

Installation of Conference Leaders

PSEC, UCC Spring Meeting, August 15, 2020

Rev. Worley: Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth. To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. Minasian: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church, in this case the regional church of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the conference.

Rev. James: There are different gifts of the Spirit, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

Rev. Minasian: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. Christ is like a single body, which has many parts. It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts. If one

part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Rev. Worley: The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member of the body to participate in, and extend, the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the gospel in both church and society. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts and equipping members trained for Christian service.

Rev. James: These people have been called by God to serve in various ministries of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. They have accepted their call and desire to witness to that call in the presence of this gathered people.

Rev. Minasian: It is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility for service in the ministry of the church whether local or far; gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of the position to which you have been called, are you prepared to lead and to serve in Christ's name, to build up and strengthen the Body of Christ with God's help and to God's glory? If so, please say 'I am.'

LEADERS: I am.

Rev. James: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully showing forth the love of Jesus Christ? If so, please say, 'I do, relying on God's grace.'

LEADERS: I do, relying on God's grace.

Rev. Worley: Members of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Will you affirm your intention to live in covenant with them and to celebrate with them the joy that is ours to be partners in the service of Jesus Christ? Do you promise to love and support them and to follow their leadership that together we may be a *faithful* and *united* church of Jesus Christ? If so, please say, '*We do and we will relying on God's grace.*'

PEOPLE: We do and we will relying on God's grace!

Rev. Minasian: Let us be together in a spirit of prayer. Eternal God, you have called these brothers and sisters to serve the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference its people, pastors and parishes. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among

us with honor and faithfulness, courage and conviction. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you placed before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Rev. Worley: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the people of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce you are installed in your respective positions in accordance with the faith and order of The United Church of Christ. On behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ, we extend to you virtual hands and hugs of Christian love and fellowship. And let all God's people say, '**Thanks be to God!**'