

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

THE 146TH SESSION OF THE COLUMBIA SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SERVICE OF ORDINATION

PART 1

Thursday, October 12, 2023 | 8:30PM

Host Church:

Bethel

African Methodist Episcopal Church
819 Woodrow Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29205

The Reverend Dr. Maxine R. Sumpter
Board of Examiners Chair

The Reverend Dr. Stanley R. Flowers
Board of Examiners Dean

The Reverend Dr. Caesar R. Richburg, Host Pastor
Mrs. Ella Richburg, Host Spouse

The Rt. Reverend Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Bishop
Dr. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor

The Reverend Rosalyn Grant Coleman
Host Presiding Elder

The Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick
Associate Presiding Elder

The Reverend Samuel L. McPherson
Associate Presiding Elder

THE SERVICE OF ORDINATION

THE REVEREND DR. MAXINE R. SUMPTER

Board of Examiners Chair, Presiding

The Prelude..... Musicians

The Hymn of Praise The Reverend Dr. Maxine R. Sumpter

Board of Examiners, Chair

Hymn No. 251 "All to Jesus I Surrender"

All to Jesus I surrender, All to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all, I surrender all,
I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Saviour, wholly thine;
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me, May I know Thy power divine.

All to Jesus I surrender, Now I feel the sacred flame;
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to His name.

The Prayer of Invocation The Reverend Jannie Collier

Board of Examiners, Member

The Presentation of the Deacons

Elder: The Reverend Dr. Stanley R. Flowers

Board of Examiners, Dean

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.,

We present unto you these persons to be admitted deacon(s).

Bishop: Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

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

Elder: The Reverend Dr. Stanley R. Flowers
Board of Examiners, Dean

We have inquired concerning them,
and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Bishop: Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
Name the Candidates.

Elder The Reverend Rhudene R. Toomer
Board of Examiners, Secretary

Bishop: Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
Members of the conferences, if there be any of you who know any Impediment or crime in any of these persons presented to be ordained deacon(s), for which 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 PRESENTATION OF THE ELDERS

Elder: The Reverend Dr. Maxine R. Sumpter
Board of Examiners, Chairperson

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.,
We present unto you these persons to be ordained elders.

Bishop: Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
Take heed that the persons 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: The Reverend Dr. Maxine R. Sumpter
Board of Examiners, Chairperson

We have inquired concerning them,
and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Bishop: Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
Name the Candidates.

Elder: **The Reverend Rhudene R. Toomer**
Board of Examiners, Secretary

Bishop: Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
Members of the conferences, these are they whom we purpose, God willing this day to ordain elders; for after due examination we find not contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and they are persons meet for the same. But if there are any of you who knows any impediment or crime in any of them, for which they ought not be received into this holy ministry, let them come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

The Collect

For Deacons: **The Reverend Dr. Elaine J. Eskew**
Board of Examiners, Member

Almighty God, who by your Divine Providence hath 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 so with the truth of your 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 your holy name, and edification 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

For Elders:..... The Reverend Dr. Bobby P. Seepersaud
Board of Examiners, Member

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit has appointed diverse orders of ministers in your Church, mercifully behold these your 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 you in this office to the glory of your name and edification 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 Deacons

The Epistle.....1 Timothy 3:8-13.....The Reverend Dr. Tobie H. Pollock
Board of Examiners, Member

Deacons likewise must be serious, not double tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. 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 great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The Elders

The Epistle.....Ephesians 4:7-13.....The Reverend Dr. Danté W. Kenly
Board of Examiners, Member

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were

that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ; until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of full stature of Christ.

The Gospel.....John 10: 1-16.....The Reverend Carey A. Grady
Board of Examiners, Member

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go 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. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

Itinerant Elder:The Reverend Dr. James Wesley Dennis, III

Board of Examiners, Member

“You have heard, as well in your private examination as in the exhortation which was just made to you, and in the writings of the apostles, of what dignity and of how great importance this office is, to which you are now called. And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have in remembrance into how high a dignity and to 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.”

“Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance how great 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, are his Spouse, and his Body. And if it should happen the same church or any member thereof, 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 ensue. Wherefore consider within yourselves the end of the ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, and see that you never cease your labor, your care, and diligence until you have done all that lies in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto that agreement in the 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.”

Elder:The Reverend Dr. Debora Grant Scotland

Board of Examiners, Member

Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellence, and of so great difficulty, you see with how great awe and study you

ought to apply yourselves, as neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit ye cannot have a mind and will thereunto of yourselves for that will and ability are given of God alone; therefore you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of people, with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that specially pertain to you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures; and for this self-same cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time; and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give yourselves to this office whereby it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lies within 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 mediation of our only Savior Jesus Christ, of the heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scripture you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ that you may be wholesome and goodly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

NOTES



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