



The Service for Celebration of Ministry and Commissioning

The SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College Syracuse, NY

Friday, May 31, 2024 • 7:00 PM

To be commissioned for the work of an Elder



Justin Michael Hood



Christine Ann Mitchell



Danyal Mohammadzadeh



Alicia Margaret Wood

Those being consecrated Deaconess

Constance Glover

Being received as transfer into Upper New York

Josefina Nicholas-Tacadena

The Service for Celebration of Ministry and Commissioning

Syracuse, NY

Friday, May 31, 2024, 7:00 PM

* Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.

ENTRANCE

Prelude

Procession of Clergy, Retirees, Board of Ordained Ministry, Candidates, and Cabinet

Processional Hymns

*Forward Through The Ages

UMH 555

1. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits at the call divine; Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord, Manifold the service, one the sure reward.

Refrain:

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

2. Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light; For it we must labor, till our faith is sight. Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified, poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.

Refrain

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

3. Not alone we conquer, not alone we fail; In each loss or triumph lose or triumph all. Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole, Move we on together to the shining goal

Refrain

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

*Take My Life

arr. Christ Tomlin in D

Verse 1

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days;

Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Verse 2

Take my voice, and let me sing Always only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee. Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use Ev'ry power as You choose.

Chorus

Here am I all of me. Take my life it's all for Thee.

Verse 3

Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Your feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be Ever only, all for Thee.

Chorus x3

Here am I all of me, Take my life it's all for Thee.

Ending

Take myself and I will be, Ever only all for Thee.

*Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

arr. CityAlights in C

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer There is no more for heaven now to give He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace And he was raised to overthrow the grave To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus For my life is wholly bound to his Oh how strange and divine, I can sing "all is mine!" Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken For by my side, the Saviour he will stay I labour on in weakness and rejoicing For in my need, his power is displayed To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley he will lead Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Verse 3

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven The future sure, the price it has been paid For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon To this I hold, my sin has been defeated Jesus now and ever is my plea Oh the chains are released, I can sing "I am free!" Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus For he has said that he will bring me home And day by day I know he will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus All the glory evermore to him When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Tag

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus All the glory evermore to him When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me. *x3*

GREETING AND PRAYER

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We come together to praise God, to hear the Holy Word, and to seek for ourselves and others the presence, power, and direction of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit you gave to your apostles and all your Church many excellent gifts.

Come upon us gathered here to celebrate our shared ministry and set apart those who will lead among us, by calling and equipping us to fulfill your desire that we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

This baptismal font serves as a reminder of our oneness formed from the broken pieces of the past. It continues to be a symbol of the hope and promise offered to us as God's faithful people. It symbolizes for this community of faith the possibility and promise of newness and blessing as we seek to discern God's invitation for us as we move forward.

Bishop lifts the baptismal font and moves into the reaffirmation of baptism.

RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The Bishop, standing near a baptismal font, shell, or vessel of water, begins:

Bishop: 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 creation.

Come now, God, and send your Spirit among us,
Trouble for us this water of memory and imagination.
Send your Spirit among us,
To enliven our praise,
To strengthen our hands,
To guide us in work and place, in service and love,
To assure us once more and again of your love.

Siblings,

Know once again that through your baptism, You are claimed and called by God forever.

In celebration of our shared ministry, I call upon all God's people gathered here:

Bishop pours water from the pitcher into the basin.

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

People: We remember our baptism and affirm our shared ministry. Thanks be to God!

The congregation may be seated. Bishop remains in front facing the people.

Transitional Music The Summons TFWS vs. 1

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in Me?

PASSING OF THE CONFERENCE CANE

The Conference Cane has a long tradition for many in the Upper New York Conference. For others, it is something new that they have never heard of. The Conference Cane was made an heirloom of the Upper New York Conference at the uniting conference held in Syracuse in 2010, and was designated to be held by the longest continuously serving clergy member of the Upper New York Conference, or the predecessor conferences.

The Conference Cane was made by the Rev. George Taylor, originally a member of the Genesee Conference, from a timber salvaged from the first Methodist Episcopal Church (and first Protestant Church) in Michigan, which burned in 1841. This church was part of the Genesee Conference when it was built in 1818. At its founding, the Genesee Conference extended from Quebec City to Detroit to northcentral Pennsylvania.

The Cane was given by Rev. Taylor to the Rev. Glezen Fillmore, one of the pioneering pastors and Presiding Elders of the Genesee Conference, with the request that he should keep it as long as he lived, and that it should "descend after Brother Fillmore's decease to the oldest member of the conference, (that is, the longest serving) and so on successively."

