



**McCormick
Methodist Church**
A Stephen Ministry Congregation



McCORMICK METHODIST CHURCH

December 14, 2025

4:00 PM

Third Sunday of Advent

A Service of Ordination and Commissioning

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Peggy Thomas

Opening Prayer

Reader: 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.

***The Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee vs. 1,2,4

UMH 89

Recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism

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: Remember you are baptized, and be thankful.

We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry. Thanks be to God!

The Presentation

Who presents these candidates to be ordained and commissioned?

All: We do with the help of God. We present Wendy Kvale for commissioning as a Lay Minister and William Jacob Weber for ordination as an Ordained Minister.

These persons are by God's grace to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized for set apart 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, possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ. Therefore, they believe them to be duly called to serve God. We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to the ordination, commissioning, reception or recognition of these persons.

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

We do! Thanks be to God!

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

With God's help, we will.

The General Examination

My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to an ordained and commissioned in set apart ministry. The church now confirms your calling. As ordained or commissioned ministers you are to be coworkers with all the people of God: With laity, pastors, 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 lay 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 McCormick 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 membership 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. **Amen.**

The Scripture Lesson

Romans 10: 11-17

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks Be to God

The Message

The Calling

Rev. C. Nels Ledwell

***The Hymn**

A Charge to Keep I Have

UMH 413

Examination of Lay Minister

A Lay Minister is called to exemplify Christ's Servanthood, to participate in the leadership of worship, to teach the gospel, to counsel those in need, and to serve God's people and church with a concern for love, and ministry to all people seeking God's grace and embody the unity of the local congregation and its life in the world. These are the duties of a Lay Minister.

Do you believe you have been called by God to serve as a Lay Minister?

I do so believe.

Will you be loyal to McCormick Methodist Church accepted her order, liturgy, doctrine and discipline, committing yourself to accountable with those serving with you, and those appointed to supervise your ministry?

I will, God being my helper.

As this person is commissioned to do the work of a Lay Minister, let us pray for her.

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 this servant grace to be faithful to her promise, constant in her 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.

Eternal God, pour upon Wendy Kvale your Holy Spirit for the work as a Lay Minister in McCormick Methodist Church in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Wendy, take authority as a Lay Minister in the Church to teach the Word, to practice love and grace, and to serve God's people. **Amen.**

Wendy Kvale take authority as a Lay Minister to proclaim God's word through assisting in worship, teaching the Holy Scriptures, and leading others to do the work of Christ by your example and service. Amen.

***Response**

Glory Be to the Father

UMH 71

Examination of Ordained Minister

An ordained minister is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church:

to preach and teach the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; 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 in the kingdom, 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 ordained minister.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an ordained minister?

I do so believe and I am ready to serve.

In Covenant with other ordained ministers, will you be loyal to McCormick Methodist Church accepting her order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word, and accepting the authority of those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

I will, with the help of God.

Are you willing to bring the Word, Sacraments, Order, and Administration as an ordained minister to McCormick Methodist Church and carry God's love to her community through your witness and service.

I am willing with the help of God.

As this person is ordained by the church for the office and work of an ordained minister to which we believe they have been called by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for Him.

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

*Please stand if able