

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

1
2
3 God is still at work as God is calling people into ministry and sustaining people in ministry. We celebrate the
4 ministry of elders, deacons, associate members, provisional members, local pastors, and those serving
5 churches and extension ministry in other categories of ministry. We celebrate the clergy who are retiring this
6 year. We celebrate those who have either completed seminary or course of study. We celebrate those who
7 are being called or have yet to be called.

8
9 We welcome our four new full members at this annual conference. We welcome our two new provisional
10 members. The Board of Ordained Ministry has agreed that these new members are meeting the criteria of a
11 transformational leader who love God with a genuine faith, are inspired by the Holy Spirit, are persons of
12 integrity, and who love people with a desire to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the
13 world. We welcome our pastors who have transferred from other conferences and have heard God's call
14 to come to Indiana. We welcome pastors from other denominations who have been called to serve United
15 Methodist churches.

16
17 Clergy Covenant Days in September 2023 and March 2024 brought inspiring messages from Bishop Trimble,
18 uplifting worship, and great teaching as we focused on Loving, Learning, and Leading. Bishop Bob Farr
19 shared his message about how healthy churches who build relationships outside the church walls will succeed
20 in the mission of making disciples.

21
22 This conference year, The Board of Ordained Ministry adopted Behavioral Standards that extend to all
23 clergy, not just candidates for ministry. We expect the clergy of the Indiana Conference to have the highest
24 standards of behavior, so congregations are confident in the pastors that are assigned to them. While our
25 expectations are high, we are mindful that we are all human and that pastors may sometimes struggle under
26 today's pressures. While maintaining standards against behavior that abuses alcohol, chemical dependency,
27 and gambling, we also expect our clergy to remain faithful in marriage, be wise in finances, and follow the
28 laws of our state and country. We have added areas that are sensitive to social justice concerns, including
29 social justice arrests, inclusion, and racism. I would personally like to thank Ron Bell, Oscar Ramos, Jill
30 Buckler, Lance Newton, and Shannon Stringer for their many hours of work to present the Behavioral
31 Standards to the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Indiana Conference.

32
33 In an effort to dismantle racism, we continue to have conversations of self-reflection that have led to
34 awareness of how to avoid our own racist tendencies. We support the covenant to dismantle racism and
35 urge all clergy to sign the covenant found on the link: [https://actionnetwork.org/forms/inumc-in-against-](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/inumc-in-against-racism)
36 [racism](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/inumc-in-against-racism)

37
38 We encourage all clergy to maintain their Continuing Education. The Board of Ordained Ministry stands
39 ready with scholarships for clergy who are faithful to improve themselves, follow their passions, and are
40 faithful to fulfill their Continuing Education requirements.

41
42 I am most grateful to Bishop Trimble for asking me to consider serving as chair in 2019. I'm grateful to the
43 members of the Board of Ordained Ministry who elected me. Together, we have led with compassion during
44 the difficult seasons of Covid-19 and disaffiliation. We have maintained our integrity by following the Book

1 of Discipline. I am grateful to have done ministry with the leadership team of Shannon Stringer, Amber
2 Karkosky-Litten, Joe Johnson, Sean Johnson, Oscar Ramos-Gallardo, Pete Ward, Marcy Patrick, Jean Ness,
3 and Judge John Baker. When we begin a new quadrennium on July 1, The Board of Ordained Ministry will
4 elect new officers.

5

6 We are grateful for the continued opportunity to serve in partnership with Bishop Trimble, the Cabinet, the
7 Board of Laity, and the members of the Indiana Conference. I am personally grateful for every member of
8 the Board, every member of the ten District Committees on Ministry, and to everyone who serves on a Pastor
9 Parish Relations Committee. Because God is still at work, we believe that God is calling people to lead our
10 churches. We celebrate our associate pastors, local pastors, ordained pastors and deacons, commissioned
11 pastors, and deacons, and those who are called to extension ministry.

12

13 Together we are discerning the call of future pastors that will lead our churches.

14

15 Tony Alstott

16 Chair of BOM