Rev. Fillmore, in the morning session of the Genesee Conference on September 6, 1854, presented the cane to the Conference, and made a motion that it be received according to Rev. Taylor's wishes. It was received, and the cane has passed in unbroken line to this day, through the Genesee to the Western New York Conference to the Upper New York Conference. Thirty-two clergy members have been holders of the Conference Cane, including the Rev. Norman Parsons, the current holder since December 2020.

In the long tradition of the Conference Cane, it is generally presented to the successor as soon as possible after the death of the previous holder.

Today, we give thanks for the life, ministry, and legacy of Rev. Norman Parsons who passed away on September 30, 2023, and pass the Conference Cane to the Rev. David Lubba our longest living, longest service clergy member in Upper New York.

CELEBRATION OF RETIREES, DEAN OF THE CABINET

We come this day to offer thanks to you, O Lord, for these individuals who have faithfully served Your church over the years, now that they enter a new season in retirement; for their witness, their commitment, their leadership. They listened and heard your call, your invitation to a life of ministry and service. We offer our deep gratitude on behalf of these individuals and say, thank you.

All: We give thanks to you, O God, for the faithful ministry and service of those who are retiring.

The Church, and this gathered community, recognize the need of our world for faithful, compassionate people who will listen for and answer Your call. These retirees heard and acknowledged that call for many years and continue to listen for your new invitation for their lives and ministry. As we pass the mantle this day, we pass faithfulness, hope, trust, and deep compassion and commitment.

All: We give thanks to you, O God, for those who will receive and accept this mantle and continue this faithful ministry.

Conference Secretary reads the names of those retiring; they will cross the stage as their name is read.

All: Thank you for your ministry and service to the church and the world.

Bishop addresses retirees:

Colleagues in Christ, as you retire, you pass the mantle of leadership to a new class of leaders. Your ministry and service has been a symbol for others; you accepted authority for sharing the Holy scriptures, for preaching the Word, for celebrating the sacraments, for ordering the life of the Church, for equipping the people of God, and for serving as a bridge from the church to the world. You did this and more through God's grace.

All: We give thanks to God for your faithful presence and leadership. We thank God that you listened for and heard the call to ministry and willingly accepted God's call.

The mantle of leadership has been passed from one generation to the next throughout the centuries. Moses passed the mantle to Joshua, Jesus passed the mantle to his disciples, John Wesley passed the mantle to Thomas Coke and, in turn, to Francis Asbury. For centuries the mantle has been passed to those who were gifted and called to this ministry of disciple-making and service for the sake of building up the body of Christ.

As I hold the mantle today, I lift up those who are to be commissioned to continue this legacy of ministry and service.

Transitional Music The Summons TFWS vs. 2

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

THE ORDER OF CONSECRATION FOR THE OFFICE OF DEACONESS AND HOME MISSIONER

Presiding bishop to those being Consecrated: Friends in Christ, we rejoice that you responded to God's call to servant in ministry as a deaconess / home missioner of The United Methodist Church. In your ministry you continue a tradition of service that is as vital today as it was in 1888 when the Office of Deaconess was first authorized in the Methodist tradition.

The call of God is always profound, and our response can be no less extraordinary. In the varied ministries of love, justice and service to which the Holy Spirit is leading you, you will testify to the infinite love of God in Christ Jesus. Such a lifetime vocation confers a great privilege; it also lays upon you a solemn responsibility.

In your consecration, you publicly declared your commitment:

- To engage in this lifelong work of love, justice and service and to assume its responsibilities led by the Spirit of God.
- To be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, in mutual relationship with the communities you serve and in all other means of grace available to you.
- To earnestly seek to carry forward your ministry call in sincerity and in love under the direction of the Church.
- To accept responsibility for participation in the mutually supportive deaconess and home
 missioner covenant community and for a lifetime of loving and supporting your diaconal
 siblings as part of the world diaconate.

Do you now affirm these commitments publicly in the presence of this assembly?

Deaconess: I do so publicly affirm these declarations with God being my helper.

Bishop: Today, we send you forth with our blessings and support.

All those to be commissioned stand as able. Designated representatives from the community assist the bishop in the laying on of hands.

