

2021 Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference

CLOSING WORSHIP



Saturday, June 19, 2021

11:30 am

Erie Bayfront Convention Center

Conference Memorials, Church Discontinuance and Sending Forth

Board of Ordained Ministry

Co-Chairpersons

Kelley M. Schanely, Eric G. Raygor

Executive Committee

Earl A. Butterfield, Tracy J. Cox, William E. Hastings, Mark E. Hecht, Debbie L. Hills, Erik A. Hoeke, Sean Lewis, Janet F. Lord (ex-officio), Terry G. Shaffer, Sara J. Wrona

Clergy Members

Kathleen J. Barnhart, Sang K. Choi, Brett M. Dinger, Keith A. Dunn, Rebecca L. Edwards, Anthony S. Fallisi, Pam S. Gardner, Annette V. Gerber, Lisa A. Grant, Darrell L. Greenawalt, J. Timothy Hoover, Roger P. Howard, Tina M. Keller, Debbie L. Kociban, Dawn E. Krishart, Eric C. Leonard, Michael E. Long, Penelope F. Lyon, Keith H. McIlwain, Dayton D. Mix, William D.

Cabinet

Resident Bishop

Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Assistant to the Bishop

Renee Mikell

Butler District

Eric Park

Connellsville District

Robert Zilhaver

Erie-Meadville District

Dennis Swineford

Franklin District

Jodie Smith

Greensburg District

Pat Nelson

Indiana District

James Pond

Johnstown District

Sung Shik Chung

District Lay Leaders

Butler District

Jerry Rectenwald

Connellsville District

Karen Sholtis

Erie-Meadville District

Gail Fees

Franklin District

Jean Ehrhart

Greensburg District

Paul Huey

Mock, Peggy M. Osborne, Thomas A. Philips, Ross T. Pryor, Joseph B. Short, Kelly J. Smith, John R. Virgin, Kellie D. Wild, Robert H. Wilson

Laity Members

Thelma R. Castor, John R. Crone, Janice M. Emblidge, Cynthia E. Hill, David R. Hurst, Thomas C. Kendig, Dean Lyons, Carol G. Morris, Peggy D. Ward

Cabinet Representatives

Sung S. Chung, J. Patrick Lenox, Patricia M. Nelson

Kane District

Pat Lenox

Pittsburgh District

Dawn M. Hand

Washington District

Paul Ritchey

Conference Lay Leaders

Sharon Gregory, Paul Huey

Director of Administrative Services

Roger White

Director of Communications

Jackie Campbell

Director of Connectional Ministries

Alyce Weaver Dunn

Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization

Amy Wagner

Indiana District

Jenny Gordon, Robert Hixson

Johnstown District

Chuck Urgolites

Kane District

Jan Clark

Pittsburgh District

Shannon Shaffer

Washington District

Bob Stark

Closing Worship with Conference Memorials and Liturgy of Discontinuance

GATHERING and PRELUDE

Goodness of God

~ Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash,
Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dawn Hand, Pittsburgh District Superintendent

Leader: Trust in the Lord and do good

People: May the Lord give strength to the people!

Leader: O taste and see that the Lord is good!

People: God is our refuge and strength.

Leader: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

People: In the midst of grief we sing with joy, for God's love is indeed with us. Blessed be God's glorious name forever.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

~ Thomas O Chisholm, William M. Runyan

*OPENING PRAYER

Tender and compassionate God, we seek to know you through the hearing of your Word, and pray that we may go beyond hearing to obeying, as did your servants who have faithfully lived and died. We praise you, O God, for the saints who went before us who have spoken to our hearts and touched us with your fire. We praise you, O God, for the saints who live beside us whose weaknesses and strengths are woven into our own. And we praise you, O God, for all the saints who live beyond us who challenge us to change the world with them. Grant that we, like all your saints, may know your presence and experience the fire within that sends us out to share the good news of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

The Rev. Kelley Schanely, Board of Ordained Ministry Co-chair

As the name of each of the honored dead is read aloud, if that person's life and ministry touched your life, you are invited to stand in their memory.

PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS (unison)

O God of both the living and the dead, we praise your holy name for the faithful lives of your departed servants whom we honor today. We thank You for the sacred ties that bind us to those unseen who encompass us as a cloud of witnesses. We pray that, encouraged by their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may be diligent followers and that nothing will be able to separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

For All the Saints

~ *William W. How, Ralph Vaughan Williams*

LITURGY OF DISCONTINUANCE

From An Order for the Leave–Taking of a Church Building and An Order for Disbanding a Congregation

Copyright © 1992 UMPH

Tom Hallman, Conference Trustees Chair

The Rev. James Pond, Cabinet Secretary

Leader: For the Word of God proclaimed in sacred sanctuaries,
For generations who have prayed their prayers and sung your praises,
For lives introduced to God’s grace at baptismal fonts,
For tables where the Lord’s Supper and potluck suppers have been shared:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For altar rails where we have
Confirmed our youth,
Knelt in confession,
Professed our faith,
Vowed our love, and
Mourned our dead

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the many who moved beyond church walls to serve God and our neighbors;
For food pantries and shelters, childcare and scout troops;
For all the servant ministries that changed lives:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For all this, O God, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord, and we
release these congregations into your keeping and care.

People: Amen.

DECLARATION OF CLOSING & PRAYER OF COMMITTAL

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

O God Our Help in Ages Past

~ *Isaac Watts, William Croft, W.H. Monk*

LITANY FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

UMBOW 495

The Rev. Sean Lewis, Chair, Order of Deacons

Let us pray for the Church and for the world:

Grant, almighty God,

That all who confess your name may be united in your truth,
Live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** *(Silent prayer.)*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,

In the ways of justice and peace;

That we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** *(Silent prayer.)*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,

That we may use its resources rightly

In the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** *(Silent prayer.)*

Bless all whose lives are linked with ours,

And grant that we may serve Christ in them,

And love one another as Christ loves us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** *(Silent prayer.)*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in mind, body or spirit;

Give them courage and hope in their troubles,

And bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** *(Silent prayer.)*

We commend to your mercy all who have died,

That your will for them may be fulfilled;

And we pray that we may share with all your saints

In your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** *(Silent prayer.)*

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Living Hope

~ Brian Johnson, Phil Wickham

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (CEB)

Donna Vizza, Chair, Connectional Leadership Team

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

SERMON

"Press On"

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

SONG OF RESPONSE

Press On

~Dan Burgess

WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYER

The Rev. Ross Pryor, Board of Ordained Ministry

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Bishop: Church, today we recognize all that has happened in our life together as an Annual Conference, and the ministry that continues to take place across all of the local churches and extension ministries that we support. In the name of Jesus Christ, I commend you to this work and pledge to you my prayers, encouragement and support, and I would ask the same of you for me. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us, that in this and in all things, we may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ!

The Bishop may give some personal words of closing and encouragement, and then end the Conference in prayer...

Let us pray:

All: **Almighty God, look with favor upon us as we reaffirm our commitment to follow Christ and to serve in Christ's name. Give us courage, patience, and vision, and strengthen us all in our Christian vocations of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and Amen!**

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

ADJOURNMENT

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE AND GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

Great Things

~ Phil Wickham, Jonas Myrin

SERVICE MUSIC PROVIDED BY:
Crossfire Worship Band
Butler First United Methodist Church
Butler, PA

All music used under Christian Copyright Solutions, License #6940



Western PA Conference
The United Methodist Church