

The Fifth Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church



HOLLYWOOD



102nd SESSION
**SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA**
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Reverend
Allen Williams, Sr. DMin.**
Presiding Elder
Los Angeles North District

**Reverend
Larry Campbell, DMin.**
Host Pastor
FAME - Pasadena

**Rt. Reverend
Francine A. Brookins, Esq.**
Presiding Prelate
Fifth Episcopal District

**Reverend
Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH**
Episcopal Supervisor of Missions
Fifth Episcopal District

**Reverend
Roosevelt Linsdsey**
Presiding Elder
Los Angeles South District

**Rt. Reverend
Francine A. Brookins, Esq.**
Presiding Prelate
Fifth Episcopal District

**Reverend
Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH.**
Episcopal Supervisor of Missions
Fifth Episcopal District



102nd SESSION
**SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA**
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 20 – 25, 2026

HOSTS

The Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, First AME Church, Pasadena, CA
The Rev. Roosevelt Lindsey, Jr., Presiding Elder
The Rev. Dr. Allen L. Williams, Sr., Co-Host Presiding Elder

VENUE

LAX Hilton
5711 W. Century Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

SERMONS

THURSDAY NOON WIM HOUR OF POWER

The Rev. Gabrielle NS Kennedy,
First AME Church, Las Vegas, NV

THE ANNUAL SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr.
Grant AME Church, Los Angeles

FRIDAY HOUR OF POWER - TBA

THE ORDINATION SERMON

The Rev. M. Jo David Sales, Pastor
Brookins AME Church, Oakland, CA

THE CLOSING AND COMMISSIONING SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Francine A. Brookins, Presiding Prelate



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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

2:00 pm Registration, Credentialing, and Mission Project

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

7:00 am WMS Convention begins

7:30 am Breakfast & Fellowship

10:30 am Bishop meets with Presiding Elder(s); Finance Committee; Board of Examiners

12:00 Noon WIM Convention

12:00 Noon WMS Luncheon

2:00 pm WMS Convention

3:00 pm Bishop's prescheduled meetings with Pastors/Congregations

7:00 pm **WMS Worship Service (Night in White)**

9:00 pm Committee and Component Meetings

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

8:30 am Devotion – Board of Examiners

9:00 am **Conference Institute - Contextualizing Scripture**

Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome (Eden Theological Seminary)

10:00 am Business Session I – Roll Call, Organization & Pastors Reports

12:00 Noon **WIM Hour of Power**

Preacher: Rev. Gabrielle NS Kennedy

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Lunch Break

2:30 pm Business Session II – Pastors' Reports

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner Break

7:00 pm **Opening Worship Service**

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr.

9:00 pm Welcome Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

8:30 am Devotion – Mindful Movements (WMS & WIM)

9:00 am **Conference Institute - AME Freedom Summer**

10:00 am Business Session III – Reports Con't

12:00 Noon **Hour of Power**

1:00-2:30 pm Lunch Break

2:30 pm Business Session IV - Reports Cont.

5:00 pm Dinner Break

7:00 pm **Lay Witness Night**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

8:00 am Church School/Bible Study

9:00 am Closing Business: Component Reports, Summary of the Minutes, Disciplinary Questions, Memorial Ritual, Retirement Ritual

10:00 am **The Service of Ordination & Sacrament**

Preacher: The Rev. M. Jo David Sales, Pastor, Brookins AME Church, Oakland, CA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

3:00 pm Closing and Commissioning Service

Preacher: Bishop Francine A. Brookins



STATE OF THE CHURCH

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Kirkpatrick Tyler, Rev. Godfrey Patterson, Rev. Grisselle Velez, Rev. Dr. Mary S. Minor, Rev. Felicia Bagneris, Rev. Jameka Redmon Matthews, Rev. Elbert Sherrod. **Delegates:** Glenda Smith (Bethel, San Diego), Kathy Bell (Cain Memorial, Bakersfield), and Joann Rozell (A.K. Quinn. Moreno Valley).

