

Order of Installation of Rev. Scott Siefert to St. John's United Church of Christ

Greeting

Conference Representative, the Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: The Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Congregation: Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Presentation

Local Church Representative, Michelle Bachmann, Consistory President: St. John's United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called the Rev. Scott Siefert as its pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Minnesota Conference install him in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: The Minnesota Conference has reviewed the request of St. John's United Church of Christ, We have prayerfully examined Scott and we are pleased to install him as your pastor and teacher. Scott, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of an association or conference of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ.

Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

Exhortation

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, our siblings, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves. We urge you, our brother, warn the idle, encourage the timid,

help the weak, be patient with all. See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Covenant

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: St. John's United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Scott to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now receives him as appointed by God for this ministry. The Minnesota Conference has declared that he has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: Scott, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that St. John's United Church of Christ has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Minnesota Conference?

Rev. Scott Siefert: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: Members and ministry partners of St. John's United Church of Christ, please rise in body or spirit and affirm your covenant with this one who has been called to be pastor and teacher among you.

Church Members and Ministry Partners: We, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, and its community ministry partners, receive Scott as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: Members of the Minnesota Conference, please rise in body or spirit and affirm your covenant with St. John's United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher.

Members of the Minnesota Conference, clergy and laity: We, the members of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of St. John's United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Prayer of Installation

All who are able may stand

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant, Scott, to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on him, on the people of St. John's United Church of Christ, and on all the churches of the Minnesota Conference that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church, and converting sinners to you. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil. And at the last, by your grace, receive us in your eternal home, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, one God, for ever and ever. And let the people say, **AMEN.**

Declaration

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher of St. John's United Church of Christ. ¹

We are grateful to the participants in our service. They are all wonderful representatives of what it takes to be a church in our world with love and cooperation. Thank you. Pastor Scott.

Mary Hudson. Mary is an active and invaluable member of St. John's UCC. She is an accomplished violinist among many talents that she has brought to our beloved community.

Penny Rolf. Penny is our music director for the church and serves on the Consistory as our Director of Finance. She also serves on the Women's Guild, and Faith and Service Review Committee. She is a lifetime active and invaluable member and her family has been members for multiple generations.

Rev. Penny Entringer. Penny is the pastor at Zoar UCC in Chaska, MN. She has provided support and care to St. John's for many years as a valued partner in our local UCC community.

Michelle Bachmann. Michelle is another member who has multi-generational ties to the church. She currently serves as Consistory President and Communications Director as well as so many other ways that she is involved in the church.

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson. Beth is the chair of the Committee on Ministry in the Minnesota Conference and is the lead pastor at New Brighton UCC.

Rev. Kelly Gallagher. Kelly is an Associate Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference after serving with the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC.

A Special Thank You to Our Participants

¹ Order of Installation adapted from UCC Book of Worship; Order for Installation of a Pastor (Pp 412-421).

