

 CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
in the United States and Canada

INSTALLATION OF
THE REV. DR. MARCUS
LEATHERS



APRIL 20, 2024 1- 4PM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAGERSTOWN

1345 POTOMAC AVE, HAGERSTOWN, MD 21742

CHRISTIAN CHURCH CAPITAL AREA REGION



THE BIOGRAPHY



REVEREND DR. MARCUS L. LEATHERS

Faith forged from the nurture of family, strengthened in the study of God's word, and sharpened in service to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in partnership with ecumenical entities, and in outreach to the Beloved Community.

Marcus Levon Leathers, a second-generation Disciples of Christ, born in Eastern NC, is the son of Levon Leathers and the late Carolyn Leathers and the middle sibling of sister, Shelia, and brother, Malcolm. Marcus was baptized at age 9 at St. Luke Church of Christ (DOC) in Princeville, NC, where his family was active for many years. Marcus is the husband of Tammi C. Leathers and father of Coleman Marcus Levon (deceased), Madison Danielle, and Maxwell Hunter MacKenzie.

As a Chemistry student at NC State University, Marcus realized his true passion was for the Church and Christian ministry. After graduating and marrying Tammi Michelle Coleman, he soon began Master of Divinity (MDiv) courses at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. As a student minister at East Second Street Christian Church (DOC), Marcus trained with the pastor, Reverend Raymond L. Brown, who became a lifelong friend and mentor. Alos, he served as a chaplain intern at the Christian Church Homes of Kentucky in Louisville. Upon earning his MDiv degree, Marcus was ordained by the Christian Church (DOC) in NC. He has served in the following ministerial capacities:

- Pastor, Midway Church of Christ (DOC), Tazewell, VA, 1993- 1996.
- Assistant to the Pastor, Michigan Park Christian Church (DOC), Washington, DC, 1997- 1999.
- Pastor, Shepherd Park Christian Church (DOC), Washington, DC, 1999- 2016.
- Pastor for Congregational Care & Development, United Christian Parish, Reston, VA, 2017- 2023.

Commitment to social justice has been a focus of Marcus' work, specifically, his participation in the Reconciliation Ministry initiative, Many Members One Table, with Reverend Dr. William "Chris" Hobgood, former CCCA Regional Minister, in 1999. This began a relationship of nearly twenty years as a facilitator of reconciliation, including a two year apprenticeship with Crossroads Ministry's Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism enabling him to serve as one of the four initial Core Trainers/Organizers for Reconciliation Ministry, a General Ministry of the Christian Church (DOC), a role he continued until late 2023.

In consideration of Evangelism through Art in Service to the Sacred, Marcus completed the Arts and Theology track of the Doctor in Ministry (DMin) program at Wesley Theological Seminary in 2009, a study influencing his work within CCCA congregations and their communities. Marcus' participation with the Disciples Center for Public Witness, a faith-based justice ministry of the CCCA advocating and organizing for public policies and laws promoting greater justice for all. In recognition of his commitment to community service through Christian ministry, in January 2021, Marcus was presented with the Bridge Builders Award.

In August 2023, Marcus was called to be the Regional Minister of the Christian Church (DOC) in the Capital Area. In accepting his call, Marcus has renewed his commitment to work on behalf of the people and the community he has loved and who have likewise loved him and his family. He is honored to accept this call—understanding that it doesn't solely rest with him but has been guided by the host of witnesses from the past, will be supported by the faithful leadership of the present, and is for the benefit of the great manifestation of Jesus' Church in the future.



THE INSTALLATION

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

April 20, 2024

First Christian Church (Hagerstown, MD)

Prelude: In His Hands by Mendelssohn
Processional: Total Praise by Richard Smallwood

Mrs. Kathy McKinley, Organist
Regional Music Ministry

Welcome
CCCA Regional Moderator

Rev. Terri McLellan

Call to Worship

Norah Riester

Leader: Sisters and Brothers, we are called:

People: Called to follow Jesus. What a challenge! What an opportunity!