STATE OF THE COUNTRY

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Gilbert Richards, Rev. Larry Holloway, Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Jr., Rev. Anthoney Garrett, Rev. Johnnie Simmons Robbs, Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, Rev. Van White, Rev. Bernadette Johnson. **Delegates:** Betty Arnold (Johnson Chapel, Santa Ana), Tracey Beidleman (First, Los Angeles), and Janice Hinton (Grant, Los Angeles).

TEMPERANCE

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Michael Eagle, Rev. Bill Hence, Jr., Rev. Bernadette Johnson, Rev. Dr. Gilbert Richards, Rev. Michael Carr, and Rev. Denise Jackson. **Delegates:** Cathy Hunder (Brown Memorial, Pasadena), Glenda Smith (Bethel, San Diego), Tanisha White (Allen Chapel, San Bernadino), and Flora Spiller (Bethel, Blythe).

EVANGELISM

Pastors: Rev. Frederick Poindexter, Rev. Godfrey Patterson, Rev. Dr. Dwaine Jackson, Rev. Darryl E. Walker, Rev. Kirkpatrick Tyler, Rev. Antonio Dupre, and Rev. Grisselle Velez, **Delegates:** Elizbathel Willis (First, Providence), Veronica Chriss (First, Val Verde), Takisha Holmes (Bryant Temple, Los Angeles), Regina Brunson (Holy Trinity, Long Beach), Suzette Nelson (Grant, Long Beach), Alice Howard (Price Chapel, Los Angeles), and Iberia Nelson (Second, Los Angeles).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, Rev. Joyce Kitchen, Rev. Felicia Bagneris, Rev. Mercedes Tudy-Hamilton, Rev. Dr. Gimel Rogers, Rev. Gabrielle NS Kennedy, Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, Rev. William Sheppard, Rev. Tracy Johnson, Rev. Dr. Dwaine Jackson. **Delegates:** Nancy Spenser (Coronoa Community, Corona), Sharon Williams (Greater Harvest, Victorville), Alicia Howard (Price Chapel, Los Angeles), Barbara Monroe (New Philadelphia, Long Beach), Zulu Hartfield (Johnson Chapel, El Centro), Deborah Jarrett Rabb (Bethel, Perris), and Kathy Bell (Cain Memorial, Bakersfield)

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Dr. Marvin McKenzie, Rev. Jeffery Clark, Rev. Antonio Dupre, Rev. Dr. Michael Eagle, Rev. Larry Holloway, Rev. Dr. Mary S. Minor, Rev. Joyce Kitchen, Rev. Dr. Barry Settle, Rev. Frederick Poindexter, Rev. Dr. John Hill, Rev. Denise Jackson, Rev. Michael Carr. **Delegates:** Theresa Daviston (Emmanuel, Los Angeles), Arlene Twine (Bethel, Oxnard), Gwen Owens (St. Mark, Los Angeles), Diann McGlothen (St. Paul, San Bernadino), Rev. Tracy Beidleman (First, Los Angeles), Donald Locke (First, Santa Monica)

MINISTRIES TO THE YOUTH

Pastors: Rev. Benjamin Thomas Jr., Rev. Patricia Freeman, Rev. Rethis Murry, Rev. Bernadette Johnson, Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, Rev. Dr. Dwaine Jackson, Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Harvey Vaughn, and Rev. Raichera Baker; **Delegates:** Glenda Loga Osby Miller (First, Las Vegas), Greg Taylor (St. James, Los Angeles), Jacquelyn Pickney (Bethel, Los Angeles), Regina Holland (Ward, Los Angeles), Kevin Laudermill (Walker Temple, Los Angeles)

CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Pastors: Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Jr., Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Adriene Goodrich, Rev. Jameka Redmon Matthews, Rev. Denise Jackson, Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Rev. Van White, Rev. Denise Jackson, Rev. Grisselle Velez, Rev. Anthoney Garrett, Rev. Bernadette Johnson, Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, Rev. Everett Bell. **Delegates:** Elizabeth Bailey Smith (Holy Trinity, Las Vegas), Durwyn Robinson (Ward, Los Angeles), Juanita West-Tillman (First, Pasadena), Betty Arnold (Johnson Chapel, Santa Ana), and Joanne Guillory (Christ Our Redeemer, Irvine).



