

70th ANNIVERSARY

OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION

IN THE METHODIST TRADITION



General Commission
on the Status and
Role of Women

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Liturgical Resource in Celebration of 70 Years of Women’s Ordination

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**Rasilimali ya Kiliturujia kwa Maadhimisho ya Miaka 70 ya Uwekaji Wakfu wa Wanawake
katika Huduma ya Kichungaji**

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Foreword

English

Long before any church body formally recognized their call, women shaped the life of Methodism with courage, devotion, and prophetic voice. From the earliest days of the movement, women like Sarah Crosby and Mary Bosanquet Fletcher had the courage to preach the Gospel to crowds. Bosanquet Fletcher would be the first Methodist woman to defend women's right to preach when she wrote John Wesley in 1771: *"I do not believe every woman is called to speak publicly, no more than every man to be a Methodist preacher, yet some have an extraordinary call to it, and woe be to them if they obey it not."* With this rationale of "extraordinary call," John Wesley began to formally license women to preach.

While women's right to preach did not live much beyond John Wesley's lifetime, women continued to follow a call to ministry as missionaries, class leaders, and exhorters. Within larger American Methodism, Jarena Lee, Sojourner Truth, Phoebe Palmer, and Anna Howard Shaw – just to name a handful – nurtured communities of faith, preached the good news, and opened pathways for those who would follow them.

Yet the journey toward formal recognition of their ministry within the institutional Church was long and hard-won. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, women in Methodist traditions received licenses to preach, served as missionaries in distant lands, and pursued theological education—even as they encountered resistance and barriers to full clergy rights. Within The United Methodist Tradition, ordination rights were granted at different times. The earliest rights were given by the General Conferences of the Methodist Protestant, who ordained Helenor Davisson in 1866 and the United Brethren who ordained Ella Niswonger in 1889.

However, rights, once granted, can be taken away. As denominations merged, ordination of women were stripped away. When the Methodist Protestant merged with the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1939 to form The Methodist Church, their historic ordination of women was removed. The same happened when the United Brethren merged with the Evangelical Association in 1946 to create the Evangelical United Brethren. This reversal stands as a warning to us all to continue to support women in the pulpit, the pew, and the world.

A pivotal moment came in 1956, when the General Conference of The Methodist Church granted women full clergy rights, a decision that opened the doors to full ordination in ways that had been denied for generations. Maud Keister Jensen became the first woman to receive these rights in that landmark year, and in the decades that followed, women have continued to

expand their leadership in every sphere of the Church's life.

Since then, United Methodists across the globe have witnessed women breaking new ground—serving as pastors, superintendents, bishops, and leaders in every council and agency of the Church. Their ministries testify to the truth that God calls without regard to gender and equips all who respond with gifts for the work of Christ's service.

As we celebrate seventy years of women's ordination, we give thanks for the faithful witness of those who have gone before and for the many women whose ministries continue to enrich and transform the United Methodist Church today. With gratitude for the past and hope for the future, may we continue to affirm the full participation of all God's children in the life and mission of the Church, trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us into ever greater faithfulness and inclusivity in the years ahead.

Kiswahili

Muda mrefu kabla ya taasisi za kanisa kutambua rasmi wito wao, wanawake walikuwa tayari wameunda na kuathiri maisha ya Umethodisti kwa ujasiri, kujitoa, na sauti ya kinabii. Tangu siku za mwanzo za harakati hiyo, wanawake kama Sarah Crosby na Mary Bosanquet Fletcher walikuwa na ujasiri wa kuhubiri Injili mbele ya makundi ya watu. Bosanquet Fletcher alikuwa mwanamke wa kwanza wa Kimethodisti kutetea haki ya wanawake kuhubiri alipomwandikia John Wesley mwaka 1771 akisema: *“Siamini kwamba kila mwanamke ameitwa kunena hadharani, kama vile si kila mwanaume anayeitwa kuwa mhubiri wa Kimethodisti; lakini wapo wengine wenye wito wa kipekee kwa kazi hiyo, na ole wao ikiwa hawatautii.”* Kutokana na hoja hii ya *“wito wa kipekee,”* John Wesley alianza kuwapa wanawake vibali rasmi vya kuhubiri.

Ingawa haki ya wanawake kuhubiri haikuendelea kwa muda mrefu baada ya kifo cha John Wesley, wanawake waliendelea kuitikia wito wa huduma kama wamisionari, viongozi wa vikundi vidogo vya waumini, na wahamasishaji wa imani. Katika Umethodisti mpana wa Marekani, wanawake kama Jarena Lee, Sojourner Truth, Phoebe Palmer, na Anna Howard Shaw – kutaja wachache tu – walilea jumuiya za imani, wakahubiri Habari Njema, na kufungua njia kwa wale waliokuja baada yao.

Hata hivyo, safari ya kufikia kutambuliwa rasmi kwa huduma yao ndani ya taasisi ya Kanisa ilikuwa ndefu na yenye changamoto nyingi. Katika karne ya kumi na tisa na mwanzoni mwa karne ya ishirini, wanawake katika mapokeo ya Kimethodisti walipewa vibali vya kuhubiri,

walitumika kama wamisionari katika nchi za mbali, na walitafuta elimu ya kitheolojia—hata hivyo walikumbana na upinzani na vikwazo katika kupata haki kamili za uchungaji. Ndani ya mapokeo ya Kanisa la United Methodist, haki za kuwekwa wakfu zilitolewa kwa nyakati tofauti. Haki za mwanzo zilitolewa na Mikutano Mkuu ya Kanisa la Methodist Protestant, ambalo lilimweka wakfu Helenor Davisson mwaka 1866, na Kanisa la United Brethren, ambalo lilimweka wakfu Ella Niswonger mwaka 1889.

Hata hivyo, haki zikishatolewa zinaweza pia kuondolewa. Kadiri madhehebu yalivyokuwa yakiungana, haki za kuwekwa wakfu kwa wanawake zilindolewa. Mwaka 1939, Kanisa la Methodist Protestant lilipoungana na Methodist Episcopal Church na Methodist Episcopal Church, South kuunda The Methodist Church, utaratibu wao wa kihistoria wa kuwaweka wanawake wakfu ulifutwa. Hali kama hiyo ilitokea mwaka 1946 wakati United Brethren walipoungana na Evangelical Association kuunda Evangelical United Brethren. Tukio hili la kurudishwa nyuma linapaswa kuwa onyo kwetu sote kuendelea kuwaunga mkono wanawake katika madhabahu, katika viti vya waumini kanisani, na katika ulimwengu mzima.

Wakati muhimu sana ulifika mwaka 1956, pale Mkutano Mkuu wa The Methodist Church ulipowapa wanawake haki kamili za uchungaji. Uamuzi huu ulifungua milango ya kuwekwa wakfu kikamilifu kwa namna ambayo ilikuwa imekataliwa kwa vizazi vingi. Maud Keister Jensen akawa mwanamke wa kwanza kupokea haki hizi katika mwaka huo wa kihistoria. Katika miongo iliyofuata, wanawake wameendelea kupanua uongozi wao katika kila nyanja ya maisha ya Kanisa.

Tangu wakati huo, Waumini wa United Methodist kote duniani wameshuhudia wanawake wakivunja mipaka mipya—wakihudumu kama wachungaji, wasimamizi wa majimbo ya kanisa, maaskofu, na viongozi katika mabaraza na taasisi mbalimbali za Kanisa. Huduma zao zinashuhudia ukweli kwamba Mungu huita bila kuzingatia jinsia, na huwapa vipawa wote wanaoitikia wito wake ili kufanya kazi ya kumtumikia Kristo.

Tunapoadhimisha miaka sabini ya kuwekwa wakfu kwa wanawake, tunamshukuru Mungu kwa ushuhuda wa uaminifu wa wale waliotutangulia, na kwa wanawake wengi ambao huduma zao zinaendelea kulibariki na kulibadilisha Kanisa la United Methodist leo. Kwa shukrani kwa yaliyopita na tumaini kwa yajayo, na tuendeleo kuthibitisha ushiriki kamili wa watoto wote wa Mungu katika maisha na utume wa Kanisa, tukiamini kwamba Roho Mtakatifu ataendelea kutuongoza katika uaminifu na ujumuishaji mkubwa zaidi katika miaka ijayo.

Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History

Opening Prayers

Prayer I

Korean

자비로우시며 정의로우신 하나님,
여성에게도 목회와 섬김의 길을 열어 주신 은총에 감사를 드립니다.
모든 성별, 모든 나이, 모든 사람에게 주신 당신의 부르심을 기억하게 하시고,
차별 없이, 침묵을 강요받지 않으며,
서로의 은사를 기쁨으로 인정하는 교회를 이루게 하소서.
함께 일하고, 함께 배우고, 함께 변화하는 공동체로
우리 모두를 새롭게 하소서.
예수 그리스도의 이름으로 기도합니다. 아멘.

English

Gracious and justice-seeking God,
We give thanks for the gift of ministry opened to women and all whom You call. Let us remember that Your Spirit equips people of every gender, every age, and every identity, so that no one is silenced, excluded, or diminished. Shape us into a Church that celebrates each person's gifts with joy, equity, and shared purpose. Renew us as a community that learns together, serves together, and transforms together. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kiswahili

Ee Mungu mwenye neema na mtaka haki,

tunakushukuru kwa zawadi ya huduma ambayo imefunguliwa kwa wanawake na kwa wote unaowaita. Tusaidie kukumbuka kwamba Roho wako huwapa watu wa kila jinsia, kila umri, na kila utambulisho uwezo na vipawa, ili asiwepo yeyote anayenyamazishwa, anayetengwa, au kudharauliwa. Utufanye tuwe Kanisa linalosherehekea vipawa vya kila mtu kwa furaha, kwa haki na usawa, na kwa kusudi la pamoja. Utufanye upya ili tuwe jumuiya inayojifunza pamoja, inayotumikia pamoja, na inayobadilika pamoja. Tunaomba katika jina la Yesu Kristo. Amina.

Rev. Hyewon "Sophia" Carno, GCSRW Board Member, Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church (FUMC) at the Chicago Temple, Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Prayer II

Gracious and Loving God, from the beginning you created us in your image and called us to be people of love and peace. We remember our foremothers; their perseverance, persistence, and patience. We remember your calling on our lives to love our neighbor, to serve all God's creation, and to work for justice. With your wisdom and strength we are rooted in our faith so that we may "hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering" (Hebrews 10:23) for you, our God, are faithful. Amen

Kiswahili

Mungu mwenye neema na upendo, tangu mwanzo ulitumbua kwa mfano wako na kutuita kuwa watu wa upendo na amani. Tunawakumbuka mama zetu wa imani waliotutangulia—uvumilivu wao, ustahimilivu wao, na subira yao. Tunaukumbuka wito wako juu ya maisha yetu wa kumpenda jirani, kutumikia viumbe vyote vya Mungu, na kutenda kazi ya haki. Kwa hekima na nguvu zako tunajengwa imara katika imani, ili tuweze "*kushikilia sana ungamu la tumaini letu bila kuyumba*" (Waebrania 10:23), kwa kuwa wewe, Mungu wetu, ni mwaminifu. Amina.

