

U.M. Daily

Saturday, June 20, 2026

**42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
The Service of Word and Table for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons,
the Commissioning of Provisional Members, and Recognition of Orders
9:00 a.m. (PDT)**

The musicians played as the people gathered.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar, offered housekeeping information and welcomed those gathered.

The candidates were escorted to line up.

Processional Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

UMH 584

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered a word of greeting and the Opening Prayer.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank introduced the participating Bishops: Bishop Grant Hagiya; Bishop Mary Ann Swenson; Bishop Manuel de Jesús Ruelas-López, and Bishop Delores J. Williamston, who will sharing the Word today.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank offered the litany of the Recognition of Common Ministry and Reaffirmation of Baptism.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin welcomed the Persons to be Ordained, Commissioned or Recognized to come to the stage.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank presented the Persons to be Ordained, Commissioned or Recognized.

Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader, invited the laity to recognize and offer support to the Candidates.

Rev. Greg Batson, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, invited the Board of Ordained Ministry to rise and share that they have examined the Candidates and support them in their calling and their ministry.

Rev. Kristin Sutrave, Board of Ordained Ministry, invited the Deacons in Full Connection to rise as the candidate for ordination as Deacon was presented and to offer him their prayers and support.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar, invited the Elders in Full Connection to rise and present the candidates for ordination as Elder, and present them with their prayers and support.

Rev. Karl Stuckenberg, Provisional Registrar, presented for provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as Elders: Ruben Esponda; Viliami Ongo Koli, Zicong Li, Kiana Nicholson, and Bridie Charlotte Roberts.

Rev. Greg Batson, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, presented for ordination as Deacon: Brian Tipton. For ordination as Elders: Martin Finau, Christian Jung, Hyun Seob Kwon, Sejin Oh, and Kimberly Ports.

Rev. Diane Rehfield, Board of Ordained Ministry Transfer Chair, presented the following persons for Recognition for Orders in the United Methodist Church as provisional members on the Elder track: Baldwin Avendano (Inglesia Metodista de Mexico, A.R.) and Riju Jayan (Church of South India).

Bishop Escobedo-Frank shared that these persons are by God's grace to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized for set apart ministry in Christ's Holy Church. They were affirmed as persons of sound learning and of Christian character, possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ. They are believed to be duly called to serve God. Bishop Escobedo-Frank invited the assembled people to recognize the candidates and trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be ordained, commissioned, received or recognized.

The candidates were recognized and upheld in their ministry.

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

Bishop Escobedo-Frank, Bishop Grant Hagiya, and Bishop Mary Ann Swenson examined the candidates for commissioning, ordination and recognition.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NRSVUE) was read by Bishop Manuel de Jesús Ruelas-López in Spanish, Zicong Li in Chinese, and Bridie Roberts in English.

Sermon

Pour the Oil

Bishop Delores J. Williamston
of the Louisiana Conference

Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader, led the reading of the Apostles Creed.

COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank commissioned and offered prayer and a laying on of hands over the Candidates for Commissioning as Provisional Elders.

Ordained clergy and the candidates' support persons prayed for and participated in the laying on of hands over the Candidates.

ORDINATION OF DEACON AND ELDERS

Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank commissioned and offered prayer and a laying on of hands over the Candidates for Ordination of Deacon and Elders.

Ordained clergy and the candidates' support persons prayed for and participated in the laying on of hands over the Candidates.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

As the Candidates for Ordination as Deacon and Elders stood, Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank examined them for Ordination as an Elder, then they prayed over them. Candidates for Ordination as a Deacon and Elder were invited to kneel before the Bishops one at a time. Family members and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for Ordinands.

All three Bishops laid hands on the head of each Ordinand and prayed. The Ordinand then placed his/her hands on the Bible, while Bishop Escobedo-Frank charged them to take their authority as an Elder. Each person ordained then received a stole to represent the mantle they took up.

The candidate for Ordination as Deacon: Brian Tipton

The candidates for Ordination as Elders: Martin Finau, Christian Jung, Sejin Kaleb Oh, and Kimberly Ports.

Congratulations were extended to all of the Candidates.

RECOGNITION OF ORDERS

Bishop Escobedo-Frank recognized those being received into the Orders of the United Methodist Church as Provisional Members on the Elder Track:

Ruben Esponda; Viliami Ongo Koli; Kiana Nicholson; Zicong Li; Bridie Charlotte Roberts

RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEACON'S ORDERS

Rev. Martha Morales, Chairperson, Order of Deacons shared the history of the Order of Deacons and invited all Deacons present to rise and be recognized.

Brian Tipton, Deacon, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the Deacons.

RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Rev. Anna Mulford shared the history of the Ordination of Women, and Rev. Kimberly Ports offered a prayer of thanksgiving. This prayer was written by Rev. Stephanie Rice, Associate Pastor at Glendale First UMC for the GCSRW 70th Anniversary Liturgy.

Hymn

The Servant Song

TFWS 2222

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Bishop Escobedo-Frank invited the body to the time of Thanksgiving and Communion. Bishop Delores J. Williamston and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank officiated the Eucharist.

During the time of Holy Communion, the congregation sang *Let Us Break Bread Together* (UMH 618) and *One Bread, One Body* (UMH 620).

After receiving Communion, each commissioned or ordained candidate went to the Bishop to receive foot or hand washing.

The songs *O Love* and *You Do Not Walk Alone* were offered by the musicians.

Bishop Manuel de Jesús Ruelas-López led The Lord's Prayer in Spanish, as all in attendance were invited to speak The Lord's Prayer in their preferred language.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank offered the Prayer after the Great Thanksgiving.

SENDING FORTH

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered the Dismissal with Blessing.

Closing hymn

Go Make of All Disciples

UMH 571

The Astonish Ensemble:

Braden Pontoli – Music Director
Sarah Finley, Vocals
Agustín Donati Tete, Guitar
Emilia Borja, Percussion

Dr. Lara Urrutia – Piano, Keyboards & Vocals
Kirk Averitt, Vocals
Nigel Deane, Violin 1
Manoela Wunder, Violin 2