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CLASSIFICATION OF CHURCHES

Pastors: Rev. Jeffery Clark, Rev. Dr. Marvin McKenzie, Rev. Bill Hence Jr., Rev. Mosezetta Howard, Rev. Andross Milteer, Rev. Dr. Barry Settle, Rev. De Jeanne Taylor, Rev. Jameka Redmon Matthews, Rev. Harvey Vaughn, Rev. Dr. Timothy Coston, Jr., Rev. Van White, Rev. Adriene Goodrich, Rev. Dr. John Hill.

Delegates: Alexis Sims (Prince Chapel, LaJolla), Demetrio Deterville (Parks Chapel, San Fernando Valley), Karin Jones (Bethel, Fontana)



MISSIONS, CIRCUITS & STATIONS

Pastors: Rev. Harvey Vaughn, Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Rev. Dr. Kelvin Calloway, Rev. Everett Bell, Rev. Dr. Michael Eagle, Rev. Dr. Mary S. Minor, Rev. T.C. Johnson, Rev. De Jeanne Taylor, Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Latisha Smith, Rev. Adriene Goodrich, Rev. Antonio Dupre.

Delegates: Tamika Townsend (Brookins, Los Angeles), Steven Hayes (Paul E. Kidd, San Diego), April Talley (Primm, Pomona), Jeanette Morgan (New Allen, Delano), Gregory Harding (Grace Community, Temecula), Gail Kennedy (St. James, Los Angeles), Shannon Gloyd Verly (Fountain of Hope, Las Vegas), and Nancy Spenser (Corona Community, Corona)



ABANDONED PROPERTY

Pastors: Revs Steven Shepard, Rev. Godfrey Patterson, Rev. Kirkpatrick Tyler, Tracy Johnson, Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, Rev. Rethis Murry, Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Jr., Rev. Larry Holloway, Rev. De Jeanne Taylor, Rev. Dr. Mary Minor.

Delegates: April Talley (Primm, Pomona), Iberia Nelson (Second, Los Angeles), Joann Rozell (A.K. Quinn, Moreno Valley), and delegate for Allen, Riverside.



SOCIAL ACTION

Pastors: Rev. Johnnie Simmons-Robbs, Rev. Vickie Lee, Rev. Joyce Kitchen, Rev. Larry Holloway, Rev. Dr. Kelvin Calloway, Rev. Felicia Bagneris, Rev. Michael Carr, Rev. Antonio Dupre, Rev. Andross Milteer, Rev. Bernadette Johnson, Rev. Rethis Murry, Rev. Dr. Michael Eagle, Rev. Patricia Freeman.

Delegates: Gwen Owens (St. Mark, LA), Deborah Jarrett Rabb (Bethel, Perris), Theresa Daviston (Emmanuel, LA), Stacey Porter (Walker Chapel, Oceanside), Clarine Jackson (St. Paul, Santa Barbara)

CLASSIFICATION OF PASTORS

Pastors: Rev. Gabrielle NS Kennedy, Rev. Dr. Marvin McKenzie, Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, Rev. Elbert Sherrod, Rev. Felicia Bagneris, Rev. Dr. Kelvin Calloway, Rev. Rethis Murry, Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Jr., Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler, Rev. Johnnie Simmons-Robbs.

PRESIDING ELDER'S APPORTIONMENT

Presiding Elder Rev. Roosevelt Lindsey, Jr., and Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Allen Williams, Sr.

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Barry Settle, Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Rev. Harvey Vaughn, Rev. Latisha Smith, Rev. Melanie Mays, Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler, Rev. Dr. Kelvin Calloway, Rev. Dr. Marvin McKenzie, Rev. Darryl E. Walker, Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, and Rev. Benjamin Thomas Jr.

Delegates: Nemiah Miller (Murph Chapel, Valinda), Joann Rozell (A.K. Quinn, Moreno Valley), and Kathy Turner (Rose of Sharon)



MEMORIALS

Pastors: Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Rev. Johnnie Simmons-Robbs, Rev. William Sheppard, Rev. Dr. Michael Eagle, Rev. Denise Jackson, Rev. Felicia Bagneris, Rev. Harvey Vaughn, Rev. Mosezetta Howard.

