

A Service Celebrating the
Assignment of

Connie Mitchell Shelton



Bishop of The Raleigh Area
The United Methodist Church

North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church
Garner, North Carolina
Sunday, February 5, 2023, 5:00 P.M.

A SERVICE CELEBRATING THE ASSIGNMENT

Connie Mitchell Shelton

BISHOP OF THE RALEIGH AREA
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023, 5:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Dr. Chris Brady
Capital District Superintendent, Raleigh

GATHERING HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UMH 57

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Azmon, Carl G. Glaser

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

4. He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

5. He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

6. In Christ, your head, you then shall know,
shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below,
and own that love is heaven.

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Ms. Martha Caves
Conference President, United Women in Faith

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by your grace you have set us together in your Church, whose foundation is your Son Jesus Christ. Grant your continuing grace, we pray, to all who exercise leadership in your Church, that they may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill their various ministries; and grant that we your people may follow them where you lead and minister faithfully in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Mr. Josiah Curry
Piney Grove UMC, Maxton

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mr. Will Rouse
Conference President, United Methodist Youth

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Reverend Dr. Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean, Duke Divinity School
Clergy Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference

Ezekiel 34: 11-16 “God the True Shepherd”

PSALTER

Psalm 100 (responsively UMH p. 821)

Ms. DaShawna Corbett
Youth Communications Leader
Millbrook UMC, Raleigh

- ¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
- ² **Serve the Lord with gladness!**
Come into his presence with singing!
- ³ Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.
We are the Lord’s; we are the people of God,
the sheep of his pasture.

- ⁴ Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise!
Give thanks and bless God's name!
- ⁵ For the Lord is good;
**God's steadfast love endures forever;
God's faithfulness to all generations.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Reverend Dr. Gray Southern
Assistant to the Bishop

Titus 1:7-9 "The Character of a Bishop"

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Reverend Lisa Yebuah
Lead Pastor, Southeast Raleigh Table, Raleigh
Clergy Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference

John 21:15-17 "Feed My Sheep"

INTRODUCTION OF BISHOP

Dr. Christine Dodson
Raleigh Area Lay Representative to
Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy

Bishop Shelton,
you have been consecrated to be a shepherd and servant,
and you have now been assigned as
bishop of the Raleigh Area of The United Methodist Church.

We, the Raleigh Area representatives of the Southeastern
Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy,
do certify that Bishop Shelton,
at the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference, has been assigned
by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy
to the Raleigh Area.

We, therefore, present to this conference Bishop Shelton to
be welcomed to the area to which she has been assigned.

THE COVENANT SERVICE

The Reverend Dr. Belton Joyner
Retired Pastor and Raleigh Area Clergy Representative
to Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy

The Church is the community of those called by God,
justified by grace, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
We who are baptized into Christ's death
and raised with Christ in the resurrection
are living members of the body of Christ
who return thanksgiving to God
in ministries of worship, nurture, witness, and service.

A bishop has been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;
and to represent Christ's servanthood
in a special ministry of oversight.

A bishop is called to guard the faith, to seek the unity,
and to exercise the discipline of the whole Church;
and to supervise and support the Church's life, work,
and mission throughout the world.
As a servant of the whole Church,
the bishop is called to preach and teach
the truth of the Gospel to all God's people;
to lead the people in worship,
in the celebration of the Sacraments,
and in their mission of witness and service in the world,
and so participate in the gospel command
to make disciples of all nations.

The bishop is to lead and guide
all persons entrusted to her supervision;
join in the consecration of bishops,
ordain deacons and elders,
consecrate diaconal ministers,
and commission other ministers
for service to the Church and to the world;
and provide for the ministry of Word and Sacrament
in the congregations committed to her care.

Let the shepherd who has been called
now affirm these ministries in our midst.

Bishop:

With God's help, I promise faithfully to hear and to proclaim
God's word, and rightly administer the Sacraments, as your
pastor and servant.

People:

**With God's help,
we promise to join with you in the life of praise and thanksgiving,
and in the faithful use of the means of grace that God has given us.**

Bishop:

By the grace of Christ,
I promise to be among you as a teacher of the faith,
a pastor of souls, and a means of the unity of the body of Christ.

People:

**By the grace of Christ,
we promise to join with you in the life of learning,
in the nurturing of God's people,
and in the seeking of that oneness in Christ
which is Christ's gift to us.**

Bishop:

In the power of the Holy Spirit,
I promise to be for you a means of reconciliation and healing,
that all those who are burdened or oppressed may be made whole
and able to rejoice in the new life in Jesus Christ.