Leader: Called to move, as He did, among the people; to feel with them; to care for them; to touch them and be touched by them.

People: Called to name, as He did, the oppressions that destroy our world; those of which we are already aware, and those injustices we have not yet learned to recognize or to name.

Leader: Called to discern those gifts of life God has hidden deep within each one of us.

People: Called to discover and to share those gifts of our heart, our hands, our whole selves.

Leader: Called to place our gifts in God's hands; the Holy hands from which they came. Called to follow Jesus,

People: and yes, we can answer; we can follow, because we have been called first to love.

Leader: Called to be God's children,

People: Called by name.

Greeting from Hagerstown

Rev. Dr. James Brooks

Opening Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness (CH #86)

Regional Music Ministry

Statement of Purpose

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes
Christian Church Georgia
Interim, Regional Minister

Search Committee Report
Opening Prayer

Rev. Tim Bobbitt
Rev. Elizabeth Baird
Sara Hindsley

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:1-11

Sophia Fischer
Rev. Dr. Carol Green-Freeman

Introduction of Our Speaker

Rev. Delancy Catlett

Music Selection/Solo: Moving Forward by Israel Houghton

Regional Music Ministry



THE INSTALLATION

Sermon: "Claiming Space and Time"

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Perry

Celebration of Covenant of Call

Rev. Terri Hord Owens

We now come to this moment in which Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers, having been called with due seriousness to minister within this region, is to be officially received into this office.

Marcus, you have responded to God's call, as your journey has brought you to serve this region as Regional Minister. Are you ready to accept the call of the Christian Church in the Capital Area region and to minister with them in God's world?

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers: Trusting in God, I am ready and willing.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Will you seek to be diligent in prayer as you perform the ministry before you, committing yourself to be a faithful witness of the gospel, leading the region in its' mission and ministry as it seeks to foster God's reconciliation in a broken world?

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers: Following the example of Christ, I will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Will you endeavor to listen to the members of the regional church, committing to love them and be loved by them, challenge them, and be challenged by them, to be a model of peacemaking and justice in the world?

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers: Through the grace of God, I will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: And will you also now commit yourself to the stewardship of the church, in the planning, execution, and evaluation of its' ministry and resources so that it might be part of the in-breaking of the "kingdom" of God? Will you speak, as clearly as you are able, the visions God places on your heart to encourage, challenge and lead this people?

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers: With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Will you maintain your own health through time with family and friends, exercise, and opportunities of rest that your gifts may come to us through abundant living?

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers: With the help of God and my family and friends, I will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Marcus, you come into this new chapter of your ministry with a firm foundation of family and friends. Will those in Marcus' family who are able to, please stand?

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: (to the family) Each of you has played an important part in the growing and nurturing of Marcus' life. Will you promise to continue your love and support for Marcus in this new call-in ministry? If so, will you please answer, through the love of God, we will.

Family: Through the love of God, we will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Family, you may be seated. Marcus, you have many partners in the ministry ahead. Some of those partners are the ministers of this region and God's whole church. Will the pastors, present and able to, please stand?

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: (to the pastors) Will you offer support and counsel to Marcus in your shared ministry? Will you pray for him regularly and seek his wellbeing as a spiritual leader?



THE INSTALLATION

together? If so, will you please answer, with God's help, we will.

Pastors: With God's help we will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Pastors, you may be seated. Marcus, you have partners in the elders among us who offer guidance and prayer in our congregations. Will the elders please stand.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: (to the elders) Will you pray for the regional church in the Capital Area that we may be an instrument of God's compassion in this region and beyond? Will you support the regional ministry of the church as it seeks to equip the congregations for the ministries in the years ahead? If so, will you please answer, with God's help, we will.

Elders: With God's help, we will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Elders, you may be seated. Marcus, the people gathered here on this day pray with you and for you and for one another. Will all the people, who are able, please stand and prepare to speak to their commitment?