Delegates: Josephine Kennedy (First, Indio), Nefertiti Ross (Bethel, Monrovia), Flora Spiller (Bethel, Blythe), Steven Hayes (Paul E. Kidd, San Diego).



RESOLUTIONS

Pastors: Rev. Dr. John Hill, Rev. Felicia Bagneris, Rev. Raichera Baker, Rev. Jeffery Clark, Rev. Grisselle Velez, Rev. William Sheppard, Rev. Antonio Dupre.

Delegates: Maurice Wright (St. John Holy Trinity, Littlerock), Joann Rozell (A.K. Quinn, Moreno Valley), Greg Taylor (Walker Temple, Los Angeles), Demetrio Deterville (Parks Chapel, San Fernando Valley)

BOARD OF EXAMINERS 2025-2026

Dean: Rev. Dr. Kelvin Calloway

Instructors: Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler, Rev. Dr. Michael W. Eagle, Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, Jr., Rev. Gabrielle NS Kennedy, Rev. Darryl E. Walker, Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, Melanie Mays, Rev. Dr. Marvin McKenzie, Rev. Dr. Dwaine Jackson, Rev. Dr. Barry Settle, Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Rev. Latisha Smith, Rev. Dr. John Hill, Rev. Marian Wright-Young.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRUSTEES 2025-2026

Ex-Officio: All Presiding Elders of the Southern California Conference.

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Mary Minor, Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler, Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston Jr., Rev. Dr. Marvin McKenzie, Rev. Gabrielle Smith Kennedy, Rev. Dr. Barry Settle, Rev. Dr. Kelvin Calloway, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Rev. Harvey Vaughn, Rev. Darryl Walker, Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Dwaine Jackson, Rev. Dr. Ralph Williamson, Rev. Melanie Mays, Rev. Dr. Michael W. Eagle;
Lay Delegates: Martha Jackson (A.K. Quinn, Moreno Valley), Cathy Hunter (Brown Memorial), Kevin Laudermill (Walker Temple)

Consultants: Marye Barnett, Stan Sanders, Ron Edison

LAY ORGANIZATION

Kathy Green, President and the Executive Board

SONS OF ALLEN MEN'S MINISTRY (SOA)

Gregory Sneed, Coordinator

WOMEN IN MINISTRY (WIM)

Rev. Judi Wortham, Coordinator

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (WMS) & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT (YPD)

Rev. Miriam Burnett, MD, MPH, Episcopal Supervisor of Missions

Charlette Ned, District WMS President

Jennifer Ellis, Conference WMS President

Eva Hoffman Murry, YPD Director

Robert Shaw, III, YPD President

HEALTH COMMISSION

Gwendolyn Williams



THE DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS

1. Who are the preachers admitted on trial?
2. Who remain on trial?
3. Who are admitted or readmitted to full connection?
4. Who have been elected and ordained Deacons?
5. Who have been elected and ordained Elders?
6. Who have been located this year?
7. Who have been elected by the General Conference to superintend the African Methodist Episcopal Church?
8. Who are the supernumerary Preachers?
9. Who are the superannuated Preachers?
10. Who have been expelled from the Connection by this Conference?
11. Who have withdrawn this year from this Conference and the Connection?
12. Are all the preachers blameless in life and Conversation?
13. What members of the Conference have died this year?
14. Have all the preachers subscribed to The Christian Recorder and also the AME Review, The Voice of Missions, The Journal of Christian Education, The Secret Chamber, or The Missionary Magazine?
15. What preachers are indebted to any of the Departments or the church publications?
16. Lay Organization
 - Does each station, circuit, or mission in this Annual Conference have a Lay Organization?
 - If not, what stations, circuits, or missions do not have a Lay Organization?
17. Missionary Society:
 - Does each station, circuit, or mission in this Annual Conference have a Women's Missionary Society?
 - If not, what stations, circuits, or missions do not have a Women's Missionary Society?
18. When shall this Annual Conference next meet?
19. Where shall our next Annual Conference be held?
20. Where are the preachers stationed this year?



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MISSION POSSIBLE LITANY

MISSION POSSIBLE LITANY

Leader: People of God, we gather to worship the One who says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."