*Rev. Stephanie Rice, Associate Pastor at Glendale First United Methodist Church,
California-Pacific Annual Conference*

Prayer III

Norwegian

Herre,

Vi takker deg for at du ser alle, at du kaller til tjeneste uavhengig av hvem vi er i andres øyne. Vi takker deg for tjenesten til alle kvinner – for deres gode forbilder – de vi lærer å kjenne i Bibelen og de vi møter på vår veg. Takk for deres villighet til å tjene deg.

Vi ber om at du fortsatt kaller kvinner til tjeneste, må du gi dem du kaller styrke til å si ja til kallet, gå ut i tjeneste for deg, og gjøre verden litt bedre for menneskene de møter, så de kan møte deg som sin Herre og Frelser.

La oss alle fortsatt oppdage din storhet, kjærlighet, omsorg og omtanke i ditt ord og gå ut i hverdagen å leve ditt budskap, være håpet for et annet menneske. I ditt navn viber. Amen

English

Lord,

We thank you that you see everyone, that you call people to service regardless of who we are in the eyes of others.

We thank you for the ministry of all women—for their good examples—those we come to know in the Bible and those we meet along our way.

Thank you for their willingness to serve you.

We pray that you will continue to call women into service. Grant those whom you call the strength to say yes to the calling, to go out in service to you, and to make the world a little better for the people they meet, so that they may come to know you as their Lord and Savior.

Help us all to continue discovering your greatness, love, care, and compassion in your Word, and to go out into our daily lives to live your message, to be hope for another person.

In your name we pray. Amen.

Kiswahili

Bwana,

Tunashukuru kwamba unawaona watu wote, na kwamba unawaita watu kutumikia bila kujali sisi ni nani machoni pa wengine.

Tunakushukuru kwa huduma ya wanawake wote—kwa mifano yao mema—wale tunaowajua katika Biblia na wale tunaokutana nao katika safari ya maisha. Tunakushukuru kwa utayari wao wa kukutumikia.

Tunaomba uendelee kuwaita wanawake katika huduma. Wape nguvu wale unaowaita ili wakubali wito huo, waende kukutumikia, na kuufanya ulimwengu uwe bora kidogo kwa watu wanaokutana nao, ili wakupate wewe kama Bwana na Mwokozi wao.

Tusaidie sisi sote kuendelea kugundua ukuu wako, upendo wako, uangalizi wako, na huruma yako katika Neno lako, na kutoka katika maisha yetu ya kila siku kuishi ujumbe wako, kuwa tumaini kwa mtu mwingine.

Katika jina lako tunaomba. Amina.

Rev. Helen Byholt Lovelace, GCSRW Board Member, Norway Annual Conference

Prayer IV

God of transforming love,

From the seasons and tides we learn that you delight in change. In the color and movement of butterflies and children we discover that change is encoded into creation, into our bodies.

Radiant One, your heart calls us to change.

Giver of life, guide our moving, our becoming, our unfolding,

As we grow and bloom into our fullness, full of grace, driven by joy, bursting with love, into the mystery of our making and into the image of Christ,

The One who leads us into transformation, of our bodies, our hearts, our world. Amen!

Kiswahili

Mungu wa upendo unaobadilisha,

kutoka katika majira na mawimbi tunajifunza kwamba unapendezwa na mabadiliko. Katika rangi na mwendo wa vipepeo na watoto tunagundua kwamba mabadiliko yameandikwa ndani ya uumbaji, hata ndani ya miili yetu. Wewe Uliyejaa Nuru, moyo wako unatuita tubadilike.

Mtoaaji wa uzima, tuongoze katika mwendo wetu, katika kuwa kwetu, katika kufunuliwa kwetu, tunapokua na kuchanua katika ukamilifu wetu—tukiwa tumejaa neema, tukiongozwa na furaha, tukifurika upendo—tukiingia katika fumbo la kuumbwa kwetu na katika sura ya Kristo, Yeye anayetutuongoza katika mabadiliko ya miili yetu, mioyo yetu, na ulimwengu wetu. Amina!

*Rev. Andromeda Woodworth, Pastor of Neighborhood Church ATL,
North Georgia Annual Conference*

Calls to Worship

Call to Worship I

Leader: Hesaketvmese (Giver of Breath- Muscogee Creek), Chihowa (God - Choctaw), we come to this space to honor and recognize who you are in our lives.

Response: Help us to see and feel your presence as we hear your call to fulfill our duties as your Disciples. As we gather, unite our hearts in purpose so that our actions reflect your love in every step of our journey.

Leader: We acknowledge the lands we walk upon and the waters that give us life each day.

Response: Help us to be good stewards over the lands, waters, and those you entrust us with.

Leader: We carry the words of wisdom and inspirations of our ancestors who shared your message of grace, love and hope.

Response: Let us lead with compassion, offering hope to those we serve in our homes, churches and communities. May our stories of Jesus inspire others to seek and worship you.

Leader: We thank you for the changing of the seasons to remind us that in our walk of life there will be changes we too will go through as women, as daughters and as mothers.

Response: Support us during our trials, whisper words of comfort and assurance, so we may know that all will be well. Let us hold tightly to your everlasting love, drawing strength from your presence.

Leader: As we give life and breath to our homes, nurture our relationships and guide the next generation – whether as mothers, mentors, or caregivers – we commit ourselves to supporting and uplifting those who will come after us. United in purpose, we pledge to foster growth, wisdom, and hope for the future.

Response: Together, we will nurture the seeds of tomorrow, guiding future generations.

Leader: We will live fully in our identity, culture, and traditions, for these are the gifts that shape who we are. You have given us the breath of life, and we honor that gift by embracing all that makes us unique.

Response: You have breathed life into us and taught us to walk with purpose – serving others with empathy, kindness, and courage. Help us to carry this spirit into every moment, so our journey may inspire healing in our communities.

Leader: There will be those who walk in your light and those who walk in darkness. We can connect to both because of the wisdom and guidance you have supplied us.

Response: As Moses carried your staff of strength & wisdom to lead your children, we will lean upon our ancestor’s teachings for your strength and wisdom to be a beacon for us and generations to come.

Leader: We will carry your words of life through every breath, every deed, and every thought.

Response: We will discipline ourselves so our studies and prayers are aligned with you, Our Creator.

All: Together, we carry your spirit— guiding and uplifting those who have lost their way, so that each may discover their path of hope, for this is the calling we embrace.

Kiswahili

Kiongozi: Hesaketvmese (*Mtoa Pumzi – Muscogee Creek*), Chihowa (*Mungu – Choctaw*), tunakuja mahali hapa kukuheshimu na kutambua wewe ni nani katika maisha yetu.

Wote: Utusaidie kuuona na kuuhi uwepo wako tunaposikia wito wako wa kutimiza wajibu wetu kama wanafunzi wako. Tunapokusanyika, unganisha mioyo yetu katika kusudi moja ili matendo yetu yaakisi upendo wako katika kila hatua ya safari yetu.

Kiongozi: Tunatambua ardhi tunayotembea juu yake na maji yanayotupatia uhai kila siku.

Wote: Utusaidie kuwa wasimamizi wema wa ardhi, maji, na watu uliotukabidhi kuwahudumia.

Kiongozi: Tunabeba maneno ya hekima na msukumo kutoka kwa mababu na mabibi zetu waliotutangulia, waliotushirikisha ujumbe wako wa neema, upendo, na tumaini.

Wote: Tujiongoze kwa huruma, tukitoa tumaini kwa wale tunaowahudumia katika nyumba zetu, makanisa yetu, na jamii zetu. Hadithi zetu kuhusu Yesu ziwe chanzo cha kuwahamasisha wengine kukutafuta na kukuabudu.

Kiongozi: Tunakushukuru kwa mabadiliko ya majira yanayotukumbusha kwamba katika safari ya maisha yetu pia tutapitia mabadiliko—kama wanawake, kama binti, na kama mama.

Wote: Utusaidie wakati wa majaribu yetu; sema nasi maneno ya faraja na uhakika, ili tujue kwamba yote yatakuwa mema. Tusaidie kushikamana sana na upendo wako wa milele, tukipata nguvu kutoka katika uwepo wako.

Kiongozi: Tunapoleta uhai na pumzi katika nyumba zetu, tukilea mahusiano yetu na kuongoza kizazi kijacho—iwe kama mama, walezi, au washauri—tunajitoa kuwasaidia na kuwainua wale watakaokuja baada yetu. Tukiwa na kusudi moja, tunaahidi kukuza ukuaji, hekima, na tumaini kwa ajili ya wakati ujao.

Wote: Kwa pamoja tutakuza mbegu za kesho, tukiviongoza vizazi vijavyo.

Kiongozi: Tutaishi kikamilifu katika utambulisho wetu, utamaduni wetu, na desturi zetu, kwa kuwa hivi ni vipawa vinavyotufanya tuwe tulivyo. Umetupa pumzi ya uhai, nasi tunaiheshimu zawadi hiyo kwa kukumbatia kila kinachotufanya tuwe wa pekee.

Wote: Umetutia pumzi ya uhai na kutufundisha kutembea kwa kusudi—tukiwahudumia wengine kwa huruma, wema, na ujasiri. Utusaidie kubeba roho hiyo katika kila wakati wa maisha yetu, ili safari yetu iwe chanzo cha uponyaji katika jamii zetu.

Kiongozi: Kutakuwa na wale wanaotembea katika nuru yako na wale wanaotembea katika giza. Tunaweza kuwafikia wote kwa sababu ya hekima na mwongozo uliotupa.

Wote: Kama vile Musa alivyoibeba fimbo yako ya nguvu na hekima kuwaongoza watoto wako, nasi tutategemea mafundisho ya mababu na mabibi zetu ili tupate nguvu na hekima yako, na kuwa mwanga kwetu na kwa vizazi vijavyo.

Kiongozi: Tutayabeba maneno yako ya uzima katika kila pumzi, kila tendo, na kila wazo.

Wote: Tutajitunza kiroho ili masomo yetu na maombi yetu yaendane na mapenzi yako, Ee Muumba wetu.

Wote kwa Pamoja: Kwa pamoja tunabeba Roho yako—tukiwaongoza na kuwainua wale waliopoteza njia, ili kila mmoja apate kugundua njia yake ya tumaini; maana huo ndio wito tunaoukubali.

*Rev. Sunrise Ross, New Hope Indian UMC, Oklahoma Missionary Indian Conference (OIMC) and
Rev. Kim McKinney, Kullichito UMC, OIMC*

Call to Worship II

Inspired by the Songs of Mary (Luke 1:46-55) and Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

Leader: Today we remember the songs of faithful and courageous women, like Mary and Hannah. These are songs of praise, courage, and hope.

People: We raise our voices with them to praise God's goodness. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: "Our souls praise the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior."

People: God has been kind to the humble and the faithful. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: "Our hearts rejoice in the Lord; our God gives us strength."

