

# ORDER FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH LEADERS

*Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ*

*Plymouth, New Hampshire*

**July 26, 2020**

**10:30 AM**



Pastor: Today we come together joyfully to recognize and commission those who have been elected to serve our congregation through a variety of ministries. In this act we recognize the diverse gifts of our members as they accept our invitation to serve this community of faith. These leaders need our blessing, affirmation, and support if they are to do what we have asked them to do.

Will you join with me in our opening Litany taken from 1 Corinthians 12?

Pastor: There are different gifts,

**All: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

Pastor: There are different ways of serving God,

**All: but it is the same Lord who is served.**

Pastor: God works through different people in different ways,

**All: but it is the same God whose purposes are achieved through them all.**

Pastor: Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit, to use for the common good:

**All: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of him.**

## Hymn

## “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

Blk#539

### Verse 1

Won’t you let me be your servant?  
Let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too

### Verse 2

We are pilgrims on the journey,  
We are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Go the mile and bear the load

### Verse 5

When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we’ve known together  
Of Christ’s love and agony.

*(Our thanks to Alison Thatcher who will lead us in singing. Please “mute” yourself.)*

Clerk: At our Annual Meeting, a list of persons was presented to us by the Nominating Committee to assume leadership roles and responsibilities as Officers, Committee Chairs and Committee Members for the year 2020/2021. I now present them as duly elected and ready to be commissioned to their work of ministry. Please join in the Responsive Reading as indicated.

**Congregation: We, the members of this congregation, charge you to be guided in your work by the vision we express in our Statement of Faith, Covenant of the Church, Commitment to Openness and Affirmation, and The Call expressing our calling as Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ.**

**Women: We charge you to affirm the dignity and worth of all persons and to champion the rights of children, youth, women, and men; straight and gay; old and young; that this might indeed be an Open and Affirming church.**

**Men: We charge you to cherish our spiritual diversity and to help us to live together so that we are strengthened rather than divided by our religious pluralism, so that we might truly cherish the integrity of each individual and search for truth with reason as our guide.**

**Youth/Children:** We charge you to honor our past without being bound by it, that we might be mindful of our past yet draw on our continued learning as we respond to the spiritual needs of everyone.

**Congregation:** We charge you to hold in your hearts the needs of the wider community in which we live, so that we live out our devotion to the common good in community, nation, and world.

**Minister (to the Council):** Members of the Council, you are charged with keeping sight of "the Big Picture," with holding our vision, honoring our past, and guiding us toward our future. Are you ready and willing to accept this charge? [*We are.*]

**Minister (to the Committee Chairs):** Committee Chairs, you are charged with keeping sight of your particular piece of our community's mosaic, with advocating for the needs of the area of our communal life which is your specific concern, and working with one another for the common good of the whole. Are you ready and willing to accept this charge? [*We are.*]

**Minister (to the Committee Members):** Committee Members, you are charged with caring for and nurturing the life of this community of faith, of weaving together the strands of our lives and of the world in which we live into a tapestry of strength, beauty, and inspiration in service to all God's children. Are you ready and willing to accept this charge? [*We are.*]

**Minister (to the Congregation):** Do you, the members and friends of this congregation, affirm these elected leaders as volunteers who need your support, your participation, and your appreciation as well as your caring and concern? [*We do.*]

**Congregation:** Grateful for your willingness to take on the responsibilities of leadership in our congregation, we affirm your calling and vow to support and pray for your ministries of leadership in every way we can. We encourage you to take care of yourselves as you take care of us, and to remember that you are a valued part of our church family even while you lead us.

**Pastor:** In response to, and as a sign of, this affirmation of your call to service in the name of Jesus Christ, on behalf of our congregation I declare that you are now commissioned to the work of ministry to which you have been elected. May God bless you and make you a blessing.

Let us pray: Eternal God, send your Spirit among us, that we may truly be your church. Grant wisdom, courage, and compassion to these your servants that they may embrace the opportunities and responsibilities of ministry in Christ's name and for your glory. Help them on our behalf to be faithful and honorable, diligent and imaginative even in times of difficulty. Help them go forth with a real sense of joy and encouragement, trusting that your yoke is easy, and your burden light.

**All: Amen.**

**Benediction**

ELECTION OF 2020/2021 OFFICERS, MINISTRY COORDINATORS AND COMMITTEE  
 Report of the Nominating Committee:  
 Annual Meeting of Plymouth Congregational UCC  
 June 14, 2020

<b>Church Council</b>		<b>Building and Grounds Committee [SC]</b>	
Carol Stewart, Chair	2022	Butch Castor	2022
Wayne Martin, Vice Chair	2022	Dale Mosher	2021
Alice O'Connor, Clerk	2021	Jim LaPrad,	2021
Beverly Newton, At Large	2022		
Susan Gontarz, At Large	2021		
<b>Music Committee [SC]</b>		<b>Finance Committee [SC]</b>	
Peggy Martin, Chair	2022	Linda LaPrad, Finance officer	2021
Margot Swift	2022	Bill Larson	2021
Alison Thatcher	2022	Ann Thurston	2021
Lisa Lovett	2021	Jenny Thibeault	2022
Linda Carrier	2021	Larry Spencer, Treasurer	
Eileen Torrey, Worship			
David Williams, Choir Director, Ex-officio			
<b>Deacons</b>		<b>Human Resources Committee [SC]</b>	
Carol Stewart	2022	Kelly Small, Chair	2021
Malcolm Taylor	2022	Jan Bass	2021
Bev Tedeschi	2022	Mimzie Uhler	2022
Lynn Morrison	2021	Nance Ruhm	2022
Fran Lewis	Support		
Eleanor Spencer	Support		
Eileen Torrey, Worship Coordinator			
<b>Fellowship</b>		<b>Nominating Committee [SC]</b>	
Georgene Fabian, Chair	2021	Frances Taylor, Chair	2021
Ruth Sigvardson	2022	Georgene Fabian	2021
Ann McCahan	2022		
<b>Church School Committee [SC]</b>		<b>Mission &amp; Social Outreach Committee</b>	
Emily Ball	2021	Rebecca Larson, Chair	2022
Kirstin Bass	2022	Susan Wei	2021
Julie Kelsey, Co-CE Director, Ex-officio		Gale Adams-Davis	2022
Gale Adams-Davis Co-CE Director, Ex-officio		Ruth Mosher	2021
		Kathy Henning	2022
		Sylvia Shaw	2022
		Eileen Torrey	2022
<b>Worship Ministry Coordinator</b>			
Eileen Torrey, Chair	2022		
Carol Stewart	2021		

+ Serving second two year term

\*extended term

[SC] Standing Committee

Ex. Off (Ex-officio) – Because of other positions, these people are automatically members of an SC