People:

**In the power of the Holy Spirit,
we promise to be, with you, faithful witnesses,
serving justice, showing mercy,
and in all things proclaiming the
acceptable year of the Lord.**

Leader:

Let the people say, "Amen."

People:

Amen and amen!

THE WELCOME

The Reverend Dr. Kenneth Locklear
Dean of the North Carolina Conference Cabinet

THE PRESENTATION OF SIGNS OF EPISCOPAL MINISTRY

(Representing the people of each of the eight districts, the district lay leaders/representatives and the district superintendents present signs of the episcopal office to the bishop. As each is received, the bishop responds, Amen, and places it on the table.)

Bishop Shelton, take this pastoral staff,
and be upheld and sustained by Christ the Good Shepherd
as you exercise the ministry of a shepherd among us in Christ's name. **Amen.**

Bishop Shelton, take this Bible,
and proclaim fearlessly the prophetic Word
in the cause of justice and peace for all people. **Amen.**

Bishop Shelton, take this pitcher and water,
be renewed in your baptism and renew us in ours. **Amen.**

Bishop Shelton, take this paten and chalice,
and keep us in communion with Christ and his Church. **Amen.**

Bishop Shelton, take this towel and basin,
and be among us as one who serves. **Amen.**

Bishop Shelton, take this stole,
and be our pastor, preacher and teacher;
encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries. **Amen.**

Bishop Shelton, take this *Book of Discipline*, guard the faith, seek the
unity, exercise the discipline of the whole Church, and supervise
the Church's life, work, and mission throughout the world. **Amen.**

Bishop Shelton, take this gavel, and preside in our Annual
Conference; appoint pastors and assign diaconal ministers to
their ministries, and guide us in our common mission of love and
justice, witness and service. **Amen.**

CHALLENGE

Mr. John Hall
Conference Lay Leader

Bishop Shelton, these are the signs of your ministry
among the people of the Raleigh Area of The United Methodist Church.
Faithfully administer discipline, but do not forget mercy,
that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear,
you may receive the never-fading crown of glory.

Bishop:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, I gladly assume, with you and among you, this ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order, of pastoral supervision, government, and service. Strengthened by the love of God and the remembrance of my consecration to the episcopacy, I am resolved to serve faithfully and well the congregations and people of the Raleigh Area as bishop, pastor, and friend.

People:

On behalf of the congregations and people, we receive you, Bishop Shelton, with joy and thanksgiving, as our bishop and pastor. We pledge to you our prayers, our loyalty, and our support as you lead us in the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us all.

ACCLAMATION

Dr. Christine Dodson
Raleigh Area Lay Representative to
Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy

THE RESPONSE

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton
Bishop of the Raleigh Area

THE PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Sangwoo Kim
Associate Dean for Vocational Formation
Duke Divinity School, Durham
Clergy Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference
Chairperson, NCC Board of Ordained Ministry

**O God, Shepherd and Ruler of the faithful,
look with favor on your servant Connie Mitchell
Shelton, whom your Church has appointed bishop
and chief pastor of the Raleigh Area.
Grant that, by word and example,
she may assist those among whom she is placed,
so that she and the people entrusted to her care
may fulfill the promises that they have made this day;
grow together in unity, love, and service;
and at last attain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

Words: Traditional Irish, translated by Mary Byrne

Music: *Slane*, Traditional Irish Melody

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Mr. Bill Huggins
Conference President, United Methodist Men

Go in peace
to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.
We go in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God!

The blessing of almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always.
Amen.

SIGNS of EPISCOPAL MINISTRY

Staff (Beacon District: Superintendent, David Blackman; Lay Leader, Tom Santa)

Bible (Capital District: Superintendent, Chris Brady; Lay Leaders, Freda Davis and Clement Quintyne)

Pitcher & Water (Corridor District: Superintendent, Mike Frese; Lay Leader, Tommy Humphries)

Chalice & Paten (Fairway District: Superintendent, Dena White; Lay Leader, Shannon Jones)

Towel & Basin (Gateway District: Superintendent, Kenneth Locklear; Lay Leader, Sara Cameron)

Stole (Harbor District: Superintendent, Tara Lain; Lay Leader, John Kelso)

Book of Discipline (Heritage District: Superintendent, Ismael Ruiz-Millan; Lay Leaders, Sylvia Harrison and David Johnson)

Gavel (Sound District: Superintendent, Jon Strother; Lay Leader, Kim Rice Smith)

Today's offering will provide scholarships for Conference Youth Ministries through the Youth Service Fund (YSF). Learn more about YSF by visiting nccumc.org/youth/ysf. Give online by scanning the QR code or visiting the website and choosing "Give Online Today."



