Celebration of Ministry

West Ohio Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church

49th Session | June 2018
The Worship Leaders

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer  
Resident Bishop,  
West Ohio Annual Conference

Rev. Kathy Brown  
Director, Office of Ministry

Rev. Dr. Brian Law  
Chair, Board of Ministry

Mr. Mitchell Harper  
Conference Lay Leader

Rev. Benji Sayre  
Chair, Order of Deacons

Rev. Jon Ferguson  
Chair, Order of Elders

Rev. Rachel Miller  
Chair, Division of Deacons

Rev. Valerie Waibel  
2018 Retirement Class

Mr. Brian Hofman  
Lay Representative, Board of Ministry

Rev. Sherri Blackwell  
Board of Ministry

Rev. Jonathan Kollmann  
Board of Ministry

Rev. Anna Guillozet  
Board of Ministry

Rev. Carrie Jena  
Board of Ministry

Rev. Roger Grace  
Board of Ministry

Rev. Jim Waugh  
Retired Elder

Mr. Andrew Willis  
Conference Organist, King Avenue UMC

Mr. Chris Gambrell  
Southland Christian Church, Lexington KY,  
Annual Conference Musician

Ms. Johnetta Moore  
Ginghamsburg UMC, Annual Conference Musician

Mr. Justin Rigsby  
Ada First UMC, Annual Conference Musician

Rev. Susan Kronbach  
Liturgy Design

Mr. Chuck Bell  
Guest Worship Leader for  
2018 Annual Conference

Mr. Chris Gambrell  
Southland Christian Church, Lexington KY,  
Annual Conference Musician

Ms. Johnetta Moore  
Ginghamsburg UMC, Annual Conference Musician

Mr. Justin Rigsby  
Ada First UMC, Annual Conference Musician

Rev. Susan Kronbach  
Liturgist Design

Rev. Mark Chow  
Chair, Annual Conference Worship Committee

Rev. Wendy Lybarger  
Altar Design

Dr. Cynthia Lockhart  
Altar Design

Processional Participants

2018 West Ohio Conference Interns  
Savannah Lynn Hinde  
Anthony (Tony) Giannamore

Rev. Jared Birks  
Local Pastor, 2015 West Ohio  
Conference Intern

Rev. Mark Chow  
Chair, Annual Conference Worship Committee

Rev. Wendy Lybarger  
Altar Design

Dr. Cynthia Lockhart  
Altar Design

Listening assistance devices are available for all services. They are located at the information table in the rear of the auditorium.
The Processional

Words of Welcome

Rev. Mark Chow

Processional Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

UMH #159, Public Domain

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

VERSE 1
Come, Christians follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.

VERSE 2
Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

VERSE 3
0 Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

VERSE 4
So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Those being commissioned and ordained, along with their family, banner-bearer, and stole-bearer, will process down the east center aisle starting from the back of Hoover Auditorium.

Elders and Deacons participating in the laying on of hands will process from the west mid-side entrance using the west side aisle.

The retirees and their spouses will process down the west center aisle starting from the back of Hoover Auditorium.

Members of the Cabinet will process directly onto the stage from the west side-stage entrance.

Greeting and Prayer *

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

All:  And also with you

Bishop Palmer:  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:

All:  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 Common Ministry and Reaffirmation of Baptism

The Bishop, standing near a baptismal vessel of water, begins:

Bishop Palmer:  Ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God. Through baptism all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers, the church, Christ’s body, made visible in the world. We all share in Christ’s ministry of love and service for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation. Therefore, in celebration of our common ministry, I call upon all God’s people gathered here:

The Bishop may scoop and pour water from the vessel and say:

Bishop Palmer:  Remember your baptism and be thankful.

All:  We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.
The Recognition of Retirees

Congregational Response

Conference Lay Leader:

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we celebrate the faithful service of the hundreds of years of ministry offered by this retirement class and their spouses. On behalf of all those in our local congregations, and the many other places of your service outside the local church, we thank you for your faith-filled leadership; for the ways you have shown us how to walk in trust beyond our fears, and all you have done to invite us into God’s assurance, hope, and love.

