



The Metropolitan Association New York Conference United Church of Christ

Ordination and Installation Service

for

Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer

Monday, June 28, 2021

7:00 pm

At

The Nave

The Riverside Church in the City of New York

490 Riverside Drive | New York, NY | 10027

Rev. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister

Join us Live at <http://www.trcnyc.org/event/ordination-meisenheimer/>

Service of Order of Ordination to Christian Ministry
The Riverside Church
for
Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer
June 28, 2021

Musical Prelude – Matt King
His Eye is on the Sparrow

*Call to Worship – Rev. Bruce Lamb

In Christ, the God of heaven has made a home on earth.
Christ dwells among us and is one of us.
Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.
He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.
Come now, all who thirst,
And drink the water of life.
Come now, all who hunger,
And be filled with good things.
Come now, all who seek.
And be warmed by the fire of love.

*Opening Prayer – Martha Wiggins

Welcome – Rev. Jim Keat

Scripture – friends and family of Amanda Meisenheimer
II Corinthians 4:7-18

Song of Preparation – Shari Gill and Matt King
Blessed Assurance

Introduction of Dr. Niang – Amanda Meisenheimer

*Ordination Sermon – Dr. Aliou Niang

Worshipping God through Our Giving – Rev. Amy Lunde-Whitler

**Please send donations (payable to The Metropolitan Association) to the
Metropolitan Association at 102-19 34th Avenue, 2nd floor, Corona, NY 11368
or give directly online at <http://metrouccnyc.org/main/>**

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Bruce Lamb

Musical Interlude – The Gan Family
You Never Let Go by Matt Redman

ORDER OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

GREETING

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Deacon Stephanie Bennett, Committee on Ministry**

Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers on earth. The Metropolitan Association, New York Conference, of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

PEOPLE: **To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask and think, be glory in the church and in Jesus Christ to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION

LOCAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE: **Martha Wiggins**

The Riverside Church, United Church of Christ, after carefully considering the call to ordained ministry of **Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer**, respectfully and boldly requests that the Metropolitan Association ordain **Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer** to the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ, consistent with scripture and with the traditions of the church universal, as the Minister of Children and Families of **The Riverside Church** United Church of Christ, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **MID Amy Harbo, Committee on Ministry**

(Addressing the congregation)

The Metropolitan Association has reviewed the request of **The Riverside Church**, United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined **Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer** concerning her fitness for ministry in Christ's church. We are pleased on behalf of the United Church of Christ, to authorize the ordination of **Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer** into Christian ministry.

(Addressing the ordinand)

Amanda, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your consent to receive ordination into Christian ministry as the Minister of Children and Families of **The Riverside Church**, United Church of Christ.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Reginald Brantley, Co-Chair Committee on Ministry**

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession.

It looks to the word of God in the scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant reformers.

It affirms the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the gospel in church and society. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.

Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association, in cooperation with the person and the local church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

EXHORTATION

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Ms. Lucy Werner, Committee on Ministry**

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me!"

How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace! The messenger announces victory and says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

The Spirit of God is on me, because the Holy One has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those who are bound.

EXAMINATION

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaffer, Committee on Ministry**

Amanda, before God and this congregation, we ask you: Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and are you ready with the help of God to enter this ministry and to serve faithfully in it?

ORDINAND: **I am.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Do you, with the church throughout the world, hear the word of God in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and do you accept the word of God as the rule of Christian faith and practice?

ORDINAND: **I do.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and in reading the scriptures, as well as in the public duties of your office?

ORDINAND: **I do, relying on God's grace.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church, speaking the truth in love?

ORDINAND: **I will, relying on God's grace.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you be faithful in preaching and teaching the gospel, in administering the sacraments and rites of the church, and in exercising pastoral care and leadership?

ORDINAND: **I will, relying on God's grace.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you keep silent all confidences shared with you?

ORDINAND: **I will, relying on God's grace.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you seek to regard all people with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all?

ORDINAND: **I will, relying on God's grace.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Do you accept the faith and order of the United Church of Christ; and will you, as an ordained minister in this communion, ecumenically reach out toward all who are in Christ and show Christian love to people of other faiths and people of no faith?

ORDINAND: **I do and I will, relying on God's grace.**

ACCLAMATION

NY CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development**

People of God, you have heard the promises **Amanda** has made. What is your will?

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS: **By the grace of God, he is worthy! Let us ordain her. Come, Holy Spirit.**

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you support Amanda in the ministry of Christ?

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS: **We will.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Dr. Nigel Pearce, Treasurer**

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer on them gifts for ordained ministry.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Let us pray....

Song of Dedication – Shari Gill and Matt King
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

PEOPLE: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

DECLARATION

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Pearce**

Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer, in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Metropolitan Association, New York Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you to be ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ.

COVENANT

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Dr. Ruby Wilson, President**

Dear Friends, ***The Riverside Church***, United Church of Christ has declared that having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer to minister in this place as the Minister for Children and Families and teacher and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Metropolitan Association of the South East Region of the New York Conference of the UCC has declared that Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Amanda, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that **The Riverside Church** has been led to call you as Minister for Children and Families and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Metropolitan Association?

Pastor Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments and fulfilling the Minister to Children and Families office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Wilson**

Addressing members of The Riverside Church

Members of ***The Riverside Church*** will those who are able rise and affirm you covenant with your Minister for Children and Families and teacher? You may do so by using your reaction button and indicating a hand wave or thumbs up. If you are participating via YouTube, you may affirm your covenant in the chat.

Addressing members of the Metropolitan Association

Members of the Metropolitan Association, will those who are able indicate and affirm your covenant with ***The Riverside Church*** United Church of Christ and its Minister for Children and Families and teacher? You may do so by using your reaction button and indicating a hand wave or thumbs up. If you are participating via YouTube, you may affirm your covenant in the chat.

Metro Rep, **Rev. Wilson:** *Speaking on behalf on the Metropolitan Association members:*

Members of the Metropolitan Association New York Conference of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the Minister for Children and Families and teacher of ***The Riverside Church***, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

THE THREE-WAY COVENANT

Metro Rep: **Rev. Wilson**: The Covenant has been executed by all the parties – Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer, *The Riverside Church*, and the Metropolitan Association New York Conference UCC and it will be sent with the gifts which include the Bible, Official Clergy Card, and Amanda's Ordination and Installation Certificates to Rev. Howell. The Riverside Church has gifted Amanda with her clerical robe.

CHARGE to the ORDINAND and CONGREGATION

Rev. Michael Livingston, Interim Senior Minister, *The Riverside Church*

CLOSING PRAYER

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: **Rev. Eugene Palmore, Pastor, Church of the Master**

Introduction of Rev. Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer by Rev. Livingston

Final Remarks and Benediction by Rev. Kristen Amanda Meisenheimer

Postlude – Shari Gill and Matt King
Joyful, Joyful