People: We rejoice in the victory God gives us when we live by faith and trust. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: As the people of God, you are called to serve in the "Imago Dei".

People: Called to protect life, uphold its sacredness, and serve with courage and compassion. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: Like Mary and Hannah, you are called to boldly speak the truth and firmly stand against systems, norms and structures that cause harm and are unjust.

People: O God, give us prophetic voices to declare your justice and righteousness. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: You, like Mary and Hannah, are called to participate in God's mission of setting people and all of creation free from violence, oppression, and injustices.

People: Give us the power to be instruments of Your liberating grace. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: You are called to do sacred tasks for peace, justice, and equality, just like Mary and Hannah.

People: God, let your kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: Like Mary and Hannah, you are sent to sing out hope and freedom, proclaiming liberation for the people, the land and all of creation.

People: May our witness lead us on, and may our hope endure. (sound of chime/bell)

Leader: And we will keep singing with our words, our faith, and our witness.

People: Until all of life that God has promised is fulfilled and shared. (sound of chime/bell)

Kiswahili

Umehamasishwa na Nyimbo za Maria (Luka 1:46–55) na Hana (1 Samweli 2:1–10)

Kiongozi: Leo tunakumbuka nyimbo za wanawake waaminifu na wenye ujasiri, kama Maria na Hana. Hizi ni nyimbo za sifa, ujasiri, na tumaini.

Watu: Tunainua sauti zetu pamoja nao kumsifu Mungu kwa wema wake. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: “Nafsi zetu zinamtukuza Bwana, na roho zetu zinafurahi katika Mungu Mwokozi wetu.”

Watu: Mungu amewafanyia wema wanyenyekevu na waaminifu. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: “Mioyo yetu inafurahi katika Bwana; Mungu wetu hutupatia nguvu.”

Watu: Tunafurahia ushindi ambao Mungu hutupatia tunapoishi kwa imani na kumtumaini. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: Kama watu wa Mungu, mmeitwa kutumikia katika “**Imago Dei**” — yaani, katika sura na mfano wa Mungu.

Watu: Tumeitwa kulinda uhai, kuheshimu utakatifu wake, na kutumikia kwa ujasiri na huruma. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: Kama Maria na Hana, mmeitwa kusema kweli kwa ujasiri na kusimama imara dhidi ya mifumo, desturi, na miundo inayosababisha madhara na isiyo ya haki.

Watu: Ee Mungu, tupe sauti za kinabii ili tutangaze haki na uadilifu wako. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: Ninyi, kama Maria na Hana, mmeitwa kushiriki katika utume wa Mungu wa kuwaweka watu na uumbaji wote huru kutoka katika vurugu, ukandamizaji, na dhuluma.

Watu: Tupe nguvu ili tuwe vyombo vya neema yako iletayo uhuru. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: Mmeitwa kufanya kazi takatifu kwa ajili ya amani, haki, na usawa, kama walivyofanya Maria na Hana.

Watu: Ee Mungu, ufalme wako na uje duniani kama ulivyo mbinguni. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: Kama Maria na Hana, mmetumwa kuimba ujumbe wa tumaini na uhuru, mkitangaza ukombozi kwa watu, kwa nchi, na kwa uumbaji wote.

Watu: Ushuhuda wetu utuongoze mbele, na tumaini letu lidumu. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Kiongozi: Nasi tutaendelea kuimba kwa maneno yetu, kwa imani yetu, na kwa ushuhuda wetu.

Watu: Hadi yote ambayo Mungu ameahidi yatakapotimizwa na kushirikishwa kwa wote. *(sauti ya kengele/chime)*

Jennifer Ferariza-Meneses, GCSRW Board Member, Executive Secretary, Board of Women's Work, Philippines Regional Conference of The United Methodist Church

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Despite the witness of Scripture and early Church tradition, we know that too often we have failed to recognize the Divinity of Christ in women.

Therefore, today, let us as the Church affirm:

**All: We believe God, our Divine Creator, is mothering us,
cradling us in infinite grace and love.**

We believe, like Eve, we are partners with humanity and creation.

We believe, like Deborah, we are gifted with Holy Wisdom as we seek God's guidance.

We believe, like Tamar, we are much more than the worst things done to us.

We believe, like Esther, we are called to step out in faith, taking risks for the good of others.

We believe, like Ruth, we are meant to love others selflessly.

We believe, like Mary, we can bring to life Divine hope for the world.

We believe, like the woman caught in adultery, we are forgiven.

We believe, like Martha and Mary, we are invited to be disciples of Jesus.

**We believe, like Mary Magdalene, we are called to proclaim the Good News of resurrection,
no matter how unbelievable.**

We believe, like Lydia, we are gifted with resources meant to be generously shared.

**We see the Divine's goodness, courage, faithfulness, and resilience reflected in women
throughout Scripture and in our world today.**

We believe we are called to follow their lead.

Amen.

Kiswahili

Kiongozi: Licha ya ushuhuda wa Maandiko Matakafu na mapokeo ya Kanisa la kwanza, tunatambua kwamba mara nyingi tumeshindwa kutambua uungu wa Kristo unaodhihirika pia katika wanawake.

Kwa hiyo leo, sisi kama Kanisa, na tuthibitishe:

Wote: Tunaamini kwamba Mungu, Muumba wetu mtakatifu, anatulea kwa upendo kama mama, akitukumbatia katika neema na upendo wake usio na mwisho.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Hawa, sisi ni washirika pamoja na wanadamu na uumbaji wote.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Debora, tumepewa hekima takatifu tunapotafuta mwongozo wa Mungu.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Tamari, sisi ni zaidi sana kuliko mabaya yaliyotendwa dhidi yetu.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Esta, tumeitwa kuchukua hatua kwa imani, hata kuhatarisha kwa ajili ya mema ya wengine.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Ruthu, tumeitwa kuwapenda wengine kwa moyo wa kujitoa.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Maria, tunaweza kuleta tumaini la Kiungu katika ulimwengu

Tunaamini kwamba, kama yule mwanamke aliyekamatwa katika uzinzi, tunapokea msamaha.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Martha na Maria, tumealikwa kuwa wanafunzi wa Yesu.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Maria Magdalene, tumeitwa kutangaza Habari Njema ya ufufuo, hata kama inaonekana vigumu kuamini.

Tunaamini kwamba, kama Lidia, tumepewa rasilimali na vipawa vinavyopaswa kushirikishwa kwa ukarimu.

Tunaona wema wa Mungu, ujasiri, uaminifu, na ustahimilivu wake vikidhihirika katika wanawake katika Maandiko Matakatifu na pia katika ulimwengu wetu leo.

Tunaamini kwamba tumeitwa kufuata mfano wao.

Amina.

Rev. Stephanie York Arnold, General Secretary,

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Prayers of the People

Prayer I

But the midwives Shiphrah and the other Puah, feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. (Ex 1: 17)

Holy God of Resistant Life,

Like your servants Shiphrah and Puah, we are called to usher in life in our communities, in our congregations, and in our world, not because it is a role assigned to us by gender but rather because we are committed to following the example of Jesus, who came that we may have life and have it more abundantly.

Help your people, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to resist evil, oppression, and all the systems that continually try to rob Your beloved creation of the joy of life, and may we be brave to choose to obey you rather than any earthly power that destroys the dignity of all humanity.

It is in the life-giving name of Jesus that we pray,
Amen.

Kiswahili

Lakini wakunga Shifra na Pua walimcha Mungu; hawakufanya kama mfalme wa Misri alivyowaamuru, bali waliwaacha watoto wa kiume waishi. (Kutoka 1:17)

Ee Mungu Mtakatifu wa Uzima Unaopinga Uharibifu,

Kama watumishi wako Shifra na Pua, sisi pia tumeitwa kuleta uhai katika jamii zetu, katika makusanyiko yetu ya waumini, na katika ulimwengu wetu—not kwa sababu ni jukumu tulilopewa kwa misingi ya jinsia, bali kwa sababu tumejitolea kufuata mfano wa Yesu, aliyekuja ili tupate uzima, nao uzima huo kwa wingi.

Wasaidie watu wako, kwa nguvu ya Roho Mtakatifu, kupinga uovu, ukandamizaji, na mifumo yote inayotaribu mara kwa mara kuinyima uumbaji wako mpendwa furaha ya uzima. Tujalie ujasiri wa kukutii wewe badala ya mamlaka yoyote ya kidunia inayoharibu heshima ya ubinadamu wote.

Katika jina la Yesu linalotoa uzima tunaomba,
Amina.

*Rev. Dr. Lydia E. Muñoz, Executive Director, El Plan for Hispanic Latine Ministry of the UMC,
A Ministry Partner of GCORR*

Prayer II

French

Prière pastorale pour les femmes, inspirée de Prov. 14,1b ; 18,22

Off. : Seigneur, souviens-toi des femmes du monde entier. Donne-leur la force de te servir efficacement, afin qu'elles soient une source de bonheur pour tous, pour ta gloire. Seigneur, tu as donné à tous la mission d'aller et de faire de toutes les nations tes disciples. Les pasteures ont, elles aussi, leur part dans cette mission. Par cette prière, nous venons implorer ta présence dans la vie de toutes les pasteures qui ont consacré leur vie à te servir.

All. : Seigneur, écoute-nous et exauce-nous.

Off. : Nous prions particulièrement pour les femmes appelées à assumer de grandes responsabilités dans notre Église Méthodiste-Unie : les présidentes des agences, les ministres, celles qui sont appelées à servir comme Evêques, Surintendantes ou Pasteures, et celles qui exercent d'autres responsabilités dans l'Église. Donne-leur, Seigneur, la sagesse de bâtir l'amour et la paix dans notre Église Méthodiste-Unie et dans la société, d'y établir ton Royaume sur la terre, afin qu'il y ait de la place pour tous, quelles que soient nos différences.

All. : Seigneur, écoute notre prière.

Off. : Nous prions pour toutes les femmes travailleuses, exerçant un métier quelconque, et pour les femmes ménagères. Seigneur, fais en sorte qu'elles apportent le bonheur et la joie de vivre dans leurs environnements respectifs.

All. : Seigneur, écoute notre prière.

English

Pastoral Prayer for Women inspired by Prov. 14:1b; 18:22*

Lord, remember the women throughout the world. Grant them the strength to serve you faithfully and make them a source of blessing and joy for all, to the glory of your name.

Lord, you have given to all the mission to go forth and make disciples of all nations; your women pastors also share in this sacred calling.

Through this prayer, we implore your holy presence in the lives of all women pastors who have dedicated themselves to your service. Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayers.

We pray especially for the women who are called to assume positions of great responsibility in our United Methodist Church: the Presidents of our agencies, the Ministers, those whom you

have called to serve as Bishops, Superintendents, or Pastors, and all who bear Leadership within the Church.

Grant unto them, O Lord, the wisdom to nurture love and peace within our United Methodist Church and throughout society. Establish your kingdom upon the earth, that there may be room for all, regardless of our differences. Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayers.

We pray for all women, working in any profession or calling, Lord. Ensure that they receive dignity, meaning, and joy in their labors. Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayers.