People: Lord, open our eyes to you and to our neighbors. We believe the mission is possible.

Leader: Our churches stand in the middle of neighborhoods you love. Yet we confess that we often feel afraid of our neighbors, unsure of their stories and unsure of ourselves.



People: Lord, open our eyes to you and to our neighbors. We believe the mission is possible.

Leader: The needs around us feel too big; the brokenness feels too deep. We feel too small, too tired, too powerless to make a difference.



People: Lord, open our eyes to you and to our neighbors. We believe the mission is possible.

Leader: But you, O God, are greater than our fear. You are already at work on our streets, in our schools, in our homes, and in every heart.



People: Lord, open our eyes to you and to our neighbors. We believe the mission is possible.

Leader: Jesus, you promise that when we care for "the least of these," we meet you face to face. As we worship, teach us to trust your power more than our fear.



All: Lord, open our eyes to you and to our neighbors. We believe the mission is possible. Amen.

THE MEMORIAL LITANY

*For all the saints who, from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world
confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Leader: Since the close of our last Annual Conference, seats have become vacant, family circles have been broken, and congregations have diminished in number by the visitation of the angel of death. With heavy hearts and weeping eyes we mourned our members and remembered those loved ones who have moved into the arms of God. By faith today we pause to celebrate and remember those who have transitioned to the church triumphant.

The Roll Call

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, these are they who have run the race and finished their course this Conference Year. We thank God for their labors and faithful witness.

- Announce the names of deceased Bishops. Supervisors, General and Connectional Officers
- Announce the names of deceased ministers and spouses
- Announce the names of the deceased lay persons who were delegates at the last Annual Conference
- Invite people to call out names on their hearts

O God, we thank and praise You for the love, life and labor of our deceased colleagues and loved ones. We thank You for their faithful witness in word and deed. Allow us to be inspired to emulate what was good in them that we too might see your face in the land of perfect day. We pray in the name of the One who took the sting from death and victory from the grave, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Congregational Song - Hymn 509 *When All My Labors and Trials are O'er*

The Benediction

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. - Jude 24, 25



ORDER FOR THE RETIREMENT OF PREACHERS

The Statement of Purpose

In the Name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us enter into this service of the retirement of preachers from active work in the ministry of the church. Let us pray.



The Invocation

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our work, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your Holy Name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Presentation of Preacher

Bishop, The _____ Annual Conference desires formally to recognize at this _____ session of the completion of the active service of _____ minister(s). As secretary of the Annual Conference, I present to you this/these faithful ministers for this service of recognition and honor, in appreciation of their untiring labors in the Christian ministry.



The Response

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. (Psalm 126:6)



The Statement of Achievement

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. (Hebrews 11:1-2)

Beloved, the record of your active ministry is written in the records of our God. Your church is deeply grateful for your ministry and for the care which you have exercised in faithfully fulfilling your vows of ordination. May the precious memories of your years of sacrificial service and faithful labor be blessed and hallowed. And now, as you yield your official responsibilities in the active ministry of the AME Church, be assured that the years that are yet to be, may be filled with the good works and become the crown of your entire ministry bringing glory and honor to you and to the Church. The congregation of which you will be a member will look to you for spiritual guidance and godly example. Your sisters and brothers in ministry will continue to seek and respect your counsel. We will annually listen for your answer to the Roll Call of the Annual Conference.



The Tribute

Bishop, Presiding Elder or Designated Clergy

The Response of the Retiree

Congregational Song - Hymn 272, 283...

The Benediction



A SERVICE OF WORD, ORDINATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Part I

The Procession

The Call to Worship

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

People: We lift every voice and sing for justice, hope, and liberation!

Leader: Let us worship the God of the oppressed, in spirit and in truth—the One who journeys with the weary, strengthens the struggling, and blesses the work of liberation.

People: With faith and hope, we are sent out to serve, to seek justice, and to build a world rooted in God's love!

Leader: Not by might, nor by power, but by God's spirit

ALL: Here we are to worship, here we are to let God's praises ring!

