in ordained ministry. However, I believe that I ignored and downplayed the call I felt for a long time, struggling against it. I have come to

understand that God has called me for the rest of my life, not just for as long as I am appointed to a church. The calling has become such a part of my identity that I feel ordination is the path I have been led to by the Holy Spirit.



**Jongdeok Park**

*Residence:* Esperance, NY

*Family:* Sunyoung Kim (spouse) and Luha and Doha Park (children)

*Current Appointment:* Esperance-Sloansville, Gallupville, and Cobleskill UMCs

*MDiv:* Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2017

*Statement:* My name is Jongdeok Park, and I give thanks to God for guiding me to my new faith journey as I am ordained as an elder in 2021 at the Upper New York Annual Conference. Moreover, I am so grateful for countless love and prayers from my wife, Sunyoung, my two children, all my family in South Korea, as well as all my congregations to encourage me to walk in this process. Through the ordination, I am thrilled to see how God might not only empower me to work in my local churches and communities, but also equip me to be a part of the mission of the United Methodist Church – discipleship-making for transformation of the world. In addition, as an ordained elder, I look forward to my ministry and spiritual gifts to work for my local churches and in many areas of the Oneonta District as well as the Upper New York Conference so that my life can be used to glorify God as God’s faithful servant.



**Cindy L. Schulte**

*Residence:* Newfield, NY

*Family:* John (husband)

*Current Appointment:* Waverly UMC

*MDiv:* United Theological Seminary, 2017

*Statement:* I am blessed and humbled to be approved as an Elder in the Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. This has been a wonderful yet challenging process that could not have happened without a clear call from the Lord as well as the support, encouragement, and correction of numerous friends, colleagues, and prayer warriors who have helped me in every season of call. I am grateful to my family for their sacrifice and to the many folks who invested their time, energy, and prayers in helping me answer my call.

My call has allowed me consistent exploration into a deeper relationship with Jesus, and I am so grateful for that! The practice of ministry has taught me that the best way for me to have impact in ministry is to lead by example in how I submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Being fully God and fully human, Jesus perfectly submitted and implemented the will of God. This part of humanity cannot perfectly implement God's plan, but I can be equipped to cooperate with God's plan through the work of the Holy Spirit. I understand that part of my call includes serving beyond the local church, and I am SO excited to invest and engage in our connectional covenant the way others have invested in me: to continue to teach the CLM course for our District and to serve as a candidacy mentor. I am excited to serve the Lord and our UMC as an Ordained Elder and trust the Lord to send me my assignments. Thank you, Jesus, for calling me into Your service.



**Rachel Erin Stuart**

*Residence:* Decatur, GA

*Current Appointment:* North Decatur UMC, Theologian in Residence

*MDiv:* Princeton Theological Seminary, 2017

*Statement:* I went to college intending to become a theoretical physicist. What was for Stephen Hawking a figure of speech was for me quite true—my driving impulse behind studying physics was the desire to “know the mind of God.” Evidently God preferred I take a more direct path, however.

Several people started asking at the end of my junior year why I wasn’t applying to seminary (I was also a religion major), and I started wondering what they saw that I didn’t. A year later I was headed off to seminary.

I feel very strongly called to bivocational ministry in the parish and the academy. I deeply love the academy and have always wanted to teach, but I also deeply love our historic Methodist commitment to the practical relevance of our theological study. I think it’s often easy for the two worlds to live somewhat separately, but each enriches the other. Staying rooted in the parish keeps the academy grounded, while remaining informed by the academy keeps the parish listening to the Spirit’s movements in our reason as well as our experience.

- *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arranged by Joel Raney*
- *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" arranged by Joel Raney*
- *"He Leadeth Me" arranged by Joel Raney*
- *"All Hail the Power" arranged by Joel Raney*
- *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" arranged by Joel Raney*
- *"Laudate Dominum" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*
- *"The Potter's Hands" by Darlene Zschech*
- *"Worship Medley", Reckless Love, O Come To The Altar, Great Are You Lord"*
- *"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd" by G. F. Handel*
- *Here I Am, Lord, The United Methodist Hymnal #593; Words: Dan Schutte, 1981; Music: Dan Schutte, 1981*
- *"All Creatures of Our God and King" arranged by Mark Hayes*

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