Kiswahili

Sala ya Kichungaji kwa Wanawake iliyoongozwa na Mithali 14:1b; 18:22

Bwana, wakumbuke wanawake kote ulimwenguni. Wajalie nguvu ya kukutumikia kwa uaminifu na uwafanye kuwa chanzo cha baraka na furaha kwa wote, kwa utukufu wa jina lako.

Bwana, umewapa wote utume wa kwenda na kufanya mataifa yote kuwa wanafunzi; hata wachungaji wanawake wanashiriki katika wito huu mtakatifu. Kupitia sala hii, tunaomba uwepo wako mtakatifu katika maisha ya wachungaji wanawake wote walioutoa maisha yao kwa huduma yako.

Wote: usikie sala zetu.

Tunaomba hasa kwa ajili ya wanawake walioitwa kubeba majukumu makubwa katika Kanisa letu la United Methodisti: Marais wa mashirika yetu, wahudumu, wale uliowaita kutumikia kama Maaskofu, Wasimamizi, au Wachungaji, na wote wanaobeba uongozi ndani ya Kanisa.

Wape, Ee Bwana, hekima ya kukuza upendo na amani ndani ya Kanisa letu la United Methodisti na katika jamii kwa ujumla. Uusimamishe ufalme wako duniani, ili kuwepo nafasi kwa wote, bila kujali tofauti zetu.

Wote: usikie sala zetu.

Tunaomba kwa ajili ya wanawake wote, wanaofanya kazi katika taaluma au wito wowote, Ee Bwana. Hakikisha wanapokea heshima, maana, na furaha katika kazi zao.

Wote: usikie sala zetu.

Angel Tshindj, GCSRW Board Member, Staff at Pension Office in Charge of Social Welfare for Retired Pastors and Widows in South Congo and Zambia Episcopal Area, President of Women Adulte Mont NEBO, Church Administrative Council, South Congo Annual Conference

Prayer III

Leader: Deliver us, O God, from the sins that best us in our time.
From cowardice and anxiety,
From impatience and discouragement,
From lack of trust when night surrounds us.

Response: Deliver us, O God; and make strong our faith.

Leader: From want of kindness and of charity,
From evil thoughts and conversation,
From the fires of suspicion, ill will, and hate,

Response: Deliver us, O God; and increase our love.

Leader: From prejudice and false sentiment,
From arrogance about our race, our country or our class,
From the blasphemy of bitterness toward our fellow creatures made in Thine own image,

Response: Deliver us, O God; and deepen our humility.

Leader: From compromise through love or ease of comfort,
From insincerity in thought or word or work,
From loving ourselves more than we have loved Thy Kingdom,

Response: Deliver us, O God; and enlarge our devotion to Thee.

All: In the name of the Strong Deliverer, our Lord Christ, we pray. Amen.

Kiswahili

Kiongozi: Utuokoe, Ee Mungu, kutoka katika dhambi zinazotukabili katika wakati wetu.
Kutoka katika uwoga na hofu,
Kutoka katika kukosa subira na kukata tamaa,
Kutoka katika kukosa imani wakati giza linapotuzunguka.

Wote: Utuokoe, Ee Mungu; na uimarisha imani yetu.

Kiongozi: Kutoka katika ukosefu wa wema na upendo wa kujitoa,
Kutoka katika mawazo na maneno mabaya,
Kutoka katika moto wa mashaka, nia mbaya, na chuki,

Wote: Utuokoe, Ee Mungu; na uongeze upendo wetu.

Kiongozi: Kutoka katika ubaguzi na hisia potofu,
Kutoka katika majivuno juu ya kabila letu, taifa letu, au hadhi yetu,
Kutoka katika kufuru ya uchungu dhidi ya viumbe wenzetu waliofanywa kwa mfano wako,

Wote: Utuokoe, Ee Mungu; na uukuze unyenyekevu wetu.

Kiongozi: Kutoka katika maridhiano yanayotokana na upendeleo au raha,
Kutoka katika kutokuwa wa kweli katika mawazo, maneno, au matendo,
Kutoka katika kujipenda zaidi kuliko tulivyoupenda Ufalme wako,

Wote: Utuokoe, Ee Mungu; na uupanue uaminifu wetu kwako.

Wote: Katika jina la Mwokozi Mwenye Nguvu, Bwana wetu Kristo, tunaomba. Amina.

*Dr. Georgia Harkness (1943); The Glory of God: Poems and Prayers for Devotional Use,
"Deliver Us, O God"*

Offertory Prayers

Prayer I

Gracious and everlasting God, from whom every good and perfect gift descends, we give you thanks for the faithful witness of women who, in every generation, have answered your call with courage, wisdom, and holy obedience.

As we offer these gifts of bread and wine, of tithes and offerings, of lives and labors, receive them as signs of our gratitude and instruments of your grace. Bless the ministries of women and all whom you have called, that your church may be strengthened, your justice proclaimed, and your love made known in every place.

Use what we bring, O Lord, for the healing of the world, the lifting of the oppressed, and the building of your kingdom, until that day when all your children rejoice together in the fullness of your promise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kiswahili

Mungu mwenye neema na wa milele, ambaye kutoka kwake hutoka kila zawadi njema na kamilifu, tunakushukuru kwa ushuhuda wa uaminifu wa wanawake ambao, katika kila kizazi, wameitikia wito wako kwa ujasiri, hekima, na utiifu mtakatifu.

Tunapotoa zawadi hizi za mkate na divai, za zaka na sadaka, za maisha na kazi zetu, zipokee kama ishara za shukrani zetu na vyombo vya neema yako. Zibariki huduma za wanawake na wote uliowaita, ili kanisa lako lipate nguvu, haki yako itangazwe, na upendo wako ujulikane kila mahali.

Tumia kile tunachokuletea, Ee Bwana, kwa ajili ya uponyaji wa ulimwengu, kuinuliwa kwa waliodhulumiwa, na kujengwa kwa ufalme wako, hadi siku ile watoto wako wote watakaposhangilia pamoja katika ukamilifu wa ahadi yako. Kupitia Yesu Kristo Bwana wetu. Amina.

*Rev. Kelli Hitchman-Craig, Director of Leadership Development and Community Engagement,
GCSRW, Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference*

Prayer II

Most Holy Lord, we come before you this day to offer our humble thanks. We are grateful for your call on the lives of women through the ages, for those who have laid their souls bare to you and your will. Without them, our lives would lack a sense of richness beyond compare.

Receive these tithes and offerings, transforming them into the nourishment we need to carry on, the strength that we need to move mountains, and the peace that we need to continue making disciples of all women and all people.

Bless these gifts and multiply them for your usefulness. Extend them far beyond where we think that they will reach, for you know the true impact of that which is freely given. All these things we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kiswahili

Ee Bwana Mtakatifu Sana, tunakuja mbele zako leo kutoa shukrani zetu kwa unyenyekevu. Tunashukuru kwa wito wako juu ya maisha ya wanawake katika vizazi vyote, kwa wale waliotoa nafsi zao wazi kwako na kwa mapenzi yako. Bila wao, maisha yetu yangekosa utajiri usiolinganishwa.

Zipokee zaka na sadaka hizi, uzibadilishe kuwa chakula cha kutuimarisha kuendelea, nguvu ya kuhamisha milima, na amani tunayohitaji ili kuendelea kufanya wanafunzi wa wanawake wote na watu wote.

Zibariki zawadi hizi na uzizidishe kwa matumizi yako. Zienezze mbali zaidi ya pale tunapodhani zitafika, kwa kuwa wewe unajua athari ya kweli ya kile kinachotolewa kwa hiari. Haya yote tunaomba katika jina la Mwana wako, Yesu Kristo. Amina.

*Rev. Katrena King, Director of Monitoring and Resource Development, GCSRW,
Louisiana Annual Conference*

Prayers of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Confession I

Leader: God of every generation, you have called women to speak, teach, shepherd, prophesy, and serve your world.

Too often though, your Church has closed its pulpits, silenced its daughters, and questioned the anointing you placed on their lives.

All: We confess that we have inherited, and at times participated, in systems that diminish the voices of women, disregard their Leadership, and deny their God-given gifts. We have mistaken patriarchy for holiness, and tradition for truth. Forgive us, O God.

Leader: We name the pain of erasure and acknowledge the sermons that we're never preached, the calls to witness that were never answered, the wisdom that was never heard, and the flavor of your grace that was never celebrated because women were told to wait, or be quiet, or go elsewhere.

All: We repent for every way we have dishonored your image by limiting who can lead in your name. We repent for our complicity in silencing the prophets you have sent in skirts, collars, heels, robes, and lipstick. We turn toward your justice with open hands and humbled hearts.

Leader: Let us in the silence of our hearts, confess our sins to God (moment of silent confession).

Leader: Hear the good news: The same God who called Miriam to sing, Deborah to judge, Mary to bear the Incarnation, and the women at the tomb to preach resurrection, is the God who forgives, restores, and sends us still.

**All:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
In the Spirit, we are empowered.
In the Church, we rise together.**

Leader: Thanks be to God for seventy years of ordained women and for the Holy Spirit who refuses to be silenced.

All: Amen.

Kiswahili

Kiongozi: Mungu wa kila kizazi, umewaita wanawake kusema, kufundisha, kuchunga, kutoa unabii, na kuutumikia ulimwengu wako. Mara nyingi, hata hivyo, Kanisa lako limefunga mimbari zake, limewanyamazisha mabinti zake, na kuhoji upako ulioweka juu ya maisha yao.

Wote: Tunakiri kwamba tumerithi, na nyakati nyingine tumeshiriki, katika mifumo inayopunguza sauti za wanawake, inayodharau uongozi wao, na inayokataa karama zao walizopewa na Mungu. Tumechanganya mfumo dume na utakatifu, na mapokeo na ukweli. Tusamehe, Ee Mungu.

Kiongozi: Tunataja maumivu ya kufutwa na tunakiri mahubiri ambayo hayakuwahi kuhubiriwa, miito ya kushuhudia ambayo haikuwahi kuitikiwa, hekima ambayo haikuwahi kusikika, na ladha ya neema yako ambayo haikuwahi kusherehekewa kwa sababu wanawake waliambiwa wasubiri, wanyamaze, au waende kwingine.

Wote: Tunatubu kwa kila njia ambayo tumedharau sura yako kwa kuweka mipaka juu ya nani anaweza kuongoza kwa jina lako. Tunatubu kwa kushiriki kwetu katika kuwanyamazisha manabii uliowatuma wakiwa wamevaa sketi, kola, visigino virefu, majoho, na vipodozi. Tunageukia haki yako tukiwa na mikono iliyo wazi na mioyo iliyonyenyekevu.

Kiongozi: Katika ukimya wa mioyo yetu, na tukiri dhambi zetu mbele za Mungu (wakati wa kimya).

Kiongozi: Sikieni habari njema: Mungu yuleyule aliyemwita Miriam kuimba, Debora kuhukumu, Maria kubeba Umwilisho wa Mungu (YESU), na wanawake waliokuwa kaburini kuhubiri ufufuo, ndiye Mungu anayesamehe, anayerejesha, na anayetutuma hata sasa.

