

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination

The Upper New York Annual Conference

Liverpool First United Methodist Church

Liverpool, New York

Saturday, October 8, 2022

3:00 PM

Bishop Mark J. Webb

Resident Bishop



Upper New York Area Full Cabinet

The Rev. Nola Anderson	Crossroads/Finger Lakes District Superintendent
The Rev. Ted Anderson	Interim Genesee Valley District Superintendent
The Rev. Aaron Bouwens	Director of Vital Congregations
The Rev. Suzanne Block	Cornerstone District Superintendent
The Rev. Debbie Earthrowl	Adirondack/Albany District Superintendent
Mr. Robert Flask	Treasurer
The Rev. William Gottschalk-Fielding	Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries
The Rev. Robert Kolvik-Campbell	Binghamton/Oneonta District Superintendent
Mrs. Susan Latessa	Director of HR/Benefits
The Rev. Sherri Rood	Mountain View District Superintendent
The Rev. Carlos Rosa-Laguer	Niagara Frontier District Superintendent
The Rev. Abel Roy	Mohawk District Superintendent
The Rev. Michael Weeden	Northern Flow District Superintendent
Jessica White	Associate Conference Lay Leader

Worship Participants

Bishop Mark J. Webb

Upper New York Area Full Cabinet

Rev. Bruce Webster, Accompanist

Miss. Priscilla Roy, Soloist

Robert Mueller, Crossroads Co-District Lay Leader

The Rev. Rick LaDue and The Rev. Carmen Perry, Co-Chairs, Upper New
York Board of Ordained Ministry

The Rev. Steven Smith and The Rev. Heather Williams, Co-Chairs Order of
Elders

The Rev. Carrie Wolfe, The Rev. Rebecca Naber, co-chairs, Order of
Deacons

The Rev. Timothy Middleton, co-chair of the Fellowship of Associate
Members and Local Pastors

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

To Be Commissioned for the Work of an Elder

Se Gye Shin

To Be Ordained to the Order of Elder

Natalie Ora Bowerman
Bryant Christopher Clark
Christiane Depestre
Linda Kay Haight
Melissa Marie Killenberger McCarthy
Hector D. Rivera
Lisa Dawn Taylor

The Service for Commissioning and Ordination
Liverpool First United Methodist Church, Liverpool New York
Saturday, October 8, 2022 3 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

Rev. Bruce Webster
"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"
Traditional Spiritual
"Romantic Amazing Grace"
Arr. By John Newton
"Give Me Jesus"
Traditional Spiritual
"Be Thou My Vision"
Arr. By Irish Folk Melody
"Crown Him with Many Crowns"
Arr. By George J. Elvey

PROCESSION OF CLERGY

PROCESSION OF CANDIDATES & CABINET

* *Lift High the Cross*

UMH # 159

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

**Come Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in
unity combine. (REFRAIN)**

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of

him who died. (REFRAIN)

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

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! (REFRAIN)**

* 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?

Robert Mueller (Crossroads Co-District 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. Rick LaDue (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. Steven Smith (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.

Se Gye Shin

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.

Natalie Ora Bowerman

Bryant Christopher Clark

Christiane Depestre

Linda Kay Haight

Melissa Marie Killenberger McCarthy

Hector D. Rivera

Lisa Dawn Taylor

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

Robert M: (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

Robert M: (14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?

Candidates respond: YES

Robert M: (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's sake.

Candidates respond: YES

SPECIAL MUSIC

Miss Priscilla Roy

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 Isaiah 40: 28-31 Robert Mueller
Crossroads Co-District Lay Leader

* Proverbs 3: 1-8 Rev. Rebecca Naber
Co-chair of Order of Deacon

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.
This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Gospel Scripture Matthew 10: 1-8; Bishop Mark J. Webb

SERMON “Instructions for the Journey” Bishop Mark J. Webb

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

Offertory Rev. Bruce Webster

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 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.

*** Here I Am, Lord**

UMH #593

**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)**

**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 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 Rev. Rebecca Naber: 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!

*** We've a Story to Tell to the Nations**

UMH #569

**We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the
right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of
peace and light. (Refrain)**

**Refrain: For the darkness shall turn to the dawning, the dawning to
noon-day bright; and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light**

**We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to
the Lord, a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and
sword, and shatter the spear and sword. (Refrain)**

**We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reign-eth
above hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. (Refrain)**

**We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath
trod, that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of
God, might come to the truth of God. (Refrain)**

POSTLUDE

Rev. Bruce Webster

To Be Commissioned for the Work of an Elder



Se Gye Shin

Residence: Jordan, NY

Family: Jee Hae Song (Spouse), Joshua Woojin Shin (Son)

Current Appointment: Jordan UMC

MDiv: Candler School of Theology at Emory University

Statement: If someone were to ask me what my favorite Bible passage is, I would certainly pick John 21:15-19.