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: (to all gathered) Will you pray for the Capital Area Region in the days ahead to be faithful to its' calling to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ? Will you offer your gifts of ministry to God's purposes, as you are able, that the church may grow in love and unity? Will you support the ministry of the region with your good words, hopes and resources that lives may be touched in this place and around the world with God's saving grace? If so, will you please answer, with God's help, we will.

All: With God's help, we will.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens: Congregation, you may be seated. Having heard the promises shared this day we rejoice that God has given us one another for the days ahead and the ministry before us. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, and by the grace of God, as General Minister and President, I hereby install you, Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers as the Regional Minister of the Capital Area Region. I pray God's blessing be upon you and God's ministry be done through you and through this community of faith as you bear witness to the Gospel.

The Declaration

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, we celebrate the covenant formed between Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers and the Capital Area Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and we commend you to the grace of God in the discharge of all your duties as minister of the Gospel. May God, count you worthy of your calling, and bring to fulfillment in you every good purpose and every act inspired by faith.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION/CONSECRATION & BLESSING

Presentation of the Signs of Office

Presentations of the Regional Stole

Presentation of the Regional Pin

West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Northeast Region Regional Minister

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes

Rev. Thaddeus Allen

Communion Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together (CH #425)

Call to Communion

Prayer for the Bread

Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

Mike Cline



THE INSTALLATION

Prayer for the Cup

Tonya Farren

Appreciation

Benediction

Postlude

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

Mrs. Kathy McKinley, Organist



THE INSTALLATION

REVEREND DR. MARCUS L. LEATHERS EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

In the spirit of Philippians 2:1-4, I am deeply humbled by the attendance and support of so many people and institutions of goodwill. On behalf of my family and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Capital Area (CCCA), I express heartfelt thanks! I am grateful for the presence of leadership representing the many manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)--general and regional ministries, ecumenical and interfaith partners, indeed the Church universal, colleagues and friends--your presence to acknowledge this occasion inspires tremendous joy.

For the leadership of Reverend Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, on behalf of the CCCA, I express gratitude to you and your entire office for the generosity of time and resources extended so graciously. Your presence throughout this installation weekend has honored all of us!

I am thankful for the Regional Minister Search Committee, its Chairperson, Reverend Terri McLellan (CCCA Moderator), and its Regional Minister Partner, Reverend Joan Bell-Haynes. From your diligent and dedicated work as a search committee, you transitioned into the Regional Minister's Installation Planning Committee. On behalf of myself, my family, our region and indeed this great ecumenical church that God has called into existence as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), thank you for your labors that have made this occasion truly special!

As I embark on this new journey of leadership, I express thanks to all who continue to impact the identity and mission of the CCCA through your outstanding contributions of partnerships, philanthropy, and prayer. Through Jesus' sacrificial love for all of us, we are one community. As no entity exists alone, survives alone or achieves alone--the ministry of the CCCA continues to be a shared journey of faith dependent upon God's grace and the steadfast devotion of many.

Most importantly, I want to thank my wife, Tammi, and our children, Madison and Maxwell, for your unwavering commitment, unending patience, and unconditional love. It has not always been easy to be the family of a minister but you have stuck with me through all the joys and the pains. I love and appreciate you and pray for your continued support. I am also thankful to our many friends and family who have walked this journey with us and kept us encouraged through your unselfish love and care and your steadfast prayers.

Now, installed as the Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Capital Area, I bear responsibility along with all of you to pray for the guidance of God's Holy Spirit to inspire the significance of our work together, to instill within us an obedient trust to yield to God's sovereignty in all matters, to insist upon our yearnings for honesty and transparency in our ministry to God's people. May the love of God, the redeemer of hope, the author of the resurrection and the divine choreographer of redemption make our joy complete.

With God's Grace,

Marcus



The Installation Service
REVEREND DR. **MARCUS LEATHERS**



TO GOD BE THE GLORY!