Chair of the Board of Ministry:

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, which has received the requests of these persons, and on behalf of the Clergy Session, which has granted their requests on June 4, 2018, we honor and present these clergy who are entering the retired relationship with our Annual Conference.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, you were called to teach the Scriptures and proclaim the Word; to participate in the life and work of your community and the world; and to seek peace, justice and freedom for all people. You were set apart to lead God’s people, helping them to grow in their love for God, and for their neighbors. And to this call, you said yes, day after day, year after year. Despite your own hesitations, and perhaps even your fears; beyond even the all-too-real, and all-too-frequent, disappointments – of yourselves, of others, perhaps even of God – you continued to say yes, hearing clearly for yourself, and sometimes even for us, God’s words “Be not afraid … there is enough!”

All:

We give thanks for your faithful response to God’s call: for your willingness to enter into the joys and the sorrows of our lives, for your insistence on calling us to journey with you, for your persistent “yes” to God and to us.

Conference Lay Leader:

Day after day, year after year, you offered the gifts of your ministry – reaching deeply into your own hearts and faith to share God’s love and hope with those around you, in their joy and in their sorrow, in their certainty and in their confusion, in their satisfaction and in their frustration, in their trust and in their fear. You insisted on connecting life in the church with life beyond the church walls, helping God’s people claim the world as their parish. You continued to speak God’s word of grace into all of life – from the greatest joy to the deepest despair. And you joined your life with the lives of those entrusted to your care – rejoicing in their celebrations, and aching with them in their sorrow.

All:

It was you who helped us when we were discouraged by life and the world around us. You showed us the gifts that are ours when we open our hearts to God. When the hard questions came, you steadfastly offered to us the presence of the living Christ. You shared in the whole of our lives – witnessing our momentous times – the births and adoptions of our children, our baptisms, graduations, weddings, and funerals. You held candles with us on Christmas Eve, wept with us on Good Friday, and sang triumphantly with us on Easter morning. Together, we agreed and disagreed, laughed and cried. For all this, and more, we give you thanks.

Bishop Palmer:

We do, indeed, give thanks to all of you, for all this and more … for countless hours of prayer, for the presence you have been, and the comfort you have offered, for your steadfast faithfulness through good times and bad, for the great good that God has accomplished through your ministries, and for that which God will continue to do in your lives in the days to come. Let us pray.

All:

O God of grace, you have overflowed these, your servants, with your great love and grace. You have filled them with your Holy Spirit, and sent them into all the world for the sake of your kingdom. We give thanks for the ministry of these men and women, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them. We trust your abiding presence with them, that they may continue to love and serve you, forever growing in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.
Honoring of the Retirement Class

As each retiree is honored, family and friends in the congregation may stand.

Rick L. Bennington     Barry W. DeShetler    William K. Marshall      Charlayne B. Schultz
Darlena M. Boblit-Dill  Phyllis R. Fetzer    Cherl A. Matla          Robert R. Sholis
Gordon S. Brown        Roland E. Goodwin     Peter Michael          Diane H. Turner-Sharazz
Timothy M. Burden      Thomas N. Graves      Elaine Parulis-Wright    Jeffrey L. Waeger
Desiree Carter         David C. Harris       Mary L. Perani         Valerie A. Waibel
Leroy F. Chambliess    Thomas M. Holmes      Michael D. Pratt       John R. Wallace
Myung Ji Cho           Suzanne Hopkins       James A. Riggs          Stephen M. Weatherly
Norman H. Coleman III  Linda K. Jones        Richard J. Riggs       Pam Weaver
William G. Cronk        Frank E. Kampel       F. David Roach         Neal D. Whitney
Barbara Dafler         Kenneth G. Kirk       Gary W. Rode           Paulette Wittenbrink

Doxology *

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

The Proclamation and Response

The Scripture Lesson  2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Rev. Valerie Waibel

The Sermon  “Grace Sufficient”
Bishop Gregory V. Palmer

Receiving The Offering

The Offertory  “Toccata on Amazing Grace”©2001 "Toccata on Amazing Grace" by J. Christopher Pardini; Adapted by Andrew Willis
Andrew Willis, Organ

The Presentation of Candidates

Candidates stand, facing the congregation

Bishop Palmer: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, these women and men stand here today, elected into conference membership and recommended for commissioning and ordination. The Church has discerned that they are persons of sound learning and of Christian character, possessing the necessary gifts and signs of God’s grace for this ministry. This day, we acknowledge and affirm God’s call to them and their response to that call. I ask you, people of God, do you trust that they are called by God’s grace to be commissioned, ordained, and received as clergy members of the annual conference?

All: We do trust! Thanks be to God.

Bishop Palmer: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

All: With God’s help, we will!
The General Examination of the Candidates

All are seated, except the Candidates, who stand, facing the Bishop; the Bishop addresses the Candidates.

