



**HEARTLAND
CONFERENCE**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. KY • OH • WV

**Service of Installation
of the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins
as Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference
of the United Church of Christ**

September 23, 2022, at 2:30 pm
Westerville Community United Church of Christ
**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”
Arr. Mark Hayes

Mr. Stu Myers

***Call To Worship and to Covenant**

Rev. Dr. Bertrice Wood

L: People of God, let us “rise up” to worship and remember.

P: The Holy One has called us to a renewal of our covenant commitments.

L: So let us remember: Our shared journey of faith leads us to grow in mutual love;

A: Respecting each other’s place on the journey of faith;

L: Extending an extravagant welcome to all;

A: Nurturing the unity of the One Spirit;

L: Offering our diverse gifts across all settings, building God’s Beloved Community here and now!

A: Promoting responsible stewardship and sharing of resources;

L: Answering the call to reach out across the Heartland and beyond to our ecumenical partners;

A: We seek to extend God’s love and justice throughout all creation!

***Opening Hymn**

“Called to Be Family”

Medema/Long-Higgins

We’re called to be family united in love,
God’s grace and God’s mercy we live now to prove.
We’re God’s beloved people; we walk in God’s way,
Where justice and mercy shine bright as the day!

Chorus

Yes, yes! A thousand times, yes!
Better together than out on our own.
Yes, yes! A thousand times, yes!
Here in God’s family, no longer alone.

Each person a treasure, now part of the one,
Now joined in the labor that waits to be done.
With Christ ever leading, new visions are sown,
God’s light to display and God’s love to make known.

Chorus

We work for a world that is loving and just.
We pray for a church dressed in honor and trust.
We're bound to each other, in Christ one to all.
We're siblings and cousins who've answered Christ's call.

Chorus

We stand on the edge of tomorrow's unknown.
Together we face what we cannot alone.
Each church and its people united to be,
The voice of God speaking, the Spirit set free.

Chorus

***Prayer of Covenant (Unison)**

Ms. Molly Hornberger

Loving God, center us in Your heart, pulsing with Christ-love, healing and holding, challenging and changing everything, in order for Your vision to rise. Take every weariness and form resurrections small and large in us. Offer us a strength beyond our own, binding us to You and to each other and to Your whole creation.

By this, Holy One, grow Your grace in us, delighting in every gift often taken for granted. Draw us to each other so that we may discover You forming us ever anew.

Call us also beyond ourselves as agents of mending in a world gone mad with desperate divisions too numerous to name. By this life You give, form ever anew Your creative covenant in us and through us. Blossom us into a bouquet beautiful and gracious, loving, just, and good. Let it be not only for ourselves but for the world You love. Loving God, let Your yes to us, made known in Christ Jesus, be answered again and again with our yes to You, granting grace and space for Your good news to rise. Amen.

Scripture - Acts 4:5-11

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins

Introduction of Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.

Sermon

"In the Name of Jesus"

Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Daniel Doty

Our offering today will go in support of SARA for Ukrainian Refugee relief and in support of the outdoor ministries program of the Heartland Conference.

Liturgical Dance

"Sanctuary"

Natalie Wittmann and Mary Long

*Carrie Newcomer***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Loving God, continue to join us to your joy with the spirit of self-giving you made known in Jesus Christ. Multiply in us a grace and thanks for every gift you multiply in us for the good of the world you so dearly love. By this, form again and again the heart and mind of Christ in us. That we may rise again and again to bless the world. Amen.

Installation Liturgy and Four Way Covenant Rev. Patricia Battle, Rev. Beth Gedert
Rev. Dr. Judy Alston, Mr. Tom Hathaway

Rev. Patricia Battle:

Having been called with the discernment of the Holy Spirit and the consent of the people of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ, we now ask the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins to respond to this call to be our Conference Minister by coming forward to speak his covenant promises.

Rev. Dr. Judy Alston

David, will you give to this ministry every good gift God gave you for love, leadership, service, and praise?

Mr. Tom Hathaway:

Will you lead the Heartland Conference with an open spirit, a wise mind, an eye for partnership, and a heart for the common good?

Rev. Beth Gedert:

Will you walk the way of Jesus with us, delighting in the pleasure of God's grace, and not be ashamed of the Gospel?

Rev. Dr. David Long-higgins

Friends in Christ, I am willing and I promise to do these things, but I cannot do them without the help of God's grace and your prayers.

All: May the grace of God be with you and our prayers uphold you!

Rev. Patricia Battle:

David, will you faithfully preach and teach the Word of God, administer the sacraments and offer pastoral support and encouragement in all our shared settings of ministry, honoring the covenants we share?