Bishop: *Constance Glover*, I commission you to the appointed ministry of *Lead Coordinator Community Cafe* on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop: *Josefina Nicholas-Tacadena*, I receive your transfer into the Upper New York Conference to the appointed ministry of *Nursing Home Resident Support Attendant (RSA) Caressant Care* on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Presiding bishop to congregation: Let us pray: Most Gracious God, source of all mercies, anoint these your servants with your Holy Spirit, enrich them with your grace, and strengthen them for the tasks which lie ahead. May their labors glorify your holy name, as they continue their daily work in ministries of love, justice and service on behalf of The United Methodist Church. Through your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

To the church gathered here and around the world, I present our *deaconesses*, commissioned to a lifetime of Christ-like service under the authority of the Church. Thanks be to God!

Transitional Music The Summons TFWS vs. 3

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED

Each candidate stands when his or her name is read and remains standing.

Bishop: Who presents these candidates to be commissioned?

Jessica White, Conference Lay Leader

On behalf of all the laity, we have recommended them in our local congregations. We present them with our prayers and support.

Rev. Ann Kemper (Co-Chair Board of Ordained Ministry):

On behalf of the Upper New York Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, we have examined these candidates according to the standards of our Discipline and this Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

We present them with our prayers and support.

Rev. Carmen Perry (Co-Chair Board of Ordained Ministry):

On behalf of the Upper New York Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, we present with our prayers and support these persons who have been elected provisional members to be commissioned for the work of an elder.

Justin Michael Hood Christine Ann Mitchell Danyal Mohammadzadeh Alicia Margaret Wood *Bishop:* These persons are by God's grace to be commissioned, 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 Christian character, possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serving Jesus Christ. Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to their call. Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be commissioned, ordained, or received?

People: We do! Thanks be to God!

Bishop: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

People: With God's help, we will!

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

All remain seated except the candidates and the Bishop, who stand facing one another. The Bishop examines the candidates for commissioning and ordination:

Bishop: My siblings in Christ, you have been called to a commissioned status in set apart ministry. The Church now confirms your calling. As commissioned ministers, you are to be coworkers with all the people of God: with laity, bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors, provisional members, certified lay ministers, lay servants, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missioners, supply pastors, all who serve God in the Church.

Remember you are called to serve rather than to be served, to proclaim the Church's faith 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 commissioned ministry?

Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do so believe and confess.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I am so persuaded by God's grace.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: Will you give yourself entirely to the work of God in the world and to servant leadership in the life and work of Christ's Church?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word, and committing yourself to be accountable to those serving with you, and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the life of the order into which you are commissioned? Will you give yourself to God through the 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?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop: May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace to perform them so that the work begun in you may be perfect.

All: Amen.

All may be seated.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Old Testament Scripture Joshua 24: 14-15

Special Music Holy Spirit arr. Francesa Battistelli in D

Gospel Scripture Ephesians 1: 15-23 (NIV)

Sermon "The Joy of Hope" Bishop Tracy Smith Malone

Resident Bishop of the Ohio East Episcopal Area

Hymn My Hope is Built UMH 368

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain:

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain:

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

Refrain:

INTRODUCTION TO COMMISSIONING

The commissioning candidates for elder or deacon come forward and stand in a half circle on stage facing Bishop.

Bishop: By affirming the covenant of baptism, all members of Christ's holy Church pledge to serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Bishop: Christ gave all of us this command: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest." We have asked, and the Lord has answered.

These siblings know our Savior's concern for God's people, see the plentiful harvest, and are ready to respond generously to the Lord in the words of the prophet: "Here I am; send me."

Urged on by the love of Christ and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, they now come to declare in public their desire to live out the covenant made at their baptism by binding themselves to the service of God under the supervision of the Bishop and the guidance of ordained colleagues and by being appointed to share as servant leaders in the body of Christ.

Today we commission them to service as they continue to prepare for ordained ministry among us.

THE PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

The candidates remain standing.

The Bishop, facing the congregation and extending arms over all of the candidates prays for them.

District Superintendents, Co Chairs of BOOM, and Lay Leader

imposed hands on those being commissioned.

Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer

while the Bishop prays.

Bishop: God of the apostles and prophets, martyrs and teachers, you raise men and women to be apostolic leaders in your Church. By your Holy Spirit, help these servants understand and live the mystery of your love with boldness and joy. Deepen their sense of purpose as they exercise commissioned ministry. Empower them and those who will walk with them to guide their ministry, together with your people, to heal the sick, love the outcast, resist evil, preach the Word, and give themselves freely for your name's sake.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon, Justin Michael Hood Christine Ann Mitchell

Danyal Mohammadzadeh

Alicia Margaret Wood

Send them now to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, announce the reign of God, and equip the Church for ministry in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

After the commissioning prayer, the Bishop invites the congregation to greet the class of those commissioned.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop: Let us pray together:

All: We thank you, gracious God, for raising among us faithful servants. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others. Amen.

