

# MISSION POSSIBLE

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING



# NORTH TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

## Service of Commissioning and Ordination

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First United Methodist Church Richardson

June 3, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.

Please silence all cell phones as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

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GATHERING MUSIC

*Larry Willis, piano*

PRELUDE

Grand Choeur Dialogué

Eugène Gigout

*Dr. Hyun Lee, organist*

*Brass quintet, timpani, and Carillon Ringers of First UMC Richardson*

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 110

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

arr. Dan Forrest

\* GREETING AND PRAYER | Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

*The bishop greets the people and they respond.*

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

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 the baptismal font, begins:*

Bishop Saenz: 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.

All: **We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry.**

*All people are seated.*

## PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED, ORDAINED, OR RECOGNIZED

*All but the bishop, candidates, and their assistants may be seated. The bishop remains by the font, facing the people.*

Bishop Saenz: Who presents these candidates to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized?

All Laity: **We have recommended them in our local congregations. We present them with our prayers and support.**

All Members of the 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.

Rev. Derek Jacobs, Chair of Order of Elders: We present for transfer of orders, from deacon to elder:

Christina Marie Hildebrand

We present for ordination as elder:

Randall Glen Lucas

Grace Marie Millard

Melissa Ethlyn Nelms

Christopher Michael Vaughan

We present them with our prayers and support.

Rev. Chris Dowd, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry: We present for commissioning as provisional members:

Jennifer Lynn Bates

Kristen Perkins Glover

Jae Jun "Daniel" Cho

Shandon Chasity Klein

Eunbyul "Stella" Cho

Karyl Sibley Patredis

Colin Michael Craft

Valleri Jean Sewell

Kimberly Anne Eiffert

Kristin Nicole Steed

Monica Lynn Frazier

We present them with our prayers and support.

Bishop Saenz: We rejoice in the Spirit's work in our lives and the lives of these who come to serve and lead among us.

All: **We will uphold them with our prayers and support. Thanks be to God!**

## 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:*

My siblings in Christ, you have been called to an ordained or commissioned status in set apart ministry. The church now confirms your calling. As ordained or commissioned ministers and associate members, 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?

**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, with the help of God.**

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

**I will, with the help of God.**

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, with the help of God.**

Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting and upholding 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, with the help of God.**

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?

**I will, with the help of God.**

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.*

*All may be seated.*

SCRIPTURE READING | Rev. Jane Graner

HYMN 545

The Church's One Foundation  
*The Chancel Choirs of First UMC Richardson and Highland Park UMC*

AURELIA  
arr. Dan Forrest

\* GOSPEL READING | Rev. Sumesh Jacob

SERMON | Bishop Saenz

CALL TO OFFERING | Adam Hicks and Lorelai Monkman-Lou

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Look at the World

John Rutter

*The Chancel Choirs of First UMC Richardson and Highland Park UMC*

*Eleanor Kalescky and Riley Watson, soloists*

COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

*Candidates for commissioning rise and approach as instructed.*

Jennifer Lynn Bates	Kristen Perkins Glover
Jae Jun “Daniel” Cho	Shandon Chasity Klein
Eunbyul “Stella” Cho	Karyl Sibley Patredis
Colin Michael Craft	Valleri Jean Sewell
Kimberly Anne Eiffert	Kristin Nicole Steed
Monica Lynn Frazier	

Bishop Saenz: 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 siblings in Christ 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 colleagues in full connection 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.

PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

*The candidates kneel.*

*The bishop prays:*

Bishop Saenz: God of the apostles and prophets, of the martyrs and teachers, you raise up your people 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.

*The bishop, standing in front of and laying both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate, prays:*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_. 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 audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.*

*The bishop instructs all candidates to face the congregation and be welcomed as provisional members. Candidates move toward the center front. Congregation stands as able and applauds.*

## CELEBRATION OF DEACONS

Bishop Saenz: 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 administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion in their location of ministry,

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

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 and justice, liberation and reconciliation, especially in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice. This is the rule of life and work of a deacon.

This year, we will not receive any new ordained deacons in full connection, and yet, this year is also significant as the General Conference has approved sacramental authority for deacons—to preside over the Lord's Table and the waters of baptism—in their location of ministry beginning January 1, 2025. In the North Texas Conference, we celebrate the ministry and leadership of deacons; if you are a provisional or ordained deacon, please rise that we may affirm your calling and pray for your ministries.