Rev. Dr. Judy Alston:

Will you support and affirm and welcome all members of the Heartland Conference as gifted partners in the ministry of Christ?

Mr. Tom Hathaway:

Will you show patience in conflicted times, courage in perilous times, and love at all times?

Rev. Beth Gedert:

Will you be fervent and persevering in commending this Conference in prayer to the indwelling Spirit of God?

Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins:

Friends in Christ, I am willing and I promise to do these things, but I cannot do them without the help of God's grace and your prayers.

All: May the grace of God be with you and our prayers uphold you!

Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins:

Siblings in Christ of the Heartland Conference,

Will you promise to honor and support each other in the labors of the Gospel with goodwill and great hope?

Will you use the gifts God gave you in generous service, working for the changing of lives and healing the brokenness of the world?

Will you be courageous, patient, and loving in times of delight and in times of pain and challenge, for the sake of the common good, the peace of the church, and the glory of God?

All: We are willing, and we promise to do these things, but we cannot do them without the help of God and your prayers for us.

Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins:

God be with you, and my prayers uphold you!

All: Amen and amen!

Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Blessing

Declaration of Installation

Rev. Patricia Battle:

Siblings in Christ, we believe that the Holy Spirit has moved among us, choosing Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins to be our Conference Minister. The people have

affirmed the Spirit's direction, and today we have made promises to labor together in love for the sake of the Gospel.

**All: With joy and in hope, with faith and praise, we now declare Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins is duly installed in this ministry, by the mercy of God!
Amen! Alleluia!**

Presentation of the Conference Minister Medallion Rev. Shari Prestemon

Blessing from the Leadership Roundtable Rev. Patricia Battle, Rev. Daniel Busch
Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Rev. Carl Robinson

Blessing from the Conference Mr. Tom Hathaway

Blessing from our Ecumenical Partners Rev. Allen Harris

Charge to the Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

Charge to the Conference Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

***UCC Statement of Faith** - In the Form of a Doxology Rev. Kay Albright

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

***Hymn of Commitment** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" *-Jane Parker Huber*

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our sharing, to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people young and old,
Blending human skills together, gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

***Words of Thanks and Benediction**

Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins

Postlude

"Medley of Praise"

Arranged by Phillip Keveren

*©Liturgy of Installation for a UCC Conference Minister, adapted and used by permission from Rev. Mary Luti.

Dear Friends in Christ,

What an honor to be called into this ministry by you and to celebrate today with you the work of God's unfolding love and justice in our life together for the life of the world. You are a gift and a blessing and I give thanks to God for you, the ministry settings we share, and for the vision God has given us to be agents of the Gospel in the life of the world. Thank you so very much for your commitment and especially for your presence today!

Pastor Dave

Participants in Today's Service in Order of Appearance

Mr. Stu Myers, Pianist for Westerville Community United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Bertrice Wood, Retired Pastor of the Heartland Conference and member of the Annual Gathering planning committee

Ms. Molly Hornberger, Member of Zion United Church of Christ and member of Pastor Dave's last confirmation class prior to coming into the role of Conference Minister.

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, Vice President of Engagement for United Church Homes and spouse of Rev. Dave Long-Higgins

Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches

Rev. Daniel Doty, Vice-Moderator of the Heartland Conference Board of Directors and Designated Interim Sr. Minister at First Congregational Church of Tallmadge

Natalie Wittmann, Member of David's United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio, and long-time friend of Rev. Long-Higgins

Mary Long, Member of David's United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio, and sister-in-law of Rev. Long-Higgins

Rev. Patricia Battle, Association Minister, the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Beth Gedert, Pastor of Zion United Church of Christ, pastor to Rev. Long-Higgins where he is a member.

Rev. Dr. Judy Alston, Chairperson of the Department for Church and Ministry, the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ partner.

Mr. Tom Hathaway, Moderator of the Heartland Conference Board of Directors and member at Fleming Road United Church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference and Chairperson of the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Daniel Busch, Association Minister of the Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister of the Living Water Association, ONE, of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Carl Robinson, Association Minister for the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Pastor and President, Christian Church in Ohio, Disciples of Christ

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister of the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Kay Albright, Heartland Conference Pastor and member of the Annual Gathering Planning Committee.

You are invited to a reception that will follow the installation service in the fellowship hall.



Use this QR code to give in today's offering.
Open your phone's camera
and point it at the QR code.
Click on the prompt to open the link
to go to the Heartland Conference's secure giving page.
Thank you for your generosity in giving today.