“Do you love me (more than these)?” (John 21:15-17). This question of the resurrected Jesus troubled Simon Peter as it probably reminded him of his denial of the Lord outside the high priest’s courtyard (John 18:15-18).

Although he answered “Yes,” Peter was still hesitant, saying, “You know that I love you.” It was not Peter himself but Jesus who would really know his love for the Lord. What Jesus did was inviting Peter to join in his love – to feed and tend his flock – rather than rebuking his troubled disciple for his hesitance or lack of love. That invitation of Jesus to his self-giving love (agape) is the greatest motivation for my life as a believer and follower of his. If Jesus asks the same question to me, I would say “Yes” as Peter did, but I would also be hesitant just as Peter was. However, I still believe in his love that transforms me, others, and the world. As I am commissioned at this year’s Annual Conference, I remind myself again of Jesus’ invitation to be with him together in the mission of love.

To Be Ordained for the Work of an Elder



Natalie Ora Bowerman

Residence: Niskayuna, NY

Family: Husband: Sean, Children: Daniel James (age 8), Lillian Ora (age 6), and Alexander Harper (age 3)

Current Appointment: Eastern Parkway UMC

MDiv: Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Statement: I’ve been United Methodist all my life, and my relationship to this denomination, as well as this

ordination process, has been much like building my family: full of love, full of challenge, full of the Divine. I am called to help others know the Christ I know, the Savior who never lets go, the Teacher who commissions us to build the Kin-dom, the Rabbi who finds us buried in the dirt of despair and surprises us with the truth that we are seeds. The world needs that love now more than ever, and the world needs the joyous wonder that Jesus' love frees us into. If our hearts were not exhausted and drained by the sorrow of trying to earn love, what could we do? I rejoice in spending my career watching the answer to that question unfold before me.



Bryant Christopher Clark

Residence: Oneida, NY

Family: Kristina Clark (wife), Camila Clark (daughter)

Current Appointment: Oneida First UMC, Waterville UMC, Park: Hamilton UMC

MDiv: Boston University School of Theology

Statement: As I prepare to be ordained, I pray for a more inclusive church - one that has grown beyond our hetero, middle-class, white, male preferenced

history and into a new reality of truly beloved community. I expect we'll get there, one way or another. Because through the course of time we've already begun to discover that the Church was never supposed to be about tall steeples or getting the empire to like us. We may yet see revival in our time, but I expect it will not be about shaming people back towards unattainable ideas of purity. To be the Church, truly, is a selfless thing. It's a gritty thing. And sometimes it's even an ugly thing.

To put it another way: we don't do this because it's cute. We don't do this to make ourselves feel comfy or important. We do this because the left-out and the left-behind in our society are where we find Christ today. Because the Christ in me can only see the Christ in you if we humble ourselves, remembering our connection as parts of the Body. In Christ's Body each part is essential and no part can be discarded. Despite its failures I still believe in the Church, and despite my failures, God seems to still believe in me. My prayer is that as we journey forth into a new future, we will remember our timeless call: to proclaim good news to the poor, proclaim

freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, and declare the year of Jubilee. If we don't do it, the stones might cry out - and nobody wants that.



Christiane Depestre

Residence: Binghamton NY

Family: Micah R. Young (son), Kristoff N. Young (son), Shamiya (daughter-in-law), Marindia (daughter-in-law); Stefan (grandson), Silas (grandson)

Current Appointment: Binghamton: Boulevard UMC

MDiv: Drew University

Statement: When I was born, the last of my parents' nine children, they named me Christiane! I believe I

was selected for this journey from the day of my birth. I entered into Ministry from a tender age, because my parents were ministering in our native land of Haiti from the time I knew them. My father who was the editor of the French and Creole editions of The Upper Room, involved us our mom and children in most aspects of his ministry. Not only was I involved in Mission and Evangelism but also in Pastoral Care ministry by prayer and visitation to the incarcerated, the sick in hospital, and the homebound. I became aware of my call to ministry in my teen years. That took many years to be confirmed until the words of Jesus to Peter came to me in a call to "Feed my sheep."

I am grateful for my parents who nurtured and taught me to love Jesus, my family, all my mentors, teachers, advisors, and prayer warriors. The many years of preparation through study, mentoring and involvement will certainly help me, as I attend to the needs of the communities and the churches out of whose Ministries those needs will be met.

I thank my Lord for the continuing opportunity to serve in the Church, as a full-time clergy where I will dedicate my gifts to the glory of God. I see my gifts as gifts of compassion, love, thoughtfulness, attentiveness. These will help to undergird my ministry in the areas of pastoral care, teaching and

preaching the Word of God, hospitality, community engagement, and relational evangelism.

I look forward to my ordination as a full Elder in the United Methodist Church. It is my prayer that I will be living out God's call upon my life to be God's representative to God's people, sharing God's grace and love. I am fully conscious that there will be those times when I will have to fall back on my motto "The Joy of the Lord is my strength."



