

Service for the Ordering of Ministry

The North Carolina Annual Conference

The United Methodist Church

*Graceful
Hospitality*

Saturday, June 17, 2023 • 11:00 am

Greenville Convention Center

Greenville, North Carolina

Certified Lay Ministers

Vicki Ambrose
Patricia Dickens
Janet Groberski

Deborah Horton
Julie Melson

Darren Poe
Larry Vacek

License for Pastoral Ministry

Catherine Clyburn
Katie Distefano
David Edington
Schylar Ferguson
Layne Harpine

Daeho Kang
Samantha Kiley
Joseph Dawson Lane
Gregory Major

Avanti Mitchell
Marsena Mungin
Michael Sciascia
Jonathan Sobel

Commissioning as Deacon

Zachary Tucker Moser

Commissioning as Elder

Thomas Adam Benson
Rebecca Marie Bradley
Grayson Hicks Dye
Matthew Ray Hayes

Rhonda Lei Grant Jordan
Eunsoo Kang
Kimberly Dawn Lail

Tyler Houston Moore
Heidi Elizabeth Reddy
Anna Christine Thornburg

Ordination as Deacon

Kimberley Rexrode Houff

Joy Kathleen Van Staalduinen

Ordination as Elder

Charles Crew Daly
Kristen Lynn Hanna

Julia Crone Hayes
Johnny Henry Llerena Zegarra

Amanda Lee Rigby
William Edward Sabiston

WE GATHER

Prelude *Your Sanctuary* Heather Sorenson
Conference Choir

***Processional Hymn** *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name

Verse 1: Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.

Refrain

Verse 2: Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Refrain

Verse 3: O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

Refrain

Verse 4: So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

***Greeting and Prayer** Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Bishop: 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:

People: 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 joy 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.

(The people are seated.)

**WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM AND
AFFIRM OUR COMMON MINISTRY**

(The bishop, standing near the baptismal font, begins:)

Bishop: 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 pours water from the font:)

Bishop: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

People: We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.

**PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE LICENSED, CERTIFIED,
COMMISSIONED, AND ORDAINED**

*(Those who are to be certified as lay ministers, licensed, commissioned,
and ordained are presented to the bishop.)*

(Mr. John Hall, Conference Lay Leader)

This day, these are the witnesses who have come forth from among us. They are responding to their call by the Holy Spirit to set apart ministry. Bishop Shelton, on behalf of the laity of local congregations who have examined and approved these candidates, we present these persons who are certified as lay ministers;

(Certified Lay Ministers stand)

(Rev. Dr. Sangwoo Kim, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry)

and on behalf of the district committees on ordained ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry of this annual conference, which has recommended these persons, and this annual conference, which has approved them, we present these persons who are licensed for pastoral ministry, these persons to be commissioned for ministry, and these persons to be ordained as deacons and elders.

(Licensed, commissioned, and ordained stand. Certified lay ministers remain standing)

Bishop: These persons are by God's grace to be certified, licensed, commissioned, and ordained to ministry in Christ's holy church.

Those authorized by the church to inquire about them have discerned that they are persons of sound learning and of Christian character, and possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to the certifying, licensing, commissioning, or ordaining of these persons.

Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be certified, licensed, commissioned, or ordained?

People: We do! Thanks be to God!

Bishop: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

People: With God's help, we will!

(The bishop, presenters, and candidates are seated.)

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD AND RESPONSE

Offering Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

Today's offering is for Professors in Methodism, a special endowed fund for theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. It provides long-term, sustainable salary support for teaching positions in Methodist history, theology, and polity in over 30 United Methodist-related theological schools outside the United States.

Anthem *We Are Your Church* Tina English/John Purifoy
Conference Choir

Prayer for Illumination Cameron Wittman

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of
your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy
what you say to us today. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson John 4:4-10 Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

Sermon Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Locklear: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith we now declare as we unite our voices in the historic confession of the Christian Faith. Let us join together in our native languages:

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Locklear & congregation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

Rev. Saul Gastelum Flores & congregation

**I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

Rev. "Paul" Woo-il Lee & congregation

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.** (UMH 881)

***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.*

GENERAL EXAMINATION

(All are seated except the candidates and the bishop, who stand facing one another.)