WITNESS TO A CALL TO MINISTRY

THE CALL

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez

The Bishop offers a call to ministry and invites persons to come forward. The newly commissioned will pray for those who come forward.

*Transitional Music The Summons TFWS vs. 4 & 5

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the word around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when I but call you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go, where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's communion be with you all always.

Deacon: Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

People: We are sent in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!

Build Your Kingdom Here

By Rend Collective in D

Verse 1

Come set Your rule and reign

In our hearts again.

Increase in us, we pray.

Unveil why we're made.

Come set our hearts

Ablaze with hope,

Like wildfire in our very souls;

Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.

We are Your church;

We need Your pow'r in us.

Chorus

Build Your kingdom here.

Let the darkness fear.

Show Your mighty hand.

Heal our streets and land.

Set Your church on fire.

Win this nation back.

Change the atmosphere.

Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Verse 2

We seek Your kingdom first.

We hunger and we thirst;

Refuse to waste our lives,

For You're our joy and prize.

To see the captives' hearts released;

The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace

We lay down our lives

For heaven's cause.

We are Your church;

We pray, revive this earth.

Verse 3

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r,

Reaching the near and far.

No force of hell can stop

Your beauty, changing hearts

You made us for much more than this;

Awake the kingdom seed in us.

Fill us with the strength

And love of Christ.

We are Your church:

We are the hope on earth.

Chorus

Battle Belongs

Verse 1

When all I see is the battle,

You see my victory.

When all I see is a mountain,

You see a mountain moved.

Verse 2

And as I walk through the shadow,

Your love surrounds me.

There's nothing to fear now,

For I am safe with You.

Chorus

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees

With my hands lifted high.

O God, the battle belongs to You.

And every fear I lay at Your feet

I'll sing through the night.

O God, the battle belongs to You.

Verse 3

And if You are for me,

Who can be against me?

For Jesus, there's nothing

Impossible for You.

Verse 4

When all I see are the ashes,

You see the beauty,

When all I see is a cross,

God, You see the empty tomb.

Chorus

Bridge

Almighty Fortress,

You go before us,

Nothing can stand against

The power of our God.

You shine in the shadows,

You win every battle,

Nothing can stand against

The power of our God.

{Repeat 2x}

Chorus

O God, the battle belongs to You.

Worship Team

Rev. Nancy Dibelius, chairperson, Rev. Chad Sayers, Pastor Rebekah Solar, Pastor Kevin Kitto

Music Team

Nairobi Smith, *music director*, Iain Cockram, Brendan Fox, Pastor Kevin Kitto, Marietta Kitto, Pastor CJ Rolle, Noah Stierheim

Special thanks to all who have helped with this service in any way.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez Resident Bishop

Jessica White Conference Lay Leader The Rev. William Gottschalk-Fielding Assistant to the Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens Director of Missional Excellence

The Rev. Michael Weeden Dean of Cabinet and

Northern Flow & Mohawk District Superintendent

The Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood Crossroads/Finger Lakes District Superintendent

The Rev. Suzanne Block Genesee Valley & Mountain View District

Superintendent

The Rev. Debbie Earthrowl

The Rev. Robert Kolvik-Campbell

The Rev. Carlos M. Rosa-Laguer

Adirondack/Albany District Superintendent

Binghamton/Oneonta District Superintendent

Cornerstone & Niagara Frontier District

Superintendent

Mary Bradley Episcopal Manager

• Forward Through the Ages, The United Methodist Hymnal #555; Words, Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; Music Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

- Take my Life by Christ Tomlin in D. © 2003 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs
- My Hope is Built, The United Methodist Hymnal #368; Words: Edward Mote, 1834, Music: William B. Bradbury, 1863 @ Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
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- The Summons, The Faith We Sing #2130, Words: John Bell, Music: Traditional Scottish Words © Words: 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland; Music: David Peacock The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd, sub to Hope Publishing for various regions)
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The Bible used in today's worship service was presented by Bishop Francis Asbury to the Genesee Conference at its founding session in 1810. All those ordained in the Genesee, East Genesee, Central New York, North Central New York, and Upper New York Conferences have placed their hands upon the *Asbury Bible*.

The fused-glass Crucifer, made by the Rev. Meredith Vanderminden, was first presented at the 2013 session of Annual Conference.