Wote: Katika Yesu Kristo, tumesamehewa. Katika Roho Mtakatifu, tumewezeshwa. Katika Kanisa, tunainuka pamoja.

Kiongozi: Shukrani zimwendee Mungu kwa miaka sabini ya wanawake waliowekwa wakfu na kwa Roho Mtakatifu anayekataa kunyamazishwa.

Wote: Amina.

Confession II (for women)

Holy One, whose breath moves through every woman you have called, we come with honesty about the wounds we have carried and the wounds we have caused.

We confess that, at times, we have been shaped by systems that pit women against one another, reward competition over collaboration, and teach scarcity instead of shared abundance. Some of us have absorbed these patterns, and in our own fear or insecurity, we have placed stumbling blocks in the paths of other women.

We name the moments when we doubted another woman's calling, withheld support or questioned her Leadership. We name the times when we echoed patriarchal messages rather than disrupting them, when we protected our own positions and participated in nepotism and other forms of divisiveness, instead of widening the table for someone else or other models of womanhood.

We grieve the harm done through our silence, gatekeeping, envy, and the unspoken belief that only a few of us could rise.

Forgive us, O God.

Heal the fractures among us.

Reform our hearts and renew our minds so that the ministries of your daughters may flourish without constraint.

(Silent reflection)

Hear the good news:

The God who called Tamar to truth,

Rahab to courage,

Ruth to loyalty,

Bathsheba to wisdom,

and Mary to bear the Christ,

is the same God who restores, reconciles, and redirects.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**In the Spirit, we are freed from rivalries that diminish us.
In community, we rise again, committed to shaping a future
where every woman's ministry is honored, supported, and strengthened.**

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Kiswahili

Ukiri II (kwa wanawake)

Kiongozi: Ewe Mtakatifu, ambaye pumzi Yako inapita katika kila mwanamke Uliyemuita, tunakuja kwa uaminifu kuzungumzia majeraha tunayoyabeba

na majeraha tunayoyasababisha.

Tunakiri kwamba, wakati mwingine, tumekuwa tumeathiriwa na mifumo inayoweka wanawake dhidi ya wanawake, inayotoa tuzo kwa ushindani badala ya ushirikiano, na kufundisha uhaba badala ya wingi wa pamoja. Baadhi yetu tumeyachukua mtindo huu, na kwa hofu au ukosefu wa uhakika wetu, tumeweka vizingiti katika njia za wanawake wengine.

Tunataja nyakati tulizokuwa na shaka juu ya wito wa mwanamke mwingine,

kutoonyesha msaada au kuhoji Uongozi wake. Tunataja nyakati tulizorudia ujumbe wa kike wa kifalme badala ya kuupinga, tulilinda nafasi zetu binafsi na kushiriki kwa urafiki wa familia na aina nyingine za mgawanyiko, badala ya kupanua meza kwa mwingine au kuunga mkono mifano mingine ya wanawake.

Tunalia kwa maumivu yaliyosababishwa na ukimya wetu, kulinda nafasi, wivu, na imani isiyoelezeka kwamba ni wachache tu kati yetu wanaoweza kuinuka.

Tusamehe, Ee Mungu.

Ponya mapengo yaliyo kati yetu.

Rekebisha mioyo yetu na upya akili zetu ili huduma za binti zako ziweze kustawi bila vikwazo.

(Fikra ya kimya)

Sikia habari njema:

Mungu aliyemuita Tamari kwa kweli,

Rahabu kwa ujasiri,

Ruti kwa uaminifu,

Bathsheba kwa hekima,

na Mariamu kubeba Kristo,

ni Mungu huyo huyo anayerejesha, kuunganisha, na kuelekeza upya.

Wote: Katika Yesu Kristo, tumesamehewa.

Kwa Roho, tumefungwa na ushindani unaotuangamiza.

Katika jamii, tunaamka tena, tukiwa tumejitolea kuunda mustakabali

ambapo huduma ya kila mwanamke inaheshimiwa, kuungwa mkono, na kuimarishwa.

Shukrani ziwe kwa Mungu!

Amina.

Rev. Dr. Andrea Byer-Thomas, COSROW Chairperson, Florida Annual Conference

Great Thanksgivings

Great Thanksgiving I

German

Gott sei mit euch.

Und auch mit dir.

Erhebt eure Herzen.

Wir erheben sie zu Gott.

Lasst uns Gott Dank sagen.

Es ist würdig und recht, Lob und Dank darzubringen.

Es ist würdig und gut und es macht Freude, dir immer und überall Dank zu sagen, du schöpferischer Gott. Du hast das Universum gemacht und die Erde in ihrer Schönheit, Vielfalt und Verletzlichkeit geschaffen. Du hast Millionen von Arten geformt. Wir Menschen sind Teil deiner Schöpfung, und wir alle sind als dein Bild gemacht. Wir, die Menschen aus vielen Ethnien und Kulturen, unterschiedlichen Geschlechts, mit vielen Sprachen und Traditionen, wir sind deine geliebten Kinder und dazu da, in Gemeinschaft mit dir, miteinander und mit der ganzen Schöpfung zu leben.

Darum preisen wir dich, Gott, der du viele Namen trägst, mit der ganzen Schöpfung, mit deinem Volk hier auf Erden und allen himmlischen Heerscharen:

Heilig, heilig, heilig,

bist du Gott und prächtig.

Himmel und Erde sind erfüllt von deiner Herrlichkeit.

Hosianna in der Höhe.

Heilig ist der, der da kommt im Namen des Herrn.

Hosianna in der Höhe.

Heilig bist du, Gott, und gepriesen sei dein Sohn Jesus Christus. Er brachte den Armen die gute Nachricht, heilte Kranke, segnete Kinder, teilte sein Leben mit Johanna, Petrus, Maria Madgalena, Andreas, Susanna, Johannes, Martha, Lazarus, Maria und vielen anderen. Mit seinem Leben, seinem Tod und seiner Auferstehung schuf er eine geliebte und liebende Gemeinschaft und inspirierte uns, für Gerechtigkeit für die Menschheit und die ganze Schöpfung einzutreten. Wir erinnern uns an Jesus und begeben uns in Gedanken wieder und wieder dahin, wo Jesus im Kreis seiner Vertrauten die letzte Mahlzeit vor seinem Tod am Kreuz einnahm. Der Tisch war gedeckt. Der Raum war erfüllt mit Lachen und Weinen, mit Hoffen und Bangen.

Jesus nahm das Brot, dankte, brach es, gab es denen, die mit ihm waren und sagte: „Das ist mein Leib, den ich für euch dahingebe. Nehmt und esst. Tut dies zu meinem Gedächtnis.“

Nach dem Essen nahm er den Becher mit Wein, dankte, und gab ihn den Seinen und sagte: „Das ist mein Kelch des neuen Bundes, der für euch und für viele zu eurem Heil gegeben ist. Trinkt dies und erinnert euch an mich.“

Und so geben wir uns dir mit Dank und Anbetung hin, Gott, indem wir uns an deine großen Taten in Christus Jesus erinnern. Wir tun dies in Einheit mit Christus, der sich für uns hingab, und verkünden das Geheimnis des Glaubens:

Christus ist gestorben, Christus ist auferstanden, Christus wird wiederkommen.

Gieße deinen Heiligen Geist über uns aus, die wir hier versammelt sind, und über diese Gaben, damit das Brot uns zum Brot des Lebens und der Kelch uns zum Kelch des Heils wird.

Begeistere uns, damit wir uns in deine neue Schöpfung hineinversetzen und daran mitwirken, Jünger und Jüngerinnen zu formen, die die Welt verändern. Befähige uns, Hass und Feindschaft zu überwinden, indem wir kühn lieben, Gerechtigkeit wiederherzustellen, indem wir freudig dienen, und Christus nachzuahmen, indem wir mutig vorangehen. Heile uns, damit wir, deine Kirche, als dein Werkzeug heilend, aufbauend und Frieden stiftend tätig sind. So erwarten wir dein Reich, damit es auf Erden wie im Himmel komme.

Im Heiligen Geist mach uns eins mit Christus, eins miteinander und eins im Dienst für die Welt, bis Christus kommt und wir an seinem himmlischen Festmahl teilnehmen.

Durch deinen Sohn, Jesus Christus, im Heiligen Geist sei dir, unser väterlicher und mütterlicher Gott, Ruhm und Ehre jetzt und allezeit.

English

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, creating God. You made the universe and the earth in all its beauty, diversity and vulnerability. You created millions of species. We human beings are part of your creation, and each of us is made in your image. We, people of many ethnicities, cultures, genders, languages, traditions, we are all your beloved children, called to mirror your beauty in communion with Godself, with one another and with all creation.

And so, with all creation, with all your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise you, God of many names:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ. He proclaimed good news to the poor, healed the sick, blessed the children, shared his life with Joanna, Peter, Mary Magdalene, Andrew, Suzanna, John, Martha, Lazarus, Mary and many others. Through his life, death and resurrection, he created beloved and loving community and inspired us to strive for justice for humankind and all creation. Remembering Jesus, we reimagine time and again his last meal with his confidants before he died on the cross. The table was set. The room was filled with laughter and tears, with hope and anxiety.

Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to those who were with him, saying, "This is my body, which I give for you. Take and eat. Do this to remember me."

After supper, he took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my cup of the new covenant, given for you and for many for your salvation. Drink this and remember me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Christ Jesus, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ.

Inspire us to imagine your new creation and to embody it as we go and form disciples for the transformation of the world. Enable us to overcome hate and hostility by loving boldly, to restore justice by serving joyfully, and to follow Christ by leading courageously. Heal us, so that we, your church, serve as your instruments of healing, restoration and peace, as we anticipate your kin-dom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, our Parent, now and forever.

Kiswahili

Bwana awe nanyi.

Awe pia nawe .

Inua mioyo yenu.

Tunaoinua kwa Bwana.

Tumpatie Bwana Mungu wetu shukrani.

Ni vema kumpa shukrani na sifa.

Ni vema, na ni jambo jema na la furaha, kila wakati na kila mahali kumpa shukrani wewe, Mungu Muumba. Uliumba ulimwengu na dunia katika uzuri wake wote, utofauti wake na udhaifu wake. Uliumba mamilioni ya aina za viumbe. Sisi binadamu ni sehemu ya uumbaji wako, na kila mmoja wetu tumeumbwa kwa sura yako. Sisi, watu wa kabila, tamaduni, jinsia, lugha, na mila tofauti, sote ni watoto wako wapendwa, waliyoitwa kuakisi uzuri wako katika uwakilishi wa Mungu, kwa mshikamano kati yetu na Mungu, kati yetu wenyewe, na na uumbaji wote.

Hivyo basi, pamoja na uumbaji wote, pamoja na watu wote duniani na makundi yote ya mbinguni, tunakusifu wewe, Mungu wa majina mengi:

Mtakatifu, Mtakatifu, Mtakatifu Bwana

Mungu mwenye nguvu na mamlaka

Mbingu na dunia zimejaa utukufu wako.