(The bishop examines the candidates:)

Bishop: Licensing, commissioning, and ordination are gifts from God to the church and are exercised in covenant with the whole church and within the covenant of the office and order.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to licensed, commissioned, or ordained ministry. The church now confirms your calling.

By the grace of God, you are to be coworkers with the laity, bishops, deacons, diaconal ministers, local pastors, associate members, commissioned ministers, and elders.

Remember that 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 that we may know that 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 licensed, commissioned, or ordained 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.

(The bishop addresses the candidates:)

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.

Amen.

(Candidates for licensing, commissioning and ordination are seated.)

(The candidates for commissioning as Certified Lay Ministers come to the front of the stage and stand facing the bishop.)

THE CERTIFICATION OF LAY MINISTERS

(The presiding bishop examines the candidates.)

The Ministry of Certified Lay Ministers Mr. John Hall
Ms. Anggie Thompson

Bishop: Do you believe you are moved by the Holy Spirit to serve as a certified lay minister?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Will you strive to live a life in keeping with what you proclaim?

Candidates: I will.

Bishop: You are hereby authorized to serve as a certified lay minister in the congregations to which you are assigned. Take care that you perform these duties faithfully as you are able, the Lord being your helper. **Amen.**

(The candidates for commissioning as Certified Lay Ministers move back to their seats.)

(The candidates for licensing come to the front of the stage and stand facing the bishop.)

(“Grace Alone”, verse 1)

Ev - ery pro - mise we can make, ev - ery prayer and step of faith,
ev - ery dif - ference we can make is on - ly by His grace.

THE LICENSING OF LOCAL PASTORS

The Ministry of Licensed Local Pastors..... Rev. Bruce Petty

EXAMINATION

(The presiding bishop examines the candidates for licensing:)

Bishop: Do you believe you are moved by the Holy Spirit to serve as a licensed local pastor?
I do.

Will you strive to live a life in keeping with what you preach?
I will.

LICENSING FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

(The bishop authorizes the candidates for licensed local pastor as a group:)

You are hereby authorized to serve as a licensed local pastor in the congregations to which you are appointed. Take care that you perform these duties faithfully as you are able, the Lord being your helper. **Amen.**

(The licensed local pastors return to their seats.)

(The candidates for commissioning come forward).

(“Grace Alone”, Verse 1)

Ev - ery moun - tain we will climb, ev - ery ray of hope we shine,
ev - ery bless - ing left be - hind is on - ly by His grace.

THE COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS FOR SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

(The bishop introduces the act of commissioning:)

Bishop: Throughout Christian history, the church has commissioned people for leadership and service. This commissioning is always a response to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who calls and sends women and men to share in Christ's ministry.

In the early stages of ministerial service, ordained leaders walk with commissioned leaders to mentor and form them in Christ's ministry, just as Ananias, the more seasoned leader, guided Paul, the newly-called evangelist, toward the fullness of his calling. (Acts 9)

EXAMINATION

(The bishop examines the candidates to be commissioned:)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a solemn hour in your life and the life of the church. You have shared in the ministry of all the baptized and have witnessed to Christ's call to leadership among the people of God.

Serving among us as faithful disciples, you have shown gifts and graces for leading the people of God in living and proclaiming the gospel to all people.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a commissioned minister?

I do so believe.

Will you give yourself fully to the work of God in the world and to servant leadership in the life and work of Christ's church?

I will, with the help of God.

(The bishop addresses the candidates:)

May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace to perform them, that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

(The bishop, extending arms over all the candidates, prays:)