Bishop Palmer: Dear Friends, this is a sacred hour in each of your lives and in the life of the church. You have shared in the ministry of all baptized and you have experienced the call from Christ into representative ministry. The Church has affirmed your calling. Now we ask you to make these affirmations of your faith:

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

All Candidates: I do so believe and confess.

Bishop Palmer: 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?

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

Bishop Palmer: 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?

All Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Palmer: 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?

All Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Palmer: 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?

All Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Palmer: 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.

Congregation: AMEN.

(The Bishop continues)

Bishop Palmer: These questions are asked of those being commissioned: Do you believe that you are called to the work of leadership and service among the people of God?

Candidates for Commissioning: I do so believe.

Bishop Palmer: 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 for Commissioning: I will, with the help of God.

Deacon Candidates

Bishop Palmer: These questions are addressed to those being ordained to a lifetime ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice as a Deacon: Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a Deacon?

Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop Palmer: Will you, for the sake of the Church’s life and mission, covenant to participate in the Order of Deacons? Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Deacons in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?
Candidates: I will, with the help of God, and with the help of my sisters and brothers in the Order of Deacons.

Elder Candidates

Bishop Palmer: These questions are addressed to those being ordained to a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service as an Elder: Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an Elder?

Elder Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop Palmer: 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?

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

The Bishop’s Prayer

Bishop Palmer: Let us pray: (The Bishop, with hands extended, prays for all the candidates)

We praise You, living God, that You came among us in Jesus Christ –
to be the way, the truth, and the life
to call us all to follow, and thus to transform the world,
and to leave with us this great commission to make disciples of all the world.

These persons have responded to Your call upon their lives –
and entered into a holy covenant with You, and with all the clergy,
to lead and serve Your people, sharing with them the transforming grace of Jesus Christ.

We give thanks for the many and diverse gifts You have given,
for the myriad of different ministries that are being offered,
and for the ways in which You are at work in each of these, Your servants,
to fulfill your purposes in the world.

O God of love, in the days to come, may You grant to each of these,
Your taken and called ones,
Your blessed and broken wide open ones,
Your willing to be given ones,
the joy of boldly living into the good news of the gospel
the patience and wisdom to accomplish the tasks before them
and the grace and peace which exceeds all understanding,
but by which You will sustain them through all their days,
that all they do may be to Your honor and glory,
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Hymn

Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our Cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone

“Grace Alone”

© 1998 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing
The Commissioning

Provisional Deacons

Ann Marie Carley
Lori Elizabeth Heft
Sharon G. Kunselman
Mariah A. Miskimen
Jaime Wirth

Provisional Elders

Susan Elizabeth Britton
Ekaterina Brodbeck
E. Neil Gaiser
Caleb Henry
DJ Kim
Kyle Willis Kirchner
David Isaac Pettengill
Phyllis Plear
Vincent Earl Pontius
Anthony Edmund Thomas
Laura Kathleen Thomas
Evette Loper Watt
Alex Keith Wiles
Joshua Wynn

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

The Bishop alone lays both hands on those to be commissioned, saying:

Bishop Palmer: 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.

The Hymn

Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our Cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone

The Ordination of Deacons

Deacons

Margaret McErlean-Hoy
Donna L. Montgomery
Katie Eileen Smith

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

Representatives from the Order of Deacon who are to join in the laying on of hands stand with the Bishop. The Bishop and other Deacons lay both hands on each of those to be ordained; the Bishop says:

Bishop Palmer: Almighty God, pour upon [NAME], the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a Deacon in God’s holy Church.

All: Amen.

Immediately, the candidate places hands on a Bible, as the Bishop says:

Bishop Palmer: [Name], take authority as a Deacon to preach 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.

A Deacon’s stole and pin are given to each Deacon.
The Hymn

Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our Cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone

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The Ordination of Elders

Elders

Joshua R. Andrews
Jeffrey Michael Bandy
Kevin Israel Dotts
Brady Feltz
Lauren Fuchs

Richard P. Hiltibran
Seth John Lindemann
Alexandra Joy Rode
Benjamin Paul Wallick
Timothy David Wilmetti

Ann Wurster
Miriam Johnson Ault **
Adebowale Onabanjo **

**previously ordained, receiving full membership only

Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayers during the laying on of hands for each candidate. Representatives from the Order of Elder who are to join in the laying on of hands stand with the Bishop. The Bishop and other Elders lay both hands on each of those to be ordained; the Bishop says:

Bishop Palmer: Almighty God, pour upon [NAME], the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an Elder in Christ's holy Church.