Hosanna juu mbinguni

Heri huyo anayekuja kwa jina la Bwana.

Hosanna juu mbinguni.

Wewe ni Mtakatifu, Mungu, na mtakatifu pia ni Mwanao Yesu Kristo. Alitangaza habari njema kwa maskini, aliponya wagonjwa, alibariki watoto, na kushirikiana maisha yake na Joanna, Petro, Mariamu Magdalena, Andrea, Suzana, Yohana, Martha, Lazaro, Mariamu na wengine wengi. Kupitia maisha yake, kifo chake na ufufuo wake, aliunda jamii ya upendo na kupendana, na kutuhamasisha kupigania haki kwa binadamu wote na uumbaji wote. Tukimkumbuka Yesu, tunarudia kwa fikra yetu chakula chake cha mwisho pamoja na wafuasi wake kabla ya kifo chake msalabani. Meza ilikuwa imeandaliwa. Chumba kimejaa kicheko na machozi, matumaini na wasiwasi.

Yesu alichukua mkate, akabariki, akavunja, na akawapa waliokuwa pamoja naye, akisema, **“Huu ni mwili wangu, ninaowapa ninyi. Chukueni mle. Fanyeni hivi kwa kunikumbuka mimi.”**

Baada ya chakula, alichukua kikombe cha divai, akabariki, na akawapa, akisema, **“Hiki ni kikombe changu cha agano jipya, kilichotolewa kwa ajili yenu na wengi kwa wokovu wenu. Kunyweni kwa kunikumbuka mimi.”**

Hivyo basi, kwa kumbukumbu ya matendo haya makuu katika Kristo Yesu, tunajitolea kwa sifa na shukrani, tukishirikiana na sadaka ya Kristo kwetu, tukitangaza fumbo la imani:

**Kristo alikufa,
Kristo amefufuka,
Kristo atakuja tena.**

Mimina Roho wako Mtakatifu juu yetu tuliokusanyika hapa, na juu ya zawadi hizi za mkate na divai. Zifanye ziwe kwetu mwili wa Kristo, ili tuwe kwa dunia mwili wa Kristo.

Tuhimize kuunda uumbaji wako mpya na kuushirikisha tunapoenda kutengeneza wanafunzi kwa ajili ya mabadiliko ya dunia. Tuwezeshe kushinda chuki na uhasama kwa kupenda kwa moyo jasiri, kurekebisha haki kwa kuhudumia kwa furaha, na kumfuata Kristo kwa kuongoza kwa ujasiri. Taponye, ili sisi, kanisa lako, tuitumike kama vyombo vyako vya uponyaji, urejeshaji na amani, tunapotarajia ufalme wako uje duniani kama mbinguni.

Kwa Roho Yako utufanye tuwe wamoja na Kristo, wamoja kati yetu, na wamoja katika huduma kwa ulimwengu wote, hadi Kristo atakaporudi na tufurahi katika karamu yake ya mbinguni.

Kupitia Mwanao Yesu Kristo, na Roho Mtakatifu katika kanisa lako takatifu, heshima na utukufu vyote ni vyako, Baba yetu, sasa na milele.

*Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, Council of Bishops Co-Ecumenical Officer,
2012-2014 President of the Council of Bishops,
German Regional Conference*

*Great Thanksgiving II
English*

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our sacred duty to give thanks to you God Almighty, for you created humanity, and blessed us with a variety of gifts, and ordered us to “dress and keep” the Creation. In time, we finally recognized the equality of women that you intended from the beginning, especially within the movement formed by John Wesley affirmed what you had intended– the ordination and full inclusion of women. We thank you God that the people called “Methodists” moved forward into this prevenient reality – the Leadership of women.

Through the years you have called women to be partners in the redemption and sanctification of your people...Eve, Sarah, Deborah, Hannah, Ruth, Rahab, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary of Magdala, who was the first Apostle sent with the message: “Go and tell my brethren that I go before them into Galilee...”

Jesus still goes ahead of us, preparing the way for women to continue to carry the mantle of Leadership into the kin-dom, in this new age. Our work in the name of your Son Jesus Christ is set out before us as we continue in the pattern set by Anna Howard Shaw, Maude Jensen, Sallie Crenshaw, Marjorie Swank Matthews, Leontine T.C. Kelly, Sharon Brown Christopher, Minerva G. Carcaño, Violet Fisher, Rosemarie Wenner , and all of the women before us and among us.

As we gather to celebrate the ordination of women in your Church, we give praise and thanks to you, gracious and merciful God for the journey, and the vision yet to be realized. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the Highest**



Blessed is the One anointed, and blessed are they who follow in his footsteps. When Jesus lived among us, he often gathered his disciples, including women, and broke bread, sharing in fellowship and friendship.

Even as he was betrayed by one of his friends, on that night he took bread, broke it and shared it among them, saying, "This is my body which is broken and given for you and for the whole world. Do this in remembrance of me..."

When supper was over, he took the Cup, gave thanks and shared it with them saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the sins of the whole world. As often as you drink it, remember me..."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup.* Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Send your Spirit amongst us now. Bless these gifts and anoint us all who share this meal; send us out to spread your word of Love and Blessing to all the people. May we become one in purpose and one in mission.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Kiswahili

Bwana awe nanyi
Awe pia nawe
Inueni mioyo yenu
Tunainua kwa Bwana
Tumpatie Bwana Mungu wetu shukrani
Ni vema kumpa shukrani na sifa

Ni vema na ni wajibu wetu wa kipekee kumpa shukrani wewe, Mungu Mwenyezi, kwa kuwa uliumba binadamu, ukatubariki kwa vipaji mbalimbali, na kutuagiza "kulima na kulinda"

Uumbaji. Katika wakati, hatimaye tulitambua usawa wa wanawake uliokusudiwa tangu mwanzo, hasa ndani ya harakati iliyoundwa na John Wesley, ambayo ilithibitisha kile ulichokusudia—kupandishwa hadhi na ujumuishaji kamili wa wanawake. Tunakushukuru, Mungu, kwamba watu waliyoitwa “Wamethodisti” walisogea mbele katika ukweli huu unaotangulia – Uongozi wa wanawake.

Kwa miaka mingi umewaita wanawake kuwa washirika katika ukombozi na utakaso wa watu wako...Hawa, Sara, Debora, Hana, Ruti, Rahabu, Mariamu wa Nazareti, na Mariamu wa Magdala, ambaye alikuwa Mtume wa kwanza aliyetumwa na ujumbe: **“Nendeni mkamwambie ndugu zangu kwamba mimi naenda mbele yao Galilaya...”**

Yesu bado anaenda mbele yetu, akitayarisha njia kwa wanawake kuendelea kubeba uwajibikaji wa Uongozi katika ufalme wako, katika enzi hii mpya. Kazi yetu kwa jina la Mwanao Yesu Kristo imewekwa mbele yetu tunapoendelea katika mtindo uliowekwa na Anna Howard Shaw, Maude Jensen, Sallie Crenshaw, Marjorie Swank Matthews, Leontine T.C. Kelly, Sharon Brown Christopher, Minerva G. Carcaño, Violet Fisher, Rosemarie Wenner, na wanawake wote waliotangulia na waliopo kati yetu.

Tunapokusanyika kusherehekea kupandishwa hadhi kwa wanawake katika Kanisa lako, tunakusifu na kukushukuru wewe, Mungu mwenye neema na rehema, kwa safari hii na kwa maono ambayo bado hayajatekelezwa. Hivyo basi, pamoja na watu wako duniani na makundi yote ya mbinguni, tunakusifu jina lako na kuungana na wimbo wao usio na mwisho:

**Mtakatifu, Mtakatifu, Mtakatifu Bwana, Mungu mwenye nguvu na mamlaka,
Mbingu na dunia zimejaa utukufu wako. Hosanna juu mbinguni.
Heri huyo anayekuja kwa jina la Bwana.
Hosanna juu mbinguni.**

Heri huyo aliyechaguliwa, na heri waliofuata katika nyayo zake. Yesu alipokuwa hai kati yetu, mara nyingi alikusanya wanafunzi wake, wakiwemo wanawake, na kuvunja mkate, kushiriki katika mshikamano na urafiki.

Hata aliposalitiwa na rafiki mmoja, usiku huo alichukua mkate, akavunja, na akawapa akisema: **“Huu ni mwili wangu uliovunjika na uliotolewa kwa ajili yenu na kwa dunia nzima. Fanyeni hivi kwa kunikumbuka mimi...”**

Baada ya chakula, alichukua Kikombe, akashukuru, na kuwapa akisema: **“Hiki ni kikombe cha agano jipya, damu yangu iliyomwagika kwa ajili yenu na dhambi za dunia yote. Kunyweni kutoka kikombe hiki, mkinikumbuka mimi...”**

Hivyo basi, kwa kumbukumbu ya matendo haya makuu katika Yesu Kristo, tunajitoa kwa sifa na shukrani kama sadaka takatifu na hai, tukishirikiana na sadaka ya Kristo kwetu, tukitangaza fumbo la imani:

Kristo alikufa

Kristo amefufuka

Kristo atakuja tena

Mimina Roho wako Mtakatifu juu yetu tuliokusanyika hapa, na juu ya zawadi hizi za mkate na kikombe. Zifanye ziwe kwetu mwili na damu ya Kristo, ili tuwe kwa dunia mwili wa Kristo, uliofufuliwa kwa damu yake. Tuma Roho wako kati yetu sasa. Bariki zawadi hizi na wabariki wote tunao shiriki chakula hiki; ututume kushiriki Neno lako la Upendo na Baraka kwa watu wote. Tuwezeshe kuwa wamoja katika kusudi na wamoja katika huduma.

Kwa Roho Yako utufanye tuwe wamoja na Kristo, wamoja kati yetu, na wamoja katika huduma kwa ulimwengu wote, hadi Kristo atakaporudi kwa ushindi wa mwisho, na tufurahie karamu yake ya mbinguni. Kupitia Mwanao Yesu Kristo, na Roho Mtakatifu katika Kanisa lako takatifu, heshima na utukufu vyote ni vyako, Mungu Mwenyezi, sasa na milele.

The Rev. Dr. Laurel Scott, Wakefield Grace UMC, New York Annual Conference

Benedictions

Benediction I (Numbers 6:24-26 NRSVUE)

For the past 70 years, God has blessed and kept ordained women as they answered calls to ministry doing the work of the Lord. Likewise, may God bless you and keep you.

God has been gracious to women ordained in ministry for the last 70 years. Even in the darkest times, God's face has shined down upon them. Likewise, may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

For 70 years, through times of turbulence and uncertainty, God has turned God's face towards ordained women and has given them a sense of peace. Likewise, may God's face turn toward you and give you peace.

Go forth in the name of the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! Amen!

Kiswahili

Baraka I (Namba 6:24-26 NRSVUE)

Kwa miaka 70 iliyopita, Mungu amewabariki na kuwaweka salama wanawake waliopandishwa hadhi waliyajibu wito wa huduma, wakifanya kazi ya Bwana. Vivyo hivyo, Mungu akubariki na akuweke salama.