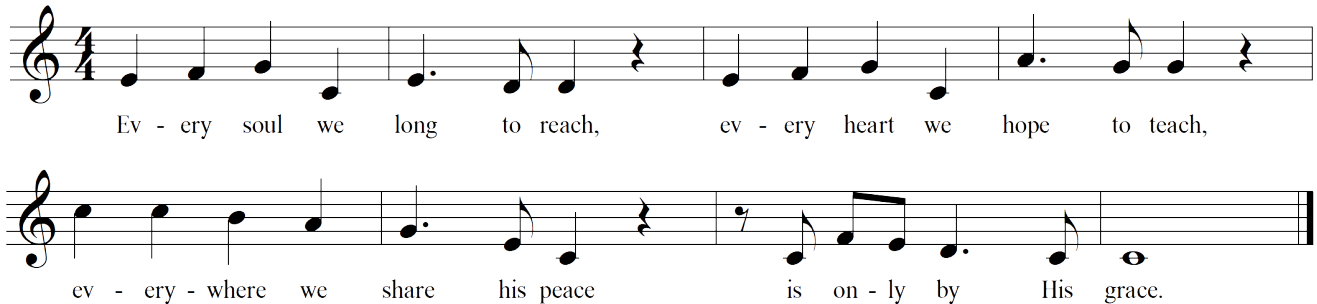
God of the apostles and prophets, of the martyrs and teachers, you raise up men and women to be apostolic leaders in your church.

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, with all of your people, to heal the sick, love the outcast, resist evil, preach the Word, and to give themselves freely for your name's sake.

(“Grace Alone”, Verse 2)



Ev - ery soul we long to reach, ev - ery heart we hope to teach,
ev - ery - where we share his peace is on - ly by His grace.

(Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for each commissioned minister.)

(The bishop, extending hands over each candidate, prays:)

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Name*.

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. **Amen.**

(The newly commissioned ministers return to their seats.)

PRAYER

(After all the candidates have been commissioned, the bishop says:)

Let us pray.

(Then all but those being commissioned pray:)

Almighty God, may the grace of ministry rest upon these your servants and may the opportunity to serve lead them into the fullness of your calling. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that they may glorify you by giving themselves to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(The candidates for ordination as deacons come forward.)

THE ORDAINING OF DEACONS

The Ministry of Deacons Rev. Joyce Day

EXAMINATION

Bishop: 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 is lifted by an assistant.)

to lead in worship, to teach and proclaim God's Word, to assist elders and local pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes,

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

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, even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice. These are the duties of a deacon.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a deacon?

I do so believe.

Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission covenant to participate in the order of deacons? Will you give yourself to God through the order of deacons in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

I will, with the help of God, and with the help of my sisters and brothers in the order of deacons.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR DEACONS

(The bishop, facing the deacon candidates, calls the people to prayer:)

As these persons are ordained by God and the church for the ministry of the deacon to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for them.

(The bishop, with hands extended over the candidates, prays:)

We thank you, Lord 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 the 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.

(The bishop lays both hands on the head of the ordinand, praying:)

Almighty God, pour upon *Name* the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a deacon in Christ's holy church. **Amen.**

(Immediately the ordinand places a hand on the Bible as the bishop lays hands on the ordinand's hands and says:)

Name, take authority as a deacon to proclaim the Word of God, and to lead God's people to serve in the world, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(The newly ordained deacons return to their seats.)

(The candidates for ordination as elders come forward.)

THE ORDAINING OF ELDERS

The Ministry of Elders.....Rev. Ben Williams

Bishop: Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an elder?

I do so believe.

Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the order of elders? Will you give yourself to God through the order of elders in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

I will, with the help of God, and the help of my sisters and brothers in the Order of Elders.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR ELDERS

(The bishop, facing the elder candidates, calls the people to prayer:)

As these persons are ordained by God and the church for the ministry 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.

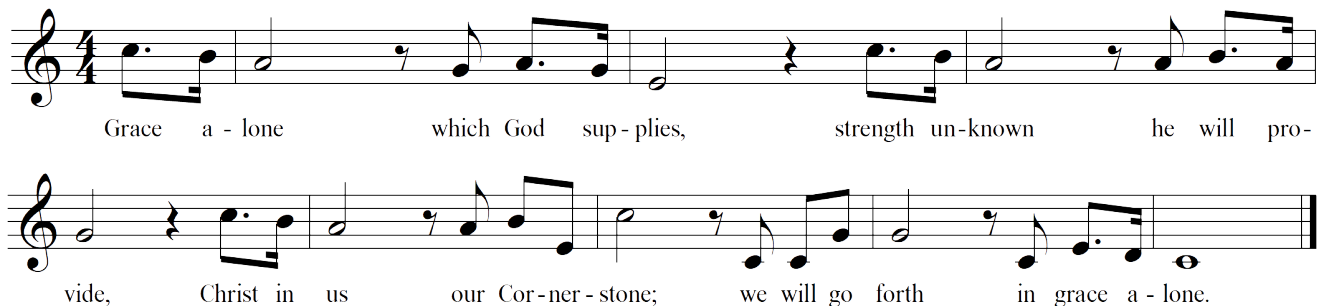
We thank you that, by dying, Christ has overcome death and, having ascended into heaven, has poured forth gifts abundantly on your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up Christ's body, and to 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 unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(Representatives from the laity and the order of elders who are to join in the laying on of hands stand with the bishop. The candidates for ordination as an elder move to the altar.)

