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.

70th ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION IN THE METHODIST TRADITION

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.

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