General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church

General Conference 2012: “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ to Transform the World”

Called to RECLAIM! REJOICE! LEAD!

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

April 29, 2012, 10 am

Tampa Convention Center, Ballroom B
Called to RECLAIM! REJOICE! LEAD!

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PROCESSION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Do not give easy or unthinking response to this day’s call to worship.
For today we ask God’s Spirit to fill us, that we may prophesy to the four winds,
dream dreams and see visions. The call to worship today is a summons
to be touched by holy fire.

Many: Even now the flames are dancing above our heads.

One: God has called us from the farthest places of the earth.

Many: From east and west, north and south, we have gathered.

One: God has called those who are nameless, those without sight, those who are outcasts.
God has called pregnant women, and those with nursing infants.

Many: From all ways of life and every experience we have come.

One: We come, like Sarah and Miriam, Abraham and John, people with vision.

Many: We come, like the Samaritan woman, and the Syro-Phoenician woman,
like Thomas and Job, people with questions.

One: We come, like Mary and Ruth, Jeremiah and Moses, people with self-doubt.

Many: We come, like Rebekah, Martha and Priscilla, like Samuel, John Mark and David, people
with a part to play in the story of faith.

One: Prophets, visionaries, dreamers and warriors! We come with courage, faith and hope!

ALL: God of present, past and future, guide us now to your new age of promise!

*HYMN OF GATHERING

We Are Called

INVOCATION

Holy Spirit, Comforter, Mediator, Advocate,

We pray that you would open the heavens and rain down on us!

We celebrate your liberating presence found only in our teacher,

Savior and deliverer, Jesus, the Christ.

We know that you move when and how and where you will; so rush into this place today.

Breathe on us! Refresh us! Restore us! Revive us! Reconcile us! Purify us! Expose us!

Convict us! Sustain us! Nourish us! Challenge us!

Empower us! And then send us to the north, the south, the east and west. We say, “Yes!”
in the name of the One, true and living God; God in three persons.

AMEN

GREETING AND INTRODUCTIONS
PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Old Testament
Psalm 147
New Testament
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 (NRSV)
Psalm 147 UMH #859-860
Acts 2: 1-21 (NRSV)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
Seasons
Donald Lawrence

A TIME OF WITNESS
First Witness: Pamela Lightsey, elder, Northern Illinois Annual Conference
Second Witness: Debbie Wallace-Padgett, elder, Kentucky Annual Conference
Third Witness: Carmen Scheuerman, elder, Pampango Philippines Annual Conference
Fourth Witness: Erica Granados de la Rosa, laity, Fort Worth, Texas
Fifth Witness: Joaquina Nhanala, bishop of Mozambique Annual Conference

*HYMN OF RESPONSE
Faithful God, You Have Been Our Guide
COC #29

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION
Jesus said: If you are weary and heavy laden, come to me. I will give you rest.
If you are hungry, come to me. I am the bread of life.
If you are thirsty, believe in me, and you will never thirst again.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Merciful God, we have gathered in this place at mid-day for the work of worship.
But we know that in the true light of this day,
our negligence and complacency have been unveiled.
We confess that over these forty years,
As “certain women” have reached under the table for mere crumbs,
we have failed to offer them real food.
As “certain women” have reached in to touch the hem of Christ’s garment,
we have shoved them aside,
As “certain women” stood alone at the well, seeking for living water,
we have not acknowledged their presence,
As “certain women” have come offering precious oils and beautiful cloth,
we have rejected their gifts.
O God, have mercy on us! Forgive us for our woeful complicity!
Help us to walk humbly and do justice according to your will and your ways,
through Jesus Christ, our teacher, our example.
AMEN

RESPONSE
Kyrie
WE #51
PARDON
Hear this word of forgiveness and hope. Even as we stand here on holy ground, the Holy Spirit pleads our case. Not by power, not by might, but by the Spirit, God has heard, God has answered: you are forgiven! 
God has heard, God has answered: you are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

RESPONSE  Heleluyan  UMH #78

THANKSGIVING AND HOLY COMMUNION

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God most high.
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:

God of earth and sea, God of love and life,
God of the past, the present and all eternity.

When nothing existed but chaos, your Spirit swept across the waters and brought forth light and life.

When Hagar and Ishmael were dying of thirst, you showed her the water which saved their lives.

When your servant, Rebekah gave a stranger a drink from her well, you gave her a place among the mothers of Israel.

When you saw your children as slaves in Egypt, you brought them to freedom through the sea, and your daughter Miriam led them in singing your praises.

In the wilderness, when thirst began to overtake your children, your servant Moses struck the rock with his staff, and fresh water burst forth from your bounty.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles and martyrs with faithful women and men of every age who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna and praise to you, O God, giver of every good gift.

In the fullness of time you sent your child Jesus to be born of our sister Mary, and to live among us full of grace and truth.
As a first sign of his presence and power,
   he took water of purification
   and transformed it into the wine of rejoicing.

At a well in Samaria, to a woman despised by all,
   he first revealed himself to be the Christ.