Mungu amekuwa na neema kwa wanawake waliopandishwa hadhi katika huduma kwa miaka 70 iliyopita. Hata katika nyakati za giza, uso wa Mungu umekuwa uking'aa juu yao. Vivyo hivyo, uso wa Mungu uking'ee juu yako na akupe neema.

Kwa miaka 70, kupitia nyakati za changamoto na kutokuwa na uhakika, Mungu amelekeza uso wake kwa wanawake waliopandishwa hadhi na kuwaweka katika amani. Vivyo hivyo, uso wa Mungu uelekee kwako na akupe amani.

Nendeni mkawe wamoja katika jina la Muumba, Mwana, na Roho Mtakatifu! Amina!

*Deaconess Celeste Eubanks, Director, Candler Center for Christian Leadership,
Candler School of Theology – Emory University*

Benediction II (Responsive)

Minister: May the God who calls beyond customs and constraint bless you.

People: We receive God's blessing.

Minister: May Christ, born of Mary's womb, who strengthens the lowly and heals the broken, go before you.

People: We follow Christ's way.

Minister: May the Spirit, who anoints prophets, pastors, and all who speak justice, dwell richly within you.

People: We go in the Spirit's power.

All: We go forth with courage, with praise, and with faith that dares— to love, to lead, and to transform the world, in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

Kiswahili

Baraka II (Majibu ya Pamoja)

Mhudumu: : Na Mungu anayewaita watu kupita mila na vikwazo awabariki.

Watu: Tunapokea baraka za Mungu.

Mhudumu: Kristo, aliyezaliwa tumboni mwa Mariamu, ambaye huimarisha wanyenyekevu na kuponya waliovunjika, atangulie mbele yako.

Watu: Tunaifuata njia ya Kristo.

Mhudumu: Roho, ambaye huwavuvia manabii, wachungaji, na wote wanaozungumza haki, akae ndani yako kwa wingi.

Watu: Tunaenda kwa nguvu za Roho.

Wote: Tunaenda mbele kwa ujasiri, kwa sifa, na kwa imani iliyothabiti—kupenda, kuongoza, na kubadilisha dunia, kwa jina la Mungu mmoja wa Utatu. Amina.

Benediction III (Tagalog)

Hango sa Lucas 1:46-55

Humayo kayo taglay ang pagpapala at makapangyarihang hininga ng Diyos na ating Manlilikha;

Humayo kayo taglay ang banayad na pag-ibig ni Hesus, nagmula sa sinapupunan ni Maria at isinakatuparan ang awit ng kanyang ina- nagbigay lakas sa mga api, nagpagaling sa mga maysakit at nakipisan sa mga aba;

Humayo kayo sa gabay ng Espiritu Santo ang ating katuwang at kasama, ang apoy ng katarungan na tutulong sa ating ibagsak ang mga palalo na nasa mga luklukan, itaas ang mga nasa abang kalagayan at tulungang pasaganahin ang buhay ng mga kapus-palad;

Tulad ng awit ni Maria --

Humayo kayo taglay ang kanyang tapang, papuri at nagpupumiglas na pananampalataya! Amen.

English

Inspired by Luke 1:46-55

Go forth, bearing the blessing and power of God, our Creator;

Go forth, bearing the gentle love of Jesus, born of Mary's womb, who fulfilled his mother's song—strengthening the oppressed, healing the sick, and dwelling among the lowly;

Go forth, guided by the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Companion—the fire of justice who helps us cast down the mighty from their thrones, lift up those in humble estate, and bring abundance to the lives of the poor.

Like the song of Mary—

Go forth, bearing her courage, her praise, and her liberating faith!

Kiswahili

Imehamasishwa na Luka 1:46-55

Enendeni, mkibeba baraka na nguvu za Mungu, Muumba wetu;

Enendeni, mkibeba upendo wa Yesu, aliyezaliwa tumboni mwa Mariamu, aliyetimiza wimbo wa mama yake—akiwapa nguvu wenye dhiki, kuponya wagonjwa, na kuishi miongoni mwa wanyenyekevu;

Enendeni, mkiongozwa na Roho Mtakatifu, Wakili na Mshirika wetu—moto wa haki anayetusaikia kuangusha wenye mamlaka kutoka viti vyao, kuinua walio katika hali ya unyenyekevu, na kuleta wingi katika maisha ya maskini.

Kama wimbo wa Mariamu—

Enendeni, mkibeba ujasiri wake, sifa zake, na imani ya ukombozi wake.

Benediction IV (Tagalog)

Humayo kayo nang may pagkilalang ang danas ng inyong katawan ang pinakaunang dalangin at liturhiyang inyong inialay,

Nawa’y ang hanging humihinga sa inyong dibdib ay ang siya ring Espiritung umihip sa ibabaw ng kawalan,

At nawa’y ang inyong mga tinig, na hinabi ng hirap at ng mga awit, Ay maging tambuling magwawaksi sa katahimikan ng mga napapanatag sa mga nakasanayang karahasan.

English

Go forth remembering that the lived experience of your body is the very first prayer and liturgy you ever offered;

May the breath that moves within your chest be the same Spirit that swept over the void,

And may your voices, woven from struggle and song, be the clarion call that shatters the silence of those grown comfortable with accustomed violence.

Kiswahili

Nendeni mbele mkikumbuka kwamba uzoefu wa mwili wenu ni sala ya kwanza na liturgia mliyowahi kutoa;

Amani ya pumzi inayotembea ndani ya kifua chenu iwe Roho yule yule aliyepita juu ya upweke wa mwanzo;

Na sauti zenu, zilizofungwa na mapambano na nyimbo, ziwe wito thabiti unaovunja ukimya wa wale waliyozoea ukatili wa kawaida.

Benediction V (Tagalog)

Humayo ka taglay ang karunungan ng sinapupunan—

Ang banal na kakayahang pasanin ang bigat ng mga bagay na hindi pa isinisilang,

Ang maghirap at magtiis sa hatinggabi ng pagluluksa ng mundo,

At umire hanggang sa ang liwanag ng katarungan ay sumilay.

Nawa’y ang iyong mga kamay, na ngayon ay itinalaga,

Ay manatiling magaspang dahil sa paggawa ng may pag-ibig, at manatiling malambot dahil sa langis ng awa.

Nawa’y maging matulin ang iyong mga paa patungo sa mga nasa laylayan ng lipunan,

At ang iyong gulugod ay maging mistulang haligi ng bawat tahananang iyong tutuluyan,

Isang sandigan para sa mga pagod na sasandig sa iyong kalakasan.

English

Go forth carrying the wisdom of the womb—

That holy capacity to bear the weight of things not yet born,

To endure and labor through the midnight of the world’s mourning,

And to push until the light of justice dawns.

May your hands, now consecrated,

Remain calloused by the labor of love, and remain softened by the oil of mercy.

May your feet be swift toward those at the fringes of society,

And may your spine be like the pillar of every home you dwell in,

A sanctuary for the weary who will lean upon your strength.

Kiswahili

Enendeni mkibeba hekima ya tumbo—

Uwezo mtakatifu wa kubeba uzito wa mambo bado yasiyo zaliwa,

Kuvumilia na kufanya kazi usiku mzima wa maombolezo ya dunia,

Na kusukuma hadi mwangaza wa haki uchanue.

Mikono yenu, iliyotakaswa, sasa

lendelee kuwa chachu ya bidii ya upendo, na iwe laini kwa mafuta ya rehema.

Miguu yenu, na iwe tayari na mepesi kwenda kuwafikia wale walioko pembezoni mwa jamii.

Na mgongo wenu uwe kama nguzo ya kila nyumba mnayoishi,

Kimbilio kwa wanyonge watakaogusa nguvu yenu.

Rev. Carleen Nomorosa, Ordained Deacon, Quezon City Philippines Annual Conference East; Field Education Officer, Union Theological Seminary - Philippines

Benediction VI

May the God who called Miriam to sing, Deborah to lead, Mary to bear the Christ, and women in every age to preach, teach, and shepherd, strengthen you in every good work and word.

May Christ, who welcomed women as disciples, entrusted them with the first proclamation of the resurrection, and anointed them for ministry, go before you in courage, beside you in compassion, and within you in holy fire.

May the Holy Spirit, who pours out gifts without distinction and calls whom she will, empower you to serve with wisdom, justice, and joy, until all are welcomed and all are free.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Companion, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Kiswahili

Mungu aleyemuita Miriam kuimba, Debora kuongoza, Mariamu kumbeba Kristo, na wanawake

wa kila enzi kuhubiri, kufundisha, na kuchunga, awazidishie nguvu katika kila kazi na kila neno jema.

Kristo, aliyeweka wanawake kuwa wafuasi, akawaamini katika kuwa wa kwanza kutangaza ufufuo wake, na kuwaweka kwa huduma takatifu, atangulie mbele yenu kwa ujasiri, awe kando yenu kwa huruma, na awe ndani yenu kwa moto mtakatifu.

Roho Mtakatifu, ambaye anamimina vipaji bila ubaguzi na kuweka wito jinsi apendavyo, akuwezeshe kuhudumia kwa hekima, haki, na furaha, hadi wote wakaribishwe na wote wawe huru.

Na baraka za Mungu Mwenyezi, Muumba, Kristo, na Roho Mtakatifu, ziwe kati yenu na zibaki nanyi daima. Amina.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

For Use in Services of Commissioning and Ordination

Short Recognition

Placement: After the *Proclamation of the Word* or immediately before the *Recognition of Orders*

Leader: Today the Church pauses to recognize the seventieth anniversary of women being granted full clergy rights in the Methodist tradition.

In 1956, the Church affirmed that God's call to ordained ministry is not limited by gender, but is grounded in baptism, giftedness, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

We give thanks for the women who answered that call with courage, for those who persevered through resistance and inequity, and for those who continue to serve the church with faithfulness and joy.

People: Thanks be to God.

Litany of Thanksgiving and Repentance

Placement: Immediately before the *Recognition of Orders*

Leader: Holy God, seventy years ago, your Church took a step toward faithfulness by granting women full clergy rights.

People: We give thanks for the movement of your Spirit.

Leader: We thank you for women who discerned and answered a call before recognition was granted, and for those who trusted your voice when the path was uncertain.

People: We honor their courage and faith.

Leader: We confess that equality in word has not always meant equality in practice; that barriers, bias, and silence have persisted in your church.

People: Forgive us and renew us for faithful witness.

Leader: For the gifts women bring to licensed and ordained ministry — preaching and teaching, leadership and care —

People: We rejoice in your grace at work among us.

Leader: For those discerning a call today, and for the church still being formed by your Spirit,

People: Lead us in justice, humility, and hope.

All: Amen.

Blessing of Witness

Placement: After the *Recognition of Orders* or before the *Sending Forth*

Leader: Gracious and Eternal God,

We celebrate the gift of these newly licensed, commissioned, or ordained clergy, whose call and commitment to set-apart ministry is affirmed in our midst. We also celebrate this significant year in the life of the United Methodist Church for its historic witness to the diversity of callings and gifts of faithful leaders in our midst.

