



13TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY

2020 Annual Conference

Old Landmarks -UNCHARTED TIMES

So that this may be a sign among you. When your children
ask in time to come, "What do those stones mean to you?"
Joshua 4:6

153rd Session of the
Tennessee Annual Conference
Ordination (Part 1)

October 24, 2020
12:00 pm

Jeffrey N. Leath
Presiding Bishop

Susan J. Leath, MD
Supervisor, Women's Missionary Society

The Reverend Troy Merritt
Host Presiding Elder, Nashville District

The Reverend Sidney Bryant
Associate Presiding Elder, South District

The Reverend Alexander Gatson
Associate Presiding Elder, North District



Payne Chapel AME Church, Nashville
Host Church

The Reverend Dr. W. Antoni Sinkfield
Host Pastor

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THIRD SESSION THE TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, 24 October 2020

Service of Ordination – Part I

The Call to Worship

Dr. W. Antoni Sinkfield
The Reverend Fred Jenkins

Leader: O Give thanks to God for all the goodness we are shown! God's steadfast love endures forever!

People: We present ourselves, our souls, and bodies as a reasonable sacrifice.

Leader: God calls us from our lofty ambitions and our occupation with marvels and matters beyond our scope.

People: We present ourselves, our souls, and bodies as a reasonable sacrifice.

Leader: We have come to witness that these are servants of Christ entrusted with the secret things of God.

ALL: Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest. Bless us through the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage to live as Your disciples day by day as a reasonable sacrifice. Amen and Amen!

The Hymn of Praise

Dr. Roderick D. Belin
Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus Hymn No. 440

The General Confession

The Reverend Benessa Sweat

Minister: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Declaration of Pardon

The Reverend Walter Reid

Almighty God, who of Your great Mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto You, 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. Amen

The Collect

The Reverend Anica Howard

Almighty God, who by Your Divine Providence has appointed diverse orders of ministers of Your Church, and did inspire Your Apostles to choose to the order of Deacons the first martyr, St. Stephen, with others; mercifully behold these Your servants now called to the like office and administration; replenish them with the truth of Your doctrine and adorn them with the innocence of life that by both word and good example they may faithfully serve You in this office to the glory of Your holy name, and the building up of Your Church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect

Dr. James McKissack

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who, by Your Holy Spirit, has appointed diverse orders of ministers in Your Church, mercifully look on these Your servants now called to the office of Elder. Replenish them with the innocence of life, that by both word and good example they may faithfully serve You in this office to the glory of Your name and the building up of Your Church, through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The Scripture Lessons**Epistle (Elders)**

The Reverend Randall Webster

*Ephesians 4:7-13***Gospel (Elders)**

Dr. Kenneth Hill

*John 10:7-16***The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Ordination of Elders **The Presentation of Candidates**

Chair Hammonds:

Bishop Leath, we present to you this person to be ordained Elder.

Bishop: Be sure that the person whom you present is proper and fit, by his godly conversation, to carry out ministry duly to the honor of God and the uplifting of the Church.

Chair: We have inquired concerning him, and also examined him, and think him so to be.

(Names read aloud by the Dean)

Dean Sinkfield:

Itinerant Orders

The Reverend Corwin Malcolm Davis

(Each candidate will stand as each name is called.)

Dr. Barbara Crawford:

Remember how great treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ for whom he shed his blood. The people, whom you must serve, are His Spouse and His Body. If the church, or any member of it, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will follow.

Dr. Ralph Johnson:

The end of ministry is to bring all committed to your charge to maturity in the faith, and to the ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

You cannot have a mind and will on your own account to accomplish this. Therefore, you need to pray earnestly for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit;

Bishop: We exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have in remembrance into how high a dignity and how weighty an office you are called; that is to say to be messengers, watchers, and stewards of the Lord; to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek 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.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: 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 conduced and proved by Scripture?

Candidates: I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God's grace.

Bishop: Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and sacraments and discipline of Christ as the Lord hath commanded?

Candidates: I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

Bishop: Will you be ready with all faithful diligence always to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's word, and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations as well to the sick as to the whole within your charge as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

Candidates: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you be diligent in prayer and in the 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?

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

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

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

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

Candidates: 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 judgments?

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

Then shall the Bishop say:

Bishop: Almighty God, who has 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 has begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

After which shall be said by the Bishop

THE VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS (COME, CREATOR SPIRIT)

Bishop: Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire

Chair Hammonds: And lighten with celestial fire;

Bishop: Thou the anointing Spirit art
Chair Hammonds: Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart

Bishop: Thy blessed unction from above
Chair Hammonds: Is comfort, light, and fire of love.

Bishop: Enable with perpetual light
Dean Sinkfield: The dullness of our blinded sight;

Bishop: Anoint and cheer our soiled face
Dean Sinkfield: With the abundance of thy grace.

Bishop: Keep far our foes; give peace at home;
Dean Sinkfield: Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Bishop: Teach us to know the Father, Son,
PE Merritt: And thee of both to be but one!

Bishop: That through the ages all along
PE Bryant: This may be our endless song:

Bishop: Praise to thy eternal merit
PE Gatson: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

As we continue in meditation until tomorrow, let us now pray:

The Closing Collect

Bishop Leath

Most merciful God, we beseech You to send on this Your servant Your heavenly blessings that he may be clothed with righteousness and that the word spoken by his mouth may never be spoken in vain. Grant, also, that we may have grace to hear and receive what he shall deliver out of Your most holy word; or agreeably to the same, as the means of salvation; and that in all our words and deeds may seek the glory and the increase of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction

The peace of God which passes understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. AMEN



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