The Opening Hymn

The General Confession

Minister: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Declaration of Pardon

Minister: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Who of Your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who turn to You with true repentance and sincere faith; have mercy upon us. Pardon and deliver us from all our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect

For Deacons: Almighty God who by thy divine providence hath appointed diverse orders of ministers of thy church, and didst inspire thine apostles to choose to the order of deacons the first martyr, St. Stephen, with other mercifully behold these thy servants now called to the like office and administration; replenish them so with the



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truth of thy doctrine and adorn them with the innocence of life that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office to the glory of thy holy name and the edification of thy church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and forever. Amen.

For Elders: Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit has appointed diverse orders of ministers in thy church, mercifully behold thy servants now called to the office of Elder(s) and replenish them with the innocence of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office to the glory of thy name and the edification of thy church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

The Epistle

For Deacons - Timothy 3:8-13

For Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for gain; they must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And, let them also be tested first; then if they prove themselves blameless let them serve as deacons. The women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

For Elders - Ephesians 4:7-13

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.). And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of fullness of Christ.

The Gospel

For Deacons - St. Luke 12:35-38

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.



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A SERVICE OF WORD, ORDINATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Part III

For Elders - John 10:1-16

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hears his voice, and he calls his out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure Jesus used with them but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So, Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, see the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd."

The Gloria Patri

The Welcome, Felicitations and Announcements

Host Pastor

Giving as Worship

The Finance Committee

The Presentation of the Bishop

The Presentation of the Preacher

Sermonic Selection

The Preached Word

The Invitation to Receive Christ

The Presentation of Deacons

Elder: Reverend Mother in God, I present unto you this person/these persons to be ordained Deacon(s).

Bishop: Take heed that the person(s) whom you present unto us be apt and meet by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the church.

Elder: I have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them to be so.



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Bishop: Members of the conference, if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in this person/any of these persons presented to be ordained Deacon(s) for they ought not be admitted to that office, let them come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

The Ordination of Deacons

Bishop: Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the office of the ministry in the church of Christ, to serve God for the promotion of his glory, and the edifying of his people?

Answer: I trust so.

Bishop: Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer: I do believe them.

Bishop: Will you diligently read and expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed and serve?

Answer: I will.

Bishop: It appertains to the office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in Divine Service and especially when he administers the Holy Communion, to help him in the distribution thereof and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth and, in the absence of the Elder, to baptize. Furthermore, it is his office to search for the sick, poor, and impotent that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

Answer: I will do so by the help of God.

Bishop: Will you frame and fashion your own lives and the lives of your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

Answer: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and with their godly admonition?

Answer: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: *The Ordinand(s) kneeling and the Bishop lays on hand*

Take thou authority to execute the office of a deacon in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Bishop: *The Bible is presented to the Ordinand(s)*

Take thou authority to read the Scriptures and to preach the same in the Church of God in name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: *The People chant aloud*
Amen. Amen. Amen.



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The Presentation of Elders

Elder: Reverend Mother in God, I present unto you this person/these persons to be ordained Elder(s).

Bishop: Take heed that the person who you present unto us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the church.

Elder: I have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Bishop: Members of the conference, these are they whom we propose, God willing, this day to ordain Elders, for after due examination we find not the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in any of them for the which he ought not be received into this holy ministry let him come forth in the name of God and show what the crime and impediment is.

The Ordination of Elders

Bishop: And you have heard, Brethren, of what dignity and how great importance this office is where unto are called. And now, again, we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you remember into how weighty an office you are called: that is, to be messengers, watchers of the flock, and stewards of the Lord; to teach and to admonish to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to see for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad and for his children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

Always remember how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The church and congregation whom you must serve is his spouse, and his body. If it should happen that the congregation, or any member thereof, is hurt or hindered by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault of the punishment that will ensue. Now therefore, consider the end of the ministry toward the children of God, toward spouse and body of Christ, and see what you never cease your labor, care and diligence until you have done all that you are able to do, for all that are committed to your charge unto that agreement in faith, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left among you either for error in religion, or for viciousness, in life. You cannot accomplish the doing of so weighty a work concerning the salvation of God's people with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the holy scripture, and with a life agreeable to the same, without the spiritual foundation which comes through the reading and study of the scripture, and the framing of your life and the lives of those who especially pertain to you, according to the rules of the same scriptures. For this reason, you must forsake all and set aside as much as you can all worldly care and studies.