Linda Kay Haight

Residence: Albion, NY

Family: Michael Lee Haight, Sr. (spouse), Michael Lee Haight, Jr. (son), Ryan Mitchell Haight (son)

Current Appointment: North Ontario UMC

MDiv: United Theological School

Statement: God has been a faithful presence in my life since I was a young girl. It did take me some time and

maturity before I recognized a call toward ordination for my life. I continue to be 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. Since I was asked to be brief, I will only state, "God is amazing."



Melissa Marie Killenberger McCarthy

Residence: Pulaski, NY

Family: John McCarthy (spouse), Abigail McCarthy (daughter), Caleb McCarthy (child), T. J. Quinta (child)

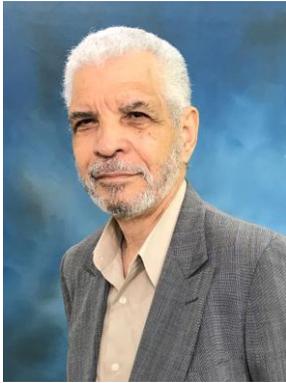
Current Appointment: Park UMC: Pulaski

MDiv: Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Statement: God has been calling me to ministry for

over 20 years. Over the years I have come to understand that call was to ordained ministry of service, word, sacrament, and order. I am called to help others come to know God and build relationships with God and one another in a life of discipleship, as well as help the church transition to this

new thing we are called into being. I am so honored to be affirmed in that call.



Hector D. Rivera

Residence: North Chili, NY

Family: Husband: Maria S. Rivera (wife), Hector R. Rivera (son), Rosa E. Rivera (daughter), Sumarie Lopez (daughter), Alexis Lopez (son)

Current Appointment: LeRoy UMC

MDiv: United Theology Seminary

Statement: As this portion of my journey ends and I reflect on all that has happened and look ahead, it is

evident to me that God has always placed me exactly where He has needed me. I am certain that God has called me to the ordained ministry.

I have been a member for 22 years, which 10 of those as a part-time local pastor, and the last four as a Provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church, as well as nine years as an ordained elder in another denomination.

As I continue my journey to Christian Perfection, God has continued to open doors and bless me. I am fully aware of the importance and significance of God's call to me. As a result, my goals are to continue to develop leaders in the congregation where I serve, as well as to continue welcoming people from all cultures into our Christian family. I strongly believe that God has given me, both an opportunity and the challenge to reach my full potential.



Lisa Dawn Taylor

Residence: Buffalo, NY

Family: Husband: Romney Taylor, Children: Bonnie Taylor, Molly Taylor (husband Michael Shaw), Carly Taylor (husband Richard Kennedy), Aaron Taylor; Grandchildren – Rose, Flynn, Theodore Shaw

Current Appointment: Elma UMC

MDiv: United Theological Seminary

Statement: I am a Jesus follower. When I didn't know where I was going, friends who were following Jesus said, "Come on." And they showed me the way. Not knowing what it meant, I knew in my spirit almost 40 years ago that I was called to ordained ministry. The journey has been long, spanning decades spent raising a family, growing an arts education career I loved, living into lay ministry in the churches where the Spirit led me to serve, and spending years back in school and working through the UMC candidacy process.

On this journey I learned what following Jesus means in the context of everyday life at home, work, and church. And then moved on to the very different context of a professional clergy person. Navigating the ongoing process of sanctification, there has been an abundance of shared joys, times of grief, challenges, disappointments, blessings, and growing in assurance that God is with me through it all as I continue to follow the Spirit's direction.

The opportunity to lead the people of God's church as an ordained elder allows me to live more fully than ever before into what Paul described in 1 Corinthians – Do everything to the glory of God. Do not cause another to stumble. Do not seek my own good, but the good of others so that many may be saved. And - follow me, as I follow the example of Christ (10:31-11:1). I see my call as continuing to model lifelong dedication to growth in God's grace and love, allowing God's transforming power to continue to re-create me into who I am intended to be. It is my prayer, that with God's help, this example may inspire those I serve to allow God's action in their lives to equip them for lives of Christian service God is calling them to. It is an exciting adventure, and a humbling privilege. And I am grateful.

- *Lift High the Cross, The United Methodist Hymnal #159; Words: George Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt; Music: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916*
- *Here I Am, Lord, The United Methodist Hymnal #593; Words: Dan Schutte, 1981; Music: Dan Schutte, 1981*
- *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations, The United Methodist Hymnal UMH #569 Words: H. Ernest Nichol, 1896, Music: H. Ernest Nichol, 1896*
- *"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" By Traditional Spiritual*
- *"Romantic Amazing Grace" By John Newton*
- *"Give Me Jesus" By Traditional Spiritual*
- *"Be Thou My Vision" By Irish Folk Melody*
- *"Crown Him with Many Crowns" By George J. Elvey*

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