

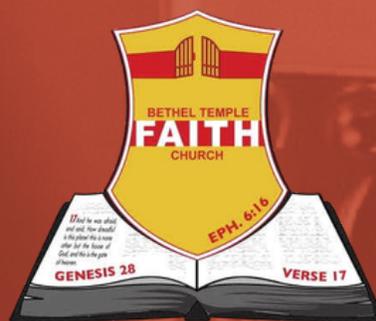


The Sacred Service of Licensing, Ordination, and Commissioning

SUNDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-SIX
ANNO DOMINI
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
415 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR AVE
KANNAPOLIS, NC 28083

Bethel Temple Faith Church

Bishop Bertram D. Hinton, Jr | First Lady Nickie Hinton



Order of Service

Processional

Praise and Worship: Elder Cherie' Graham and BTFC Praside Team

Welcome: Bishop Bertram D. Hinton, Jr.

Homily: Bishop Bertram D. Hinton, Jr.

Diaconate Charge:

Serve Well, be the example of Servitude in and out of the House of God. Serve by love, Serve in humility, Serve with compassion, Serve out of purpose. Be honorable and above reproach; bring not shame to God or His house. Break the "traditional" mold and continue to be men and women of God that walk in and with integrity. I charge you to submit continually to the Spirit of Wisdom that comes from the presence of the Lord. Continue to follow after righteousness and holiness as a model to others. Serve Well!

Do you accept this charge?

Response: We do, with the help of God

Prayer (Bishop, First Lady, and all BTFC Diaconate)

The Qualifications and Function of the Diaconate

As with all other leadership positions within the Church universal, Deacons are called to lead and live sober lives. Not just a sobriety in the sense of the consumption of wine but equally important is the sobriety in mentality. The Deacon is to be a true family man in that he serves as an example in word and deed for his family to follow. Ultimately the Deacon is to be proven before being ordained, we believe that there is to be a mandate on the time spent "in training" before being placed in such a weighty role in the Lord's Church (1 Timothy 3:8-13). Also, the Deacons are to be of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3). The Deaconess is to walk within the same Spiritual capacity as the Deacon. She is to be one with Spiritual insight that is subjected to spiritual leadership, reverent, not slanderous, sober, and faithful in all things (1 Timothy 3:11). She is to be a servant to the Church and its members as a depiction of the women that were "first to the tomb" ready to minister to the buried Body of Christ.

The primary responsibility of a Deacon is to serve in all areas common to the functionality of the church and its people (Acts 6:1-3). The Deacon is to operate administratively, ensuring that all things are in order in the House of God. Church business, from a financial standpoint, as well as the security of the facilities are the responsibility of the Deacons practically. Spiritually, the Deacon is capable of teaching and giving instruction as led by the Holy Spirit in a pure conscience (1 Timothy 3:9). Similarly, the Deaconess is called to serve within the same capacity from the standpoint of overall wellness for the church. As the Deacon has the responsibility of "facilities" maintenance, the Deaconess has, from the space of tidiness within the house. The Deaconess is called to be a succorer of many (Romans 16:2) in that she operates primarily with the ministry of helps. Her call is to the well-being of the house ranging from the cleanliness of the church to serving during times of bereavement for families dealing with loss. There are no bounds to the spirit of hospitality wherein the Deaconess is called to walk.

Licensed Minister Charge:

Learn Well, Operate Well, be the example of a Learner. Be pliable, glean and be spiritual sponges. Absorb the knowledge of God through your leader. I charge you to be students of the Word and fervent intercessors in and out of the House of God. Serve with humility, serve with grace, serve with gladness. Be vessels of appreciation and examples to the Church. Be confident that what God has begun this day, He alone is Faithful to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Function, exhort, teach according to the operation of the Spirit as God develops you all for His glory. Maneuver with grace as God raises you all in Ministry. Be pliable, Learn Well, Operate Well!

Do you accept this charge?

Response: We do, with the help of God

Prayer (Bishop, First Lady, and BTFC Licensed Ministerium)

Statement of Qualification and Function for the Licensed Minister

These leaders have undergone Ministerial training and have been proven to possess the capacity to function well within this call to Ministry. These leaders are apt to teach and rightly divide the Word of Truth. As licensed Ministers, they are to operate under the guidance of Ordained authority and serve the Church universal as the opportunity presents itself. They all can preach and will preach as doors open to them by the permission of God and the order of their Bishop.

Ordained Minister Charge:

Walk Well, Follow Well, Lead Well, be the example of the Centurion, in authority but under authority. I charge you in the sight of God and these witnesses to carry your calling with surety. Constantly make your calling and election sure and you will never fall. Preach with confidence in the One who called you to Himself to be a Minister of His Gospel and to unashamedly convince the gainsayers and those who oppose themselves. Let your words be true and clothed in Scripture. Eat the Word of God, live the Word of God, be committed to study the Word of God as God has ordained you to this next level of trust in His Kingdom and this Church. Be the echo of the voice of God from your leader to the people. Be the example in all things, be diligent in prayer, fervent in the Spirit, knowledgeable of the Scriptures, and full of the Holy Ghost. Walk as an ambassador, Follow as a soldier, Lead as a Minister of the Gospel in and out of House of God. Walk Well, Follow Well, Lead Well!