He invited her to drink of his Spirit,
   and to become a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

And so, remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
   take from your creation this bread and this wine
   and joyfully celebrate the feast of resurrection as we await Christ’s return.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
   to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service,
   as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

   Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
   Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us
   and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine,
   that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ
   and that we may become one in him.

May Christ’s coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer,
   strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread.
   Then, at last, all people will be free, all divisions healed, all walls demolished,
   and with your whole creation, we will sing your praise, through your son, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
   in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
   the glory and honor are yours,
   almighty God forever and ever.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

*PRAYER OF JESUS

Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-maker,
   Source of all that is and that shall be,
   Mother and Father of us all, loving God in whom is heaven:
   May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
   The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world.
   Your heavenly will be done by all created beings.
   Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
   With the bread we need for today, feed us.
   In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
   In time of temptation and test, strengthen us.
   From trials too great to endure, spare us.
   From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
   For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.
*BREAKING OF THE BREAD*

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNION MUSIC</th>
<th>Let Us Be Bread</th>
<th>TFWS #2260</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Perfect Sacrifice</td>
<td>ZSS #200</td>
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<td></td>
<td>For Everyone Born</td>
<td>GS #2</td>
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*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

God of justice, hope and freedom, we give you thanks for your Son, our brother, Jesus who has made provision for all of your daughters and sons to walk in liberty. Thank you for the privilege of dining at this, your table of eternal redemption through the sacrificial body and blood of Christ. We are mindful of those who have not yet tasted of your grace here. As we turn our faces back to the east, west, north and south, disturb us, convict us, and afflict us with an urgency to demonstrate your liberating presence in the world. Prepare us for the time when all will feast at your table of love through the risen Christ.

Amen.

*SONG OF VICTORY*  

It’s A New Season / Oh Happy Day  
Houghton/Hawkins  
arr. Cynthia A. Wilson

**SENDING FORTH**

*CLOSING LITANY*

One: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  
and you shall be my witnesses in the North, the South, the East and the West.

Many: And so we move out of this place and join the company of women who have gone before us, Mothers of the faith both named and unnamed, testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of wisdom and healing.

They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, the poets, the lovers and the saints who are near to us in the shadows of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams.

Right: Deborah, who judged the Israelites with authority and strength, we walk in your footsteps.

Left: Esther, who used your position as Queen to ensure the welfare of God’s people, we walk in your footsteps.

Right: Unnamed woman with the flow of blood, who audaciously sought your healing and release, we walk in your footsteps.

Left: Mary Magdalene, who wept at the tomb until the risen Christ appeared, we walk in your footsteps.
Right: Phoebe, deacon of the church at Cenchrae, we walk in your footsteps.
Left: Perpetua, martyr of the church in North Africa, we walk in your footsteps.
Right: Miriam, who saved your brother Moses and started him on his way, we walk in your footsteps.
Left: Harriet Tubman, savior and escort for God’s children, we walk in your footsteps.
Right: Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, saints of holy indignation, we walk in your footsteps.
Left: Olga, of Kiev, evangelist to Russia, we walk in your footsteps.
Right: Margaret of Cortona, prophet to the Bishops, we walk in your footsteps.
Left: Mother Cabrini, servant of immigrants, we walk in your footsteps.
Right: Leontyne T. C. Kelly, twentieth and twenty-first century Episcopal leader, we walk in your footsteps.
Left: Women whose names have been lost and forgotten, we walk in your footsteps.
ALL: We walk in the company of Mothers of the faith, learning from them to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom, and to heal with compassion, to carry the Good News of the Gospel! THANKS BE TO GOD!!!
Worship Notes

Worship design by the Rev. Cynthia A. Wilson, Interim Dean of Students, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill

Opening Prayer - Dururu is a prayer chant that originates with one of the indigenous peoples of the Philippines known as the Aetas. Through this free-flowing, spontaneous prayer the Aetas offer chants of joy, praise, lament, celebration or whatever erupts from within the depths of their being.

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Witness notes by Erica Granados de la Rosa: Spoken Word is a form of poetry that is performed. Through performance poetry, poets are able to simultaneously share their words, energy, emotion, and personality with the audience. It allows for the audience to witness a deeper form of vulnerability resulting in a captivating engagement to the themes or topics presented. This form of art is mainly rooted in the African American cultural oral traditions influence by the Harlem Renaissance, Hip Hop and beyond. Spoken Word continues to be a strong form of expression particularly amongst youth and young adults of color throughout the world.

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Prayer of Confession and Pardon © Cynthia A. Wilson, 2011

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Music
Seasons. Words and Music by Donald Lawrence © 2003 from CD Grand Finale
It’s A New Season, Words and Music by Israel Houghton and Derrick Thomas From CD “Alive In South Africa,” Performed by Israel and New Breed
Oh Happy Day, Words and Music by Edwin Hawkins, From CD “Oh Happy Day” Performed by The Edwin Hawkins Singers

RECLAIM! REJOICE! LEAD!
Celebrate women’s leadership in your annual conference or local congregation.
Resources to adapt this worship service to your local or regional setting are available at
www.gcsrw.org.