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We hope that you have weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time, and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give ourselves to this office whereby it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father by the meditation of our Savior Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost, that by daily reading and weighing of the scriptures you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time to satisfy the lives of you and yours to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ that you may be wholesome and godly examples and patterns of the people to follow. And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and his church, shall demand of you, touching the same.

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Order of Elder?

Answer: I do so believe.

Bishop: Are you persuaded that the holy scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined out of the said scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing, as required of necessity to salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by scripture?

Answer: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you be diligent in prayer and in reading of the holy scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

Answer: I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Answer: I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you maintain and set forth, as much as lieth in you, sweetness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

Answer: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you reverently obey your chief ministers unto whom is committed the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgements?

Answer: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.



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Almighty God, who hath given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same, that he may accomplish his work which he hath begun, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Venti Creator Spiritus (Come, Creator Spirit)

Bishop: Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire.

Response: And lighten with celestial fire;

Bishop: Thou anointing Spirit are

Response: Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart

Bishop: Thy blessed unction from above

Response: Is comfort, light, and fire of love.

Bishop: Enable with perpetual light

Response: The dullness of our blinded sight.

Bishop: Anoint and cheer our soiled face.

Response: with the abundance of thy grace.

Bishop: Keep far our foes; give peace at home;

Response: Where thou are guide, no ill can come.

Bishop: Teach us to know the Father Son,

Response: And thee of both to be but one!

Bishop: That through the ages all along

Response: This may be our endless song:

Bishop: Praise to Thy eternal merit,

Response: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Bishop: Let us pray. Almighty God, Heavenly Father, who of thine infinite love and goodness towards us has goodness towards us hast given us thy only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and the author of everlasting life, who, after He had made perfect our redemption by His death and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world His apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors, by whose labor and ministry He gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world to set forth the eternal praise of thy holy name for these so great benefits of your eternal goodness, and for that thou has vouchsafed to call these your servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto thee most hearty thanks. We praise and worship thee, and we humbly beseech thee by the same blessed Son to grant unto all, either here or elsewhere call upon thy name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto thee for these and all thy other benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of you and your Son, by the Holy Spirit.



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A SERVICE OF WORD, ORDINATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Part VIII

So that as well by these your ministers as by them over whom they shall be appointed thy ministers that thy holy name may be forever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The Ordinand(s) kneeling as the Bishop and six Elders lay on hands

Bishop: The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Ghost for the office and work of an elder in the church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the word of God and of His holy sacraments in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Bible is presented

Bishop: Take thou authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacrament in the Congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

The Communion Hymn

There is a Fountain Filled with Blood, Hymn# 255

The Prayer of Consecration

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father who of your tender mercy did give your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made there by His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world: and did institute and in His Holy Gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that, His precious death, until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech you, and grant that we receiving these your creatures of bread and wine, according to your Son, Our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood, who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread; (1) Here the elder is to take the piece of bread into his hand, and when he had given thanks, he broke it. (2) The Celebrant breaks the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat: this is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup. (3) and here to lay his hands upon all vessels containing the wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Amen.

The Elements Shared

The Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Fellowship and Celebration

The Doxology

The Benediction



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THE COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Go, preach My gospel ...

Hymn No. 220

1

Go, preach My Gospel, saith the Lord,
Bid the whole earth My grace receive;
He shall be saved that trusts My word,
He shall be damned that won't believe.

2

I'll make your great commission known,
And ye shall prove My Gospel true,
By all the works that I have done,
By all the wonders ye shall do.

3

Go heal the sick, go raise the dead,
Go cast out devils in My name;
Nor let My prophets be afraid.

4

Teach all the nations My commands;
I'm with you till the world shall end;
All power is trusted to My hands,
I can destroy, and I defend.

5

He spake, and light shone round His head;
On a bright cloud to Heav'n He rode;
They to the farthest nations spread
The grace of their ascended Lord.

Prayer

Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.



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