

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

The Ordination of Our Deacons

March 19, 2023

Welcome and Introduction

Leader 1: The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction greets you in the name of Jesus Christ who calls all of us to ministries of love. Hear these words from the apostle Paul, "My friends, there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them all.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Leader 2: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each and every person to build up the community.

Leader 1: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it has different parts.

Leader 2: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share in its happiness.

People: All of us are part of Christ's body.

The Presentation

Leader 1: These people have been called by God in accordance with the faith and order of our church to serve as Deacons. They have accepted their calls and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Donna Burnett

Robert [Bob] Driver

Mary McHugh

Leader 2: Donna, Bob and Mary, it is an honor to be entrusted with the duties and responsibilities of ministry as a Deacon. Having prayerfully considered your duties and responsibilities, are you prepared to serve with the help of God?

Candidates: I am.

Leader 1: Do you promise to exercise your ministry as a Deacon diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Candidates: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader 2: Members of First Church, you have heard the promises of Donna, Bob and Mary. They have answered the call to be your Deacons and leaders within the church. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them and support their ministry among us. Let us witness to our commitment to their role as Deacons within our church.

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and partner with you to help build a community of respect, kindness and peace.

The Laying on of Hands

Leader 1: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church recognizes God's call in the lives of faithful men and women. We lay hands upon these people so that the power of the Holy Spirit may empower them to uphold the office of Deacon at First Church.

Rev. Mark, all current and past Deacons and anyone connected to one of the candidates are welcome to come forward to lay hands on the new Deacons and as a prayer of empowerment is prayed.

People: Donna, Bob and Mary, may the Holy Spirit strengthen and equip you with everything good to do God's will and to be a great Deacon at First Church. Receive the authority to execute the office of Deacon in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Declaration

Leader 2: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the people of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, I rejoice to announce: Donna, Bob and Mary, you are ordained as Deacons of First Church! In accordance with the faith and order of this church and the United Church of Christ, I extend to you the right hand of Christian fellowship.