Do you accept this charge?

Response: We do, with the help of God

Prayer (Bishop, First Lady, and all BTFC Ordained Ministerium)

Statement of Qualification and Function for the Ordained Minister

These leaders have undergone Ministerial training and have been proven to possess the capacity to function well within this call to Ministry. The difference in the function of the Ordained minister compared to the Licensed minister centers around the concept of authorization. While displaying the capacity to effectively teach and preach they additionally are authorized to function in all areas of ministry, i.e. performing weddings, providing spiritual counsel, administering the Holy Sacrament, performing funerals. As Ordained Ministers, they are to operate under the guidance of Senior local leadership in service to the Church universal as the opportunity presents itself.

Taking the model from the words of Christ “I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain” (John 15:16) these leaders are put in place to produce. The call to Ordained Ministry is a heavy weight that is to be carried under the power of Christ. These leaders, empowered by the Holy Ghost, will function, move and encourage multiplication in the local assembly.

The Investiture

CASSOCK: This is the robe of a servant. Modeled after the garment that Jesus wore. This is synonymous with the garment that they gambled over as he hung on the cross.

CINCTURE: This is placed around the waist, and is symbolic of the towel, with which Jesus girded himself and began to wash the Disciples’ feet. The Cincture is a sign of servitude as a symbol of her (his) loins being girded with truth (Ephesians 6:14).

SURPLICE: The priestly garment worn over the CASSOCK signifies purity and dedication unto The Lord. As a servant unto God clothed with a Breastplate of Righteousness, the Minister wears this shorter garment as a symbol of serving and submission to her (his) Presiding Bishop.

THE CORD and SILVER CROSS: The White (Licensed Minister), and the Black (Ordained Minister) Cords are significant for the leader being put in their respective place under the direction of her (his) Bishop in the House, the Silver Cross hangs visibly above the heart as a reminder of the sacrificial life of the Minister as she (he) serves and points others to the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Eldership Charge:

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I charge you to serve this House and the Lord's Church well. You have been selected and chosen to function freely in this season. I charge you to rest in the confidence of God's plan for your lives in Ministry. Be who and what He demands and serve as unto Him. Remain open to the newness of this season and press with fresh understanding and oil. Your assignments are individually purposeful and will shine light on the will of God to those who thought they knew. You have been called to operate in the capacity where you are assigned. I charge each of you to stand firm on the truth of this call; you are Elders of Bethel Temple Faith Church, indeed. A more excellent weight of glory rests upon each of you for this assignment, as you all are equipped to fulfill His purpose and plan. I charge you to lead on your level, I charge you to declare and display the power of God. Walk through doors that will be opened because you were strategically established this day to see the fruition of your call. This is the place; this is the time! I charge you to flow with God in the presence of the people. Each of you will function in the anointing of Aaron and Hur by upholding the arms of your leader to release victory to the Body. I charge you all to stand when others will not. I charge you to pray without ceasing and press without quitting. If no one else serves, you all must! If no one else prays, you all must! Serve Well Elders, Serve Well!

Do you accept this charge?

Response: We do, with the help of God

Investiture of the new Elders (Placement of new surplice, tippet, and cord and cross)

Elder Lee J. Lang, Elder Natasha D. Lipscomb, Elder Karena N. Butler, Elder Joshua A. Butler

(First Lad, BTFC Eldership, along with DIT Lang and Bro, Lipscomb)

Prayer by Bishop Hinton

Bethel Temple Faith Church Congregation Charge: (Please Stand)

With the weight and seriousness of this call being clearly and soberly displayed and explained in your presence over the years of ministry at large and particularly during these moments of elevation, the Church bears a responsibility to cooperate with what God has done in our midst and acknowledge our acceptance of their position of authority in the Church universal and directly within our local Assembly. Standing here are Lee Jadonna Lang and Natasha Deanna Lipscomb, Ordained Ministers, along with Karena Nicole Butler and Joshua Alexander Butler, Licensed Ministers. Today, they are officially being ordained and granted rank to become members of the Eldership of the Bethel Temple Faith Church. Submit to their wisdom, honor their leadership, and follow their example. Respect their position and do your part to support their calling in its totality as women and a man of God in authority, but under authority. Listen to them and receive counsel from them, understanding that they are simply echoes of the voice of your Bishop.

Do you as a Congregation accept this charge?

Response: We do, God being our Helper

The Investiture of the Elder

CASSOCK: Being adorned on the Elder, this is the robe of a servant. Modeled after the garment that Jesus wore. This is synonymous with the garment that they gambled over as he hung on the cross.

