

RESOLUTION

#12

RESOLUTION TO PETITION GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DEACONS TO ADMINISTER THE SACRAMENTS

FROM: Rev. Patty Froehlich, Chair of the North Texas Annual Conference Order of Deacons
Rev. Rebecca David Hensley, Deacon
Rev. Elizabeth Moseley, Deacon

WHEREAS, a study of ordination was commissioned by the 2016 General Conference to, among other things, "Articulate a theology of ordained ministry for The United Methodist Church in consultation with the Committee on Faith and Order;" and

WHEREAS, according to this commissioned study, ordination is sacramental in nature, and because of the sacramental nature of ordination, both deacons and elders bear responsibility for nurturing and leading the sacramental life of the church, and

WHEREAS, the ministry of the Order of Deacons in the North Texas Annual Conference is broad, diverse, and supportive of the work and the sacramental life of the local church, and

WHEREAS, the ministry of the Order of Deacons would be more fully utilized in helping the ministry of the annual conference flourish if given the authority by the General Conference to preside over the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Texas Annual Conference requests the secretary or their designee to submit on behalf of the Annual Conference a legislative petition to the General Conference meeting in 2024 that proposes the following amendments to the *Book of Discipline*:

Amend ¶328 as follows:

¶ 328. *The ministry of a Deacon* -

From among the baptized, deacons are called by God to a lifetime of servant leadership, authorized by the Church, and ordained by a bishop.... Deacons give leadership in the Church's life: in teaching and proclaiming the Word; in contributing to worship, ~~in assisting the elders in administering the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion or in presiding at the celebration of the sacraments when contextually appropriate and duly authorized~~ for the sake of extending the mission and ministry of the church and offering the means of grace to the world; in forming and nurturing disciples; in conducting marriages and burying the dead; in embodying the church's mission to the world; and in leading congregations in interpreting the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. ~~the resident bishop of the annual conference in which the deacon is appointed may authorize the deacon to preside at the celebration of the sacraments.~~ Presiding at the celebration of the sacraments involves taking responsibility to lead the gathered community in celebrating baptism and Holy Communion. As members of the Order of Deacons, all deacons are in covenant with all other deacons in the annual conference and shall participate in the life of their order.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is encouraged to offer the following rationale in support of this legislative petition, written on behalf of the North Texas Annual Conference, to amend the Book of Discipline:

Ordained ministry is an embodied participation in the sacred movement of the Spirit in pursuit of a transformed world. Because of the sacramental nature of ordination, both deacons and elders bear responsibility for nurturing and leading the sacramental life of the church. Deacons, by virtue of their ordination should be authorized to preside over the sacramental practice of the church both within and beyond its walls. Enabling Deacons to preside at the table and the font will equip the church for continued flourishing in the future.

Deacons in Support of the Resolution

Rev. Kay Ash	Rev. David Magallanes
Rev. Josephine M. Biggerstaff	Rev. Paul Maletic
Rev. Tamara Bullard	Rev. Sarah Marsalis-Luginbill
Rev. Janet Cavalier	Rev. Camille May
Rev. Debbie Chapman	Rev. Doug Meyer
Rev. Jennifer Chickering	Rev. Caroline Noll
Rev. Karen Chraska	Rev. Ugonna Onuoha
Rev. Janet Collinsworth	Rev. Chelsea Peddecord
Rev. Kay Eck	Rev. Maggie Proshek
Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen	Rev. JamesPaul Aidan Qazilbash, BCC
Rev. Mike Flynn	Rev. Sarah Roberts
Rev. Anna Bundy Hagler	Rev. Linda Roby
Rev. Dr. Maria Dixon Hall	Rev. Jennifer Scott
Rev. Justin Hancock	Rev. Allie Shulman
Rev. Georgia Harrison	Rev. Katrina Culberson Smith
Rev. Pavielle Jenkins	Rev. Sarah Squires
Rev. Kathryn Johnson	Rev. Gary Boyd Stephens
Rev. Evan Jones	Rev. Joe Stobaugh
Rev. Terry P. Jones	Rev. Cathy Sweeney
Rev. Sheri Lake	Rev. Emma Williams
Rev. Nicki Lyford	Rev. Phyllis Wilson

Elders, Licensed Local Pastors, and Laity in Support of the Resolution

Elders

Rev. Derek Jacobs, Chair of the North Texas Annual Conference Order of Elders
Rev. Ashley Anne Sipe, President of North Texas Conference Clergywomen
Rev. J.D. Allen
Rev. Holly G. Bandel
Rev. Mitchell Boone
Dr. Tommy Brumett
Rev. Laura Byrd
Rev. Valarie Englert
Rev. Eric Folkert
Rev. Scott Gilliland
Riggsby Rev. Sara Hardaway
Rev. Ricky Harrison
Rev. Sandy Heard
Rev. Patrick Hoffman
Rev. Scott Holcomb-McLain
Strempe Rev. Allison Jean
Rev. Jarrod Johnston
Rev. Danielle Buwon Kim
Rev. Levy Laguardia

Rev. Peter McNabb
Rev. Cheryl Murphy
Rev. Katie Newsome
Rev. Tom O. Palmer
Rev. Stacey Piyakhun
Rev. Deborah
Rev. Susan Robb
Rev. Alexandra Robinson
Rev. Abe Smith
Rev. Kerry Smith
Rev. Kathryn
Rev. Preston Weaver
Rev. Ann Willet
Rev. Angela Williams
Rev. Marcus Womack

Associate Member, Rev. Laura Echols-Richter

Licensed Local Pastors

Rev. Deniece Roane-Mason, Chair, North Texas Conference Fellowship of Licensed Local Pastors
Pastor Kristen Perkins Glover
Martha Hagan-Smith
Pastor Shanna L. Kronk
Rev. Susan Leddy
Rev. Deana Lowe
Rev. Scott Luginbill
Debbie Lyons

Rev. Jana Morales
Staci Orr
Nancy Russell
Rev. Kellie Sanford
Rev. Boston White

Laity

Kim Brannon, North Texas Conference Lay Leader
Wendy Campbell, President, North Texas Conference United Women in Faith
Cat Angeles
Jenny Bates
Cathy Bell
Petrella Booker
Jeff Bouis
Shelley Bulls
LPC Kelly Carpenter
Larry E. Collins
Tracey Croissant
Baylee Davis
Gretchen Toler Debus
Michael Dorff

Rick Foreman
Chrystal Forrester
Monty Forrester
Julie Harding
Dr. Mary Anne Knolle, LMFT,
Mary Nickson
Rebecca Ozmun
Betty Petkovsek
Robert Sine
Anne Todd
Amy Wilson