*The bishop, with hands extended over deacons, prays:*

We thank you, Living 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 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, who came not to be served but to serve. Almighty God, pour upon these persons the Holy Spirit and confirm within them the calling which you have placed upon their hearts.

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

*The bishop invites those who are standing to be seated.*

## EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

*Candidates for commissioning rise and approach as instructed.*

Christina Marie Hildebrand

Randall Glen Lucas

Grace Marie Millard

Melissa Ethlyn Nelms

Christopher Michael Vaughan

*The bishop examines the candidates for ordination or recognition as elder:*

Bishop Saenz: An elder is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church: to preach and teach the Word of God [*Here a large Bible may be lifted by an assistant.*] and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; [*Here a paten and chalice may be lifted.*] to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, to order the life of the congregation and the connection; to 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. This is the rule of life and work of an elder. Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an elder?

Candidates: **I do so believe.**

## LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

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

Bishop Saenz: As these persons are ordained by the church for the office and work of elders to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for them.

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

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, 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.

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

*Candidates for ordination as elder are invited to kneel before the bishop one at a time as directed.*

*Family and friends are invited to rise in body or spirit where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands.*

*As Christina Hildebrand kneels, one of the attending persons shall remove her deacon stole.*

*The bishop lays both hands on Christina's head, praying:*

Almighty God, pour upon Christina Marie Hildebrand the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy church.

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

Christina Hildebrand, we recognize your transfer of orders from deacon to elder. Now 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.

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

Almighty God, pour upon \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy church.

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

*Immediately the candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop lays hands on the hands of the ordinand and says:*  
\_\_\_\_\_, 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 audibly affirm the action, saying, Amen.*

*The bishop instructs all candidates to face the congregation and be welcomed as full members. Congregation stands as able and applauds.*

*Retirees present each elder with a chalice in honor of ordination.*

CHORAL ANTHEM O Love Elaine Hagenberg  
*The Chancel Choirs of First UMC Richardson and Highland Park UMC*  
*Sarah Choi, cello*

\* SENDING FORTH

Bishop Saenz: Let us pray. 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.  
All: **Amen.**

\* CLOSING HYMN 584 Lord, You Give the Great Commission ABBOT'S LEIGH

\* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Bishop Saenz: The grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always. Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.  
All: **We are sent in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!**

\* GOING FORTH Toccata from Symphony No. 5 Charles-Marie Widor  
*Dr. Hyun Lee, organist*

Please join a reception in honor of our new elders and commissionees immediately following worship in the Bartula Family Life Center Gym.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. | North Texas Annual Conference  
Reverend Andrew J. Lewis | Clergy Assistant to the Bishop and Director, Center for Missional Outreach  
Reverend Cassandra Wade | Superintendent, East District  
Reverend Edlen O. Cowley | Superintendent, Metro District  
Reverend Debra Hobbs Mason | Superintendent, North Central District  
Reverend Daniel Tenney | Superintendent, Northwest District  
Reverend Dr. Owen K Ross | Director, Center for Church Development  
Kim Brannon | Lay Leader, North Texas Annual Conference  
Reverend Chris Dowd | Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry  
Reverend Kay Eck | Vice Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry  
Kelly Carpenter | Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry  
Reverend Derek Jacobs | Chair, Order of Elders  
Reverend Jane Graner | Senior Pastor, Trinity UMC Duncanville  
Reverend Sumesh Jacob | Associate Pastor, First UMC Coppell  
Lorelai Monkman-Lou | Vista Ridge UMC  
Adam Hicks | First UMC Rockwall

## MUSICIANS

First UMC Richardson Chancel Choir | Michael Lightfoot, Director  
Highland Park UMC Chancel Choir | Carey Cannon, Director  
Carillon Ringers of First UMC Richardson | Michael Lightfoot, Director  
Dr. Hyun Lee, organist  
Larry Willis, piano  
Linda Proch and Lynne Thornton, violins  
Ellen Townley, viola  
Sarah Choi, cello  
Kelley Newcomer, flute  
Beth Beathard, oboe  
David Phillips, clarinet  
Debbie Maxwell, bassoon  
Tim Anderson and Chris Stubblefield, trumpets  
Simon Willats, trombone  
Susan Frazier, horn  
Nathan Frazier, tuba  
Blayze Campbell, Rick Holt and Todd Toney, percussion

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