CINCTURE: Being placed around their waists, symbolic of the towel with which Jesus girded himself and began to wash the Disciples' feet. The Cincture is a sign of the Elder's servitude as a symbol of their loins being girded with truth (Ephesians 6:14).

SURPLICE: The priestly garment worn over the CASSOCK signifies purity and dedication unto The Lord. As a servant unto God clothed with a Breastplate of Righteousness, the Elder wears this shorter garment as a symbol of serving and submission to their Presiding Bishop.

THE TIPPET: The symbol of the preacher; the preacher's scarf; worn by the primary defenders of faith in the House. On the right side, there is an emblem of the Bethel Temple Faith Church signifying their rank and authority within the local Assembly.

THE ROPE and SILVER CROSS: The Black and Gold Rope is significant of the Elder being an Ordained leader under the direction of their Bishop in the House, the Silver Cross hangs visibly above the heart as a reminder of the sacrificial life of the Elder as they serve and point others to the Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Qualifications and Function of Elders

The character and effectiveness of any church is directly related to the quality of its leadership. Therefore, Scripture stresses the importance of qualified church leadership and delineates specific standards for evaluating those who would serve in that sacred position. The qualifications for Elders / Pastors are found in **1 Timothy 3:2-7** and **Titus 1:6-8**. According to these passages, an Elder must be above reproach, have only one spouse, be temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to wine, not a striker, gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money, not greedy of filthy lucre, a good manager in the household, one having their children under control with dignity, not a new convert, one who has a good reputation outside the church, self-controlled, sensible, able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict themselves, above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, loving what is good, just and devout.

The single overarching qualification of which the rest are supportive is that an Elder is to be "*above reproach.*" Meaning Elders must be leaders who cannot be accused of anything sinful because they have sustained a reputation of blamelessness. An Elder is to be above reproach in their marital, social, business, and spiritual lives. In this way, Elders model godliness and can legitimately call the congregation to follow their example (**Philippians 3:17**). All other qualifications, except perhaps teaching and management skills, only amplify that idea.

The primary responsibility of an Elder is to serve as a manager and caretaker of the church (**1 Timothy 3:5**). That involves several specific duties such as administering the Holy Sacraments. As spiritual overseers of the flock, Elders are to determine church policy (**Acts 15:22**); oversee the church (**Acts 20:28**); ordain others (**1 Timothy 4:14**); rule, teach, and preach (**1 Timothy 5:17**; **1 Thessalonians 5:12**; **1 Timothy 3:2**); exhort and refute (**Titus 1:9**); and act as shepherds, setting an example for all (**1 Peter 5:1-3**). Those responsibilities put Elders at the core of the New Testament church's work.

The Act of Commissioning

by Bishop Bertram D. Hinton, Jr., and Minister Nickie L. Hinton

The Act of Commissioning

Adjutant will escort the Candidates to the Pulpit..... Spoken by Elder Toney B. Black, Sr.

Presentation of the Commissioning Candidates

Bishop Hinton, Lady Hinton, and congregation, it is my pleasure and privilege to present to you, Elder Corey and Minister Ebony Wells, Sr., for Commissioning and establishing the **Covenant Faith Church**. These individuals have proven their ministerial calling and have been called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They have demonstrated that the grace and anointing for the pastorate does indeed rest on them. After fasting, much prayerful consideration, and trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we ask that you lay your hands upon them to ordain them for the work of the ministry and grant them the rank and dignity necessary to serve in their respective capacities.

Charge to Elder and Lady Wells by Bishop Bertram D. Hinton, Jr.

You stand today before God and His people as individuals set apart by the Holy Spirit, as in **Acts 13:2**. You are charged to walk in holiness, guard sound doctrine, and maintain the integrity of life and service.

Feed the flock of God with faithfulness (**1 Pet. 5:2**). Build every aspect of ministry upon the foundation of Scripture, remembering that *“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it”* (**Ps. 127:1**). Give yourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word (**Acts 6:4**), seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all decisions.

Protect the unity of the Church, endeavoring to keep the bond of peace (**Eph. 4:3**). Endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, remaining steadfast and unmovable in the work of the Lord (**2 Cor. 15:58**).

Therefore, as Paul charged Timothy, I now charge you: *“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season”* (**2 Tim 4:2**). Go forth in the authority of Christ, under the covering of your leadership, and in the strength of the Lord who promised, *“Lo, I am with you always.”*

May your ministry be fruitful, faithful, and founded upon the Word of God.

Do you accept this Charge?

Response: We do, the Lord being our helper.

Commissioning Prayer.....Bishop Bertram D. Hinton, Jr.



BISHOP
RTRAM D. HINTON, JR. 2022



www.btfcnc.church

*17 And he was afraid
and said, How dreadful
is this place! this is none
other but the house of
God, and this is the gate
of heaven.*
GENESIS 28