For the women who have been able to serve as elders in full connection for 70 years after the 1956 General Conference approved legislation included women in all provisions of the Discipline that refer to ordained ministry,

People: Thank you, Lord.

Leader: For the women whose unique call aligned with the Order of Deacons established 30 years ago,

People: Thank you, Lord.

Leader: For the women who serve communities with faithfulness, flexibility, and deep love as Local Pastors and Associate Members,

People: Thank you, Lord.

Leader: Strengthen all whom you have called to ministry.

Make us ever mindful of the ways you continue leading the church into newer expressions of leadership in the years to come. And continue to shape your church into a faithful sign of your reconciling love for the world.

People: Amen.

Kiswahili

Kwa Matumizi Katika Ibada za kuwekwa Rasmi na Wakfu

Utambulisho Mfupi

Mahali: Baada ya Tangazo la Neno au mara kabla ya Utambulisho wa Nafasi za Kazi za Kidini

Kiongozi: Leo Kanisa linasimama kutambua kumbukumbu ya miaka sabini tangu wanawake kupewa haki kamili za kidini katika desturi ya Wamethodisti.

Mnamo mwaka wa 1956, Kanisa lilithibitisha kwamba wito wa Mungu katika huduma ya kidini haubagui jinsia, bali unategemea ubatizo, vipaji, na kazi ya Roho Mtakatifu.

Tunashukuru kwa wanawake waliyokubali wito huo kwa ujasiri, kwa wale waliodumu kupitia upinzani na ukosefu wa usawa, na kwa wale wanaoendelea kuhudumia kanisa kwa uaminifu na furaha.

Watu: Shukrani ziwe kwa Mungu.

Shukrani na Toba

Mahali: Mara kabla ya Utambulisho wa Nafasi za Kazi za Kidini

Kiongozi: Mungu Mtakatifu, miaka sabini iliyopita, Kanisa lako lilichukua hatua kuelekea uaminifu kwa kutoa haki kamili za kidini kwa wanawake.

Watu: Tunashukuru kwa mwendo wa Roho yako.

Kiongozi: Tunashukuru kwa wanawake waliotambua na kujibu wito kabla ya utambulisho kutolewa, na kwa wale walioamini sauti yako wakati njia ilikuwa imefungwa.

Watu: Tunaheshimu ujasiri na imani yao.

Kiongozi: Tunakiri kwamba usawa kwa maneno haujamaanisha usawa katika vitendo kila wakati; kwamba vizingiti, upendeleo, na ukimya vimeendelea katika kanisa lako.

Watu: Tusamehe na utufanye upya kwa ushuhuda wa uaminifu.

Kiongozi: Kwa vipaji vinavyowezekana na wanawake katika huduma ya leseni na kupandishwa hadhi — kuhubiri na kufundisha, uongozi na utunzaji —

Watu: Tuna furahia neema yako inayofanya kazi miongoni mwetu.

Kiongozi: Kwa wale wanaotambua wito leo, na kwa kanisa linaloendelea kuundwa na Roho yako,

Watu: Tuelekeze katika haki, unyenyekevu, na matumaini.

Wote: Amina.

Baraka ya Ushuhuda

Mahali: Baada ya Utambulisho wa Nafasi za Kazi za Kidini au kabla ya Kutumwa

Kiongozi: Mungu Mwenye Neema na wa Milele,

Tunasherehekea zawadi ya wachungaji hawa wapya waliopatiwa leseni, kuteuliwa, au kupandishwa hadhi, ambao wito na kujitolea kwao katika huduma maalumu imethibitishwa miongoni mwetu. Pia tunasherehekea mwaka huu muhimu katika maisha ya Kanisa la Wamethodisti kwa ushuhuda wake wa kihistoria kwa utofauti wa wito na vipaji vya viongozi waaminifu miongoni mwetu.

Kwa wanawake waliokuwa na uwezo wa kuhudumia kama wazee kwa muunganiko kamili kwa miaka 70 baada ya Mkutano Mkuu wa 1956 kuidhinisha sheria iliyowaingiza wanawake katika masharti yote ya Kanuni yanayohusu huduma ya kupandishwa hadhi,

Watu: Asante, Bwana.

Kiongozi: Kwa wanawake ambao wito wao wa kipekee uliendana na Agizo la Ushemasi (Diakoni) lililoundwa miaka 30 iliyopita,

Watu: Asante, Bwana.

Kiongozi: Kwa wanawake wanaohudumia jamii kwa uaminifu, ubadilifu, na upendo wa dhati kama Wachungaji wa Kijiji na Wenye Uanachama wa Msaada,

Watu: Asante, Bwana.

Kiongozi: Wazidishie nguvu wote uliowaita kwa huduma ya kidini.

Tufanye tukumbuke kila wakati njia ambazo unaendelea kuongoza kanisa katika aina mpya za uongozi katika miaka ijayo. Na endelea kuliunda Kanisa lako liwe ishara ya uaminifu ya upendo wako wa kupatanisha ulimwengu.

Watu: Amina.

*Rev. Meg Lassiak, Executive Director of Ministry, General Board of Higher Education & Ministry &
Rev. Amie Stewart, Senior Manager of Conference Relations,
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry*

Acknowledgements

It has been a profound honor to collect and compile the liturgical pieces represented in this resource. The women of The United Methodist Church have always been our mission, our inspiration, and our focus—and the many voices represented in this resource have only reinforced that. Your friendship, wisdom, and resilience continue to be our guiding light. For the many who contributed and translated, thank you! For the clergywomen and allies around the world who support our work, we are grateful.

In compiling this, we are especially mindful of all the women who have come before us: the pioneers, troublemakers, visionaries, and those who refused to take “no” for an answer. We are grateful for the women who boldly followed God’s call long before others recognized its worth or legitimacy. It is only because of *their* work that we are where we are today. And of course, there is one group who we owe a great debt of gratitude to— the ones who advocated, organized, prayed for, and supported the ministries of women... the lay women of the Methodist tradition. We thank you.

Lastly, it has been a great joy to work with other agencies of the UMC to bring this resource to life! To The General Board of Global Ministries, who has always championed the missions of and for women, thank you. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women would not exist without the work of GBGM’s Women’s Division. Additionally, for their friendship and collaboration, we want to thank United Women in Faith.

We are grateful for the contributions of The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, who have provided supplements to the Services of Commissioning and Ordination for this occasion. To Discipleship Ministries, who have been instrumental in developing resources celebrating women’s leadership for the local church, we give thanks. For The General Commission on Archives and History, we are thankful for your enthusiasm in celebrating this occasion together, your We extend our heartfelt gratitude to United Methodist Communications for their steadfast partnership and resourcing of our work and ministry. To each of you—thank you. I also want to thank my friend, Emmanuel Pius (Tanzania UMC), for beautifully translating this work into Swahili.

In 70 years we have come a long way! As we celebrate this occasion, we also want to acknowledge that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the ordination of deacons. Thank you for living into your callings! In these years much has changed, but the fire and faithfulness of United Methodist women in ministry has not. We cherish all that has been, and look forward with hope for all that will be.

Shukrani

Imekuwa heshima kubwa sana kukusanya na kuandaa pamoja vipengele vya kiliturujia vilivyomo katika rasilimali hii. Wanawake wa Kanisa la United Methodist daima wamekuwa lengo la utume wetu, chanzo cha msukumo wetu, na kitovu cha kazi yetu—na sauti nyingi zinazowakilishwa katika rasilimali hii zimethibitisha hilo kwa namna ya kipekee. Urafiki wenu, hekima yenu, na ustahimilivu wenu vinaendelea kuwa nuru inayotuongoza. Kwa wote waliochangia na kusaidia katika tafsiri, tunawashukuru sana! Kwa wachungaji wanawake na washirika wao kote duniani wanaounga mkono kazi yetu, tunawashukuru kwa dhati.

Katika kuandaa rasilimali hii, tunawakumbuka kwa namna ya pekee wanawake wote waliotutangulia: waanzilishi, waliothubutu kupinga hali ilivyo, wenye maono mapya, na wale waliokataa kukubali jibu la “hapana.” Tunawashukuru wanawake waliothubutu kufuata wito wa Mungu kwa ujasiri muda mrefu kabla ya wengine kutambua thamani au uhalali wake. Ni kwa sababu ya kazi yao tu ndipo tulipo leo. Na bila shaka, kuna kundi moja tinalodaiwa kulishukuru sana—wale waliotetea, waliopanga, waliombea, na kuunga mkono huduma za wanawake... yaani wanawake walei wa mapokeo ya Kimethodisti. Tunawashukuru sana.

Mwisho kabisa, imekuwa furaha kubwa kushirikiana na taasisi nyingine za UMC kuifanya rasilimali hii iwe hai. Kwa Bodi Kuu ya Huduma za Kila Nchi (General Board of Global Ministries), ambayo daima imekuwa mstari wa mbele katika mashirika ya wanawake na kwa ajili ya wanawake, asanteni. Tumejua kwamba Tume inayoshughulikia Hali na Nafasi ya Wanawake (General Commission on the Status and Role of Women) haingeweza kuwepo bila kazi ya Idara ya Wanawake ya GBGM. Vilevile, tunapenda kuwashukuru United Women in Faith kwa urafiki wao na ushirikiano wao.

Tunashukuru kwa mchango wa Bodi Kuu ya Elimu ya Juu na Huduma (The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry), ambao wametoa nyongeza za liturujia kwa Ibada za Kuwekwa Wakfu na Kuwekwa Rasmi katika Huduma kwa ajili ya tukio hili. Kwa Huduma ya Ufuasi (Discipleship Ministries), ambao wamekuwa muhimu katika kuandaa rasilimali zinazoadhimisha uongozi wa wanawake kwa ajili ya makanisa ya mahali, tunatoa shukrani zetu. Kwa Kwa Tume Kuu ya Makumbusho na Historia (The General Commission on Archives and History), tunawashukuru kwa hamasa yenu ya kusherehekea tukio hili pamoja nasi. Pia tunatoa shukrani zetu za dhati kwa Idara ya Mawasiliano ya United Methodist (United Methodist Communications), kwa ushirikiano thabiti na usaidizi wao katika kazi na huduma yetu. Kwa kila mmoja wenu—asante. Ninapenda pia kumshukuru rafiki yangu, Emmanuel Pius (Tanzania UMC), kwa kutafsiri kazi hii kwa uzuri mkubwa.

Katika miaka 70 tumepiga hatua kubwa sana! Tunapoadhimisha tukio hili, tunatambua pia kwamba mwaka huu tunaadhimisha miaka 30 tangu kuwekwa wakfu kwa mashemasi. Asanteni kwa kuishi na kutimiza wito wenu! Katika miaka hii mengi yamebadilika, lakini moto

wa imani na uaminifu wa wanawake wa **United Methodist** katika huduma haujabadilika. Tunathamini yote yaliyopita, na tunatazama mbele kwa tumaini kwa yote yatakayokuja.