

## The Order for the Ordination of Deacons

*This service provides liturgical resources for ordaining deacons in full connection.*

*If there are persons whose ordination as a deacon is to be recognized, they should be vested with a deacon's stole from the beginning of the service.*

### ENTRANCE

#### GATHERING

*Festive music may be offered while the people gather. The service may then continue with a procession including the worship leaders, other participants in worship, candidates, and bishop(s).*

#### PROCESSIONAL HYMN \*

*Processional hymns are listed beginning on page 93.*

#### GREETING AND PRAYER \*

*The bishop greets the people and they respond:*

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**God of light and truth,  
you led your holy apostles  
to appoint ministers in every place.  
Guide your church,  
through the wisdom of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may choose women and men with gifts of grace  
for the ministry of word and service.  
May we uphold them in their work,  
and may your reign be extended;  
through Jesus Christ, the Shepherd of our souls,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit,  
is worshiped and glorified,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **RECOGNITION OF COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

*The bishop, standing near a baptismal font, shell, or vessel of water, begins:*

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 font, shell, or vessel and say:*

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**We remember our baptism  
and affirm our common ministry.**

*The people are seated.*

## **PRESENTATION**

*A layperson and an ordained deacon in full connection from the Board of Ordained Ministry present to the bishop those who are to be ordained deacons. The bishop stands before the Lord's Table, facing the people.*

*A layperson:*

On behalf of the laity of the local congregations  
who have examined and approved these candidates,

*A deacon:*

and on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of this annual conference,  
which has recommended these persons,  
and this annual conference, which has approved them,

*Together the layperson and the deacon:*

we present these persons to be ordained deacons,

and these persons to be recognized as deacons.

*The full name of each candidate is read aloud by a deacon, and each candidate stands when his or her name is read. After all the candidates have been presented, they remain standing, and the bishop says:*

These persons are by God's grace  
to be recognized or ordained to the ministry of deacons.  
Those authorized by the Church to inquire about them  
have discerned that they are persons  
of sound learning and of Christian character,  
and possess the necessary signs of God's grace,  
and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ.  
Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God,  
to declare your assent  
to the recognition or ordination of these persons.

Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace,  
to be recognized or ordained deacons?

**We do! Thanks be to God!**

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

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

*The bishop, presenters, and candidates are seated.*

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON(S)**

*Suggested Scripture lessons are found on page 91.*

*Hymns of response to the Scripture are listed on page 93.*

### **SERMON**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED \***

*See UMH 881, 882.*

### **[OFFERING]**

*An offering for the work of God may be received here. When Holy Communion is celebrated, the offering is received prior to the Thanksgiving and Communion, and the financial gifts are brought forward with the gifts of bread and cup. A hymn or anthem may be sung during the offering.*

## **EXAMINATION OF DEACONS**

*All are seated except the deacon candidates. The bishop examines the candidates:*

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.

My sisters and brothers,  
you have been called to be ordained to the ministry of deacons.  
The church now confirms your calling through recognition or ordination.

As deacons,  
you are to be coworkers with the bishops,  
other deacons, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries,  
commissioned ministers, elders, local pastors,  
and all of the faithful.

Remember that 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.

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,

*Here a large Bible may be lifted by an assistant.*

to lead in worship,  
to teach and proclaim God's Word,  
to assist elders and local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion,  
to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes,

*Here a towel and basin with pitcher may be lifted by an assistant.*

to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed,  
and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice,  
liberation and reconciliation,  
even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.

These are the duties of a deacon.

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

**I do so believe.**

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

**I do so believe and confess.**

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?

**I am so persuaded, by God's grace.**

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?

**I will, God being my helper.**

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

**I will, God being my helper.**

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?

**I will, God being my helper.**

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?

**I will, God being my helper.**

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?

**I will, with the help of God,  
and with the help of my sisters and brothers in the order of deacons.**

*The bishop addresses all the candidates:*

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 audibly affirm the action, saying, **Amen.***

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

*The bishop, facing the candidates, calls the people to prayer using these or similar words:*

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

*If the setting allows, the candidates kneel.*

*The people pray for them in silence.*

*The hymn "O Holy Spirit" (UMBOW 223) or "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire" (UMH 651) may be sung.*

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

We thank you, Lord 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 the 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.

*Representatives from the laity, the ecumenical church, and the order of deacons who are to join in the laying on of hands stand with the bishop. When the bishop lays hands on the head of the candidate, others may lay hands on the candidate's back or shoulders.*

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

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

Father Almighty (Almighty God), pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit  
for the office and work of a deacon in Christ's holy church.

*All audibly affirm the action, saying, **Amen.***

*Immediately the ordinand places hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the ordinand's hands 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 audibly affirm the action, saying, **Amen.***

## RECOGNITION OF ORDERS

*The bishop addresses those whose orders as deacons are to be recognized:*

After due examination  
of your call and ministry in another part of Christ's holy church,  
we now welcome you to this communion.  
You have given assurance of your faith and Christian experience.  
You have renewed the vows of your ordination  
and committed yourself to uphold faithfully  
The United Methodist Church.  
We rejoice that you have been called to serve among us,  
and pray that the Spirit of God may guide your ministry.

*As each candidate comes forward, the bishop greets each one:*

*Name*, we now recognize you as a deacon  
in The United Methodist Church.

HYMN \*

*Hymns are listed beginning on page 93.*

*During the hymn a deacon's stole and/or a towel, pitcher, and basin may be given to each deacon.*

*Here an offering may be received. It would be most appropriate for the offering to support a ministry of compassion or social justice identified and selected by the deacon candidates.*

*When Holy Communion follows, the Communion elements may be brought to the table with the offerings of money, or uncovered if already in place. Use the "Thanksgiving and Communion" service in this ordinal beginning with the Invitation and Peace on page 30. The newly ordained deacons prepare the Lord's Table for Holy Communion, assisted by other deacons or laity as needed. See UMBOW 26.*

## SENDING FORTH

*Here the bishop may make an invitation to all present to respond to God's call to ordained ministry in Christ's church. Appropriate direction for how people are to respond should be given.*

[PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*If Holy Communion was not celebrated, the bishop says:*

Let us pray.

**We thank you, gracious God,  
for raising up among us faithful servants  
for the ministry of deacons.  
Clothe them with your righteousness,  
and grant that we, with them,  
may glorify you by giving ourselves to others. Amen.]**

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING \*

*The bishop blesses the people:*

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

HYMN \*

*If the closing hymn is a processional, it should follow the bishop's Blessing and precede the deacon's Dismissal. Otherwise it should precede the bishop's Blessing and the deacon's Dismissal should follow immediately upon the bishop's Blessing. Closing hymns are listed on page 94.*

*A newly ordained deacon dismisses the people, using these or similar words:*

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

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

GOING FORTH \*

*A worship leader may announce where the newly ordained deacons may be greeted following the service.*