

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

**First Presbyterian Church
Orangeburg, South Carolina
September 15, 2020**

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION - Moderator

We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders, and as ministers of Word and Sacrament. Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us.

Through ordination, God provides for acts of care and compassion in the world, for the ordering and governance of the church, for the preaching of the word, and the celebration of the sacraments.

FOR DEACONS AND RULING ELDERS BEING ORDAINED AND INSTALLED – Clerk of Session

Representing the one holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the session of First Presbyterian Church now ordains **Carol Cassone, Anna House, Suzanna Crabb, Sloan Moore, and Kathy Bradley** to ordered ministry as deacons; and ordains **Melissa Plummer** to the ordered ministry as ruling elder; and installs them to active service in this congregation.

FOR DEACONS AND RULING ELDERS PREVIOUSLY ORDAINED AND NOW INSTALLED – Clerk of Session

The session also installs to active service those who have been previously ordained: ruling elders **David Gillespie, Retta Guthrie, and Jimmy Smoak**.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS – Moderator

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

(Deacons) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

(Elders) Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONGREGATION – Clerk of Session

Do we, the members of the church, accept **David Gillespie, Retta Guthrie, Melissa Plummer,** and **Jimmy Smoak** as ruling elders; and **Carol Cassone, Anna House, Suzanna Crabb, Sloan Moore,** and **Kathy Bradley** as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

PRAYER OF ORDINATION – Rev. Sherry Teves, Interim/Transitional Pastor

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God,

we give you thanks for your steadfast love and faithfulness to us. In every age you have called forth leaders to serve you and equipped them with your gifts. Among your people Israel, you anointed prophets, priests, and rulers.

You called pastors and teachers, bishops, elders, and deacons to build up your church. With Moses, the seventy elders bore the burdens of your people, ministering in the power of your Spirit. Alongside the apostles, deacons cared for all in need and guarded the community's peace.

In the church, deacons, ruling elders, and pastors serve together, so that your whole people might be equipped for ministry and built up into the full unity of Christ.

For your servants in every age, O God, and for the church of Jesus Christ, we give you all thanks and praise.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your newly ordained servant deacons and ruling elders, whom you called by baptism as your own. Grant them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. May they be faithful to your church, expressing the compassion of Christ for the poor and the friendless, the sick, the grieving, and the troubled.

UNISON: God of grace, give them prudence and sound judgment, and courage to order the life of the church in obedience to your Word. Nourish them in the life of the Holy Spirit, that they may exercise the ministry of discipline with humility and compassion. Guide them in governance, on this session and in every council of the church, that they may be servant leaders following Christ who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Give them joy in their walk of faith and a sure sense of your abiding presence for their work of ministry. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord and Head of the Church. Amen.

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION (AND INSTALLATION) - Moderator

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: those of you now newly ordained and those called to service again, you are now deacons and ruling elders installed to the ordered ministries of service and governance in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.

Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. WELCOME TO MINISTRY TOGETHER.

CHARGE: Brothers and Sisters, receive the words from the scriptures as your charge.

2 Tim. 2:15 (Moderator)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Matt. 9:35-38

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." I have so charged you in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

Heb. 12:1-4, 12-14 (Rev. Teves)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. I have so charged you in the name of the Triune God. Amen.