All: Amen.

Immediately, the candidate places hands on a Bible, as the Bishop says:

Bishop Palmer: [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.

All: Amen.

An Elder's stole is given to each Elder.

The Hymn

Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our Cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone

The Bestowing of Symbols of Ministry

Retiree: As a further witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in ordination, we share these symbols of ministry – given by one who is now retired, to one who is newly ordained – making visible both the continuing nature of ministry, and the work of Christ in the world, to which you are called.

We give you this Bible, as a symbol of the breaking open of your holy Word to a world in need. May your preaching and living always reflect God’s word of hope to all.

We give you this chalice and plate as symbols of the body of Christ, broken for all, in the ministry of Sacrament. May your worship and celebration of the sacraments be God’s love made visible – God’s grace offered – God’s word heard again ... “Be not afraid ... there is enough”

We give you this Book of Discipline as a symbol of the ongoing work of the church in the world through the ministry of order – that the church continue to stand against fear and oppression, and demonstrate the kingdom reality of “enough for every need.” May your administration and teaching further God’s work in the world.

* You are invited to stand, as you are able.
We give you this bowl and towel as a symbol of the many ways we offer our gifts – and ourselves – to the world, sharing healing and hope through our ministries of service. May your service and mission continue to say to those who are afraid – “Do not fear – God has called, even you, by name – and you are God’s!”

Retiree: Let us pray:
Holy and gracious God, by Your call many persons have come; by the power of Your Holy Spirit many have served; by Your grace all are held in life, in ministry, and even in death. In this moment we remember again, with gratitude, all who have come before us, all who walk beside us, and all who will come after us – the great cloud of witnesses who speak Your presence through all our days. We give You thanks for these particular set-apart ministries, and these holy symbols – reminders of that to which you have called each of these, your servants. Grant that they, and we, may go from this place, to be given to others, for the sake of Your work in the world.

All: Amen

The Closing Hymn *

"Joy to the World"
UMH #246, Public Domain

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.

The Dismissal with Blessing

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

Newly Ordained Elder:
Go in grace to become the beloved community in the world.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Postlude

Improvisation on “All Creatures of Our God and King” ©2018 Improvisation: Andrew Willis

Andrew Willis, Organ

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology) By Louis Bourgeois, Thomas Ken © Public Domain CCLI Song # 56204, CCLI License # 2030429
Joy To The World [UMH #246] By George Frederic Handel and Isaac Watts © Public Domain CCLI Song # 24016, CCLI License # 2030429
Provisional Members are commissioned and licensed for servant ministry among us. They know Jesus’ concern for all of God’s people and have demonstrated their abilities in sharing in the ministry of Christ. They have completed their theological education and now enter the Residency Program (Crucible) of the Board of Ordained Ministry, integrating their learnings with the practice of ministry. As provisional members they will move toward ordination as Deacon or Elder in full connection by demonstrating effectiveness.

Associate Members of an annual conference are in the itinerant ministry of the Church and are available without reserve on a continuing basis for appointment by the bishop. They have completed the Course of Study or comparable theological education. In their place of appointment, associate members are ordained (pre-1996) or licensed to preach and teach the Word of God, to lead the people in worship, to provide pastoral care, to administer the sacraments, and to perform other duties of the pastor.

Deacons are called to share in Christ’s ministry of servanthood, to relate the life of the community in its service to the world, to lead others into Christian discipleship, to nurture disciples for witness and service. Deacons are to lead worship, to teach and proclaim God’s Word, and to assist elders at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Deacons are called 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, justice, liberation, and reconciliation, even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.

Deacons may be trained in areas of specialized ministry such as medicine, teaching, agriculture, mediation, counseling, and chaplaincy, in addition to music, education with all ages, and spiritual formation.

Elders are called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole Church, to preach and teach the Word of God; and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, order the life of the congregation, counsel the troubled, and declare the forgiveness of sins; 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.
Clergy Family / Group Photos

For anyone honored or credentialed in today's Celebration of Ministry service, there will be professional photographers stationed outside the Northeast corner of Hoover Auditorium following the service that will be happy to capture any group or family photos that you would like.

These images can be downloaded for free from flickr.com/westohioumc, or available for purchase on the Annual Conference flash drive, available for purchase. Order forms are available at the Information Desk, in the Program Guide, or online at www.westohioumc.org/ac/2018