("Grace Alone", Chorus)



Grace a - lone which God sup - plies, strength un - known he will pro -
vide, Christ in us our Cor - ner - stone; we will go forth in grace a - lone.

(When the bishop lays hands on the head of the candidate, others may lay hands on the candidate's back or shoulders.)

(Family members and friends may stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for each ordinand.)

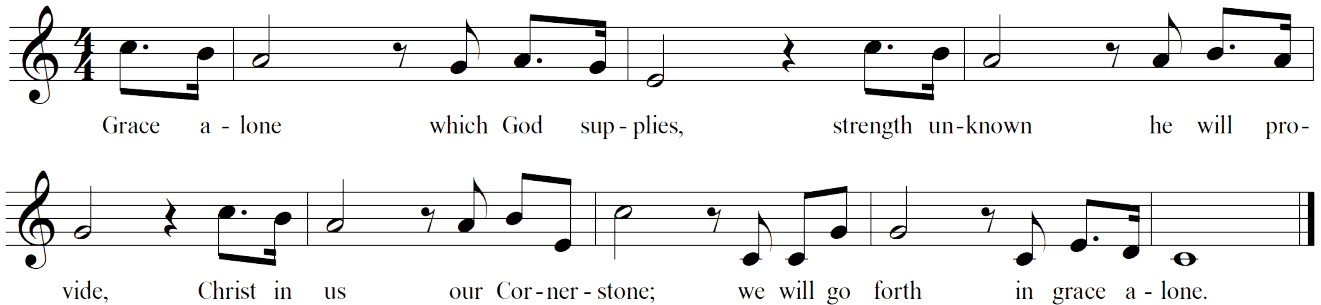
(The bishop lays both hands on the ordinand, praying:)

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

(Immediately the candidate places hands on a Bible as the bishop says:)

Name, take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God, and 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. **Amen.**

(“Grace Alone”, Chorus)



Grace a - lone which God sup - plies, strength un - known he will pro -
vide, Christ in us our Cor - ner - stone; we will go forth in grace a - lone.

WE ARE SENT FORTH FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop: Let us pray.

All: We thank you, gracious God, for raising up among us faithful servants. Clothe them with your righteousness as they go forth, and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves generously to others. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**..... *Here I Am, Lord*

Verse 1: I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I have made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

Verse 2: I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Verse 3: I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

***Dismissal with Blessing**

(Bishop sends the people forth:)

The grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
As you have received, freely give.
Go, to share generously in Christ's ministry. **Amen.**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton Resident Bishop, Raleigh Area
Bishop Hope Morgan Ward..... Retired Bishop
Mr. John Hall Conference Lay Leader
The Reverend Dr. Sangwoo Kim Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
The Reverend Dr. Kenneth Locklear Gateway District Superintendent
The Reverend Saul Gastelum Flores Associate Pastor, Fuquay Varina UMC
The Reverend “Paul” Woo-II Lee Assistant Conference Secretary
The Reverend Bruce Petty..... Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members
The Reverend Joyce Day Chair, Order of Deacons
The Reverend Ben Williams Chair, Order of Elders
Mr. Cameron Wittman The Mills Church
Ms. Anggie Thompson Co-Director, Corridor District, Lay Servant Ministries
Mr. Paul Saik Director of Music Ministries, Centenary UMC, New Bern

Lift High the Cross

Words: George William Kitchin, Michael Robert Newbolt Music:
Sydney Hugo Nicholson
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Here I Am, Lord

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Your Sanctuary

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