

Installation Service of Sally Vonner General Secretary and CEO

United Women in Faith

July 29, 2023 • 3:00 PM CT
Lovers Lane United Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas



**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
because he has anointed me...**

—LUKE 4:18



United
Women
in Faith

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1500
New York, NY 10027

Order of Worship

GATHERING MUSIC

Please join us in singing during this service using the lyrics at the end of the bulletin in the Worship Hymns and Songs section.

NATIVE AMERICAN LAND RECOGNITION

Daryl Junes-Joe

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

Spoken Word/Music/Dance

WELCOME

Wendy Campbell; Rev. Dr. Stanley Copeland

CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: Welcome, leaders of United Women in Faith and The United Methodist Church.

All: **We come with anticipation for future possibilities.**

Leader: Welcome to faithful friends and family of Sally Vonner.

All: **We come joining them offering support and nourishment for the journey ahead.**

Leader: Welcome, local members, sisters, and friends.

All: **We come filled with joy and excitement to be here today.**

Leader: Welcome all those watching through the virtual God lens that makes us one.

All: **We bond across the miles to become one hope, one heart, one voice for justice.**

Leader: Welcome, people of God.

All: **We come this far by faith . . . as believers, knowing God is with us always.**

OPENING HYMN • “Welcome”

OPENING PRAYER

Heidi Careaga

Leader: God of anticipation, God of excitement, God of hope, God of grace. Hold us in your arms today as we bring our hopes and yearnings before you and journey together. Open our hearts and minds to the new plans being brought by our new leader, beginning today, that we might increase our service for women, children, and youth around the world. Anoint and embolden us with your Spirit that we might be Christ's love in the world for all to see. Let us join together in this time as changemakers, so that all might live in abundance. And let the people say:

All: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING • JEREMIAH 29:10–14 NRSV

¹⁰ For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
 and recovery of sight to the blind,
 to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

SONG • “Siyahamba”

MESSAGE • Anointed to Action

‘Ainise ‘Isama’u

HYMN • “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

OFFERING

Bethany Amey Sutton

Text **LOVE** to 20503



SOLO • “God’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Traditional African-American Spiritual

SONG • “Siyahamba”

INSTALLATION AND MUTUAL ANOINTING

The CEO Story

Installation

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.; Cynthia Rives

Bishop Saenz: Dear friends, today we welcome Sally Vonner who has been chosen to serve United Women in Faith as General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer. We honor those who searched for and elected Sally as our leader for this time and place.

Cynthia Rives: Sally, you have been chosen to walk beside us and ahead of us with vision, foresight, and deep commitment. To lead our United Women in Faith members to inspire and influence others, bringing positive impact to our sisterhood and women, children, and youth around the world.

Bishop Saenz: Sally, you have been elected to represent United Women in Faith in our denomination. You have a seat at the Connectional Table and a voice with the General Secretaries of The United Methodist Church. You will work in solidarity with our partner ecumenical organizations for the betterment of women, children, and youth throughout God’s kin-dom.

Cynthia Rives: Sally, you have been called to serve and inspire United Women in Faith partner organizations supporting our justice campaigns, our nearly 90 National Mission Institutions across the United States, and our international women’s leadership centers and missionaries who train and educate them. Do you commit to serve in these ways?

Sally Vonner: Today before our sisterhood, my family and friends, and our God, I commit to serve faithfully and to the best of my abilities, to inspire our United Women in Faith community, women of The United Methodist Church, and beyond to put their faith, hope, and love in action for the transformation of the world.

Cynthia Rives: United Women in Faith community, as God's people committed to participate and lead in the purpose of the organization, by your service, creativity, prayers, and passion, will you encourage and walk beside Sally as the visionary and leader of United Women in Faith?

All: **We affirm our commitment to you and the purpose of United Women in Faith and share the responsibility for continuing the legacy of United Women in Faith.**

Bishop Saenz: United Methodist Church community, friends, and family, will you commit to honor, support, and love Sally as she embarks on this new journey in listening, learning, and leadership with the blessed assurance that God is by her side?

All: **We commit to honor, support, and love Sally in all ways that help her grow, thrive, and feel nurtured in this special time for United Women in Faith.**

Cynthia Rives: Where do we find the strength to walk this path together?

All: **We find the strength in our faith and in each other, a United Women in Faith sisterhood of grace, and strong United Methodist family, built on the foundation of a loving God. By putting one foot in front of the other, we lead with love and walk toward righteousness, peace, and justice.**

Sung Response • “One Foot/Lead with Love”

Anointing

Bishop Saenz: The act of anointing with oil is a symbol of protection, empowerment, and blessing. Today, we anoint Sally Vonner. We empower her and her work on behalf of United Women in Faith in this time, in this place, and in this moment of our history as we move together towards a future with hope for all of God's women, children, and youth.

Friends, what oils do you bring forward to anoint our work together as United Women in Faith, in the name of Jesus?

Sung-ok Lee: This oil is derived from the balsam fir tree. Known for its energizing properties, let this be the oil of action, anointing our work to mobilize members to inspire, influence, and impact their communities and the world.

Ruth Robinson: This oil comes from the juniper berry—the seed of the juniper tree. Juniper berries are known to create a sense of grounding and calmness. Let this oil represent transformation, anointing our work to be a reliable source for women's spiritual growth.

Mollie James-Vickery: Known for its refreshing aroma, the peppermint oil is also known to promote concentration and creativity. Let this oil be the oil of influence, anointing our work to position United Women in Faith as a leading women's Christian organization within the wider faith community and the world.

Tamara Clark: The white fir oil comes from the pine needles and twigs of the white fir tree and is known for its calming, stabilizing, yet energizing effects. Let this oil be the oil of stewardship, anointing our work to attract and engage women for increased membership, funding, and donations.

Susan Moberg: Grapefruit oil, which comes from the peel of the grapefruit, is known for promoting brain health and function. Let this oil be the oil of enterprise, anointing our work with strategic focus and operational excellence as we engage in the days ahead with fortitude, persistence, and grace.

Bishop Saenz: Sally, we anoint you with these oils. May God protect, empower, and guide you on this journey with faith, hope, and love.

Communal Anointing

'Ainise 'Isama'u: Friends, we celebrate Sally Vonner, and we ask the Holy One to protect, empower, and guide her in her journey. We affirm that the work of United Women in Faith continues here—with us and with women across the connection at all levels of leadership. Following the example of Jesus, we also are anointed to active ministry with those on the margins. We invite all to come and be anointed, in solidarity with Sally and United Women in Faith—embracing the new energy, creativity, and focus, grounding the work ahead on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Solo • “Someone to Watch Over Me”

George Gershwin

Lessie Vonner, Trumpet

Sung Response • “One Foot/Lead with Love”

Presentation of the Gift

'Ainise 'Isama'u

SENDING FORTH

'Ainise 'Isama'u: From the people, can I hear you rejoice?

All: **We rejoice!**

Cynthia Rives: Can I hear a hallelujah?

All: **Hallelujah!**

Wendy Campbell: Can I hear an amen with all you've got?

All: **AMEN, AMEN! We celebrate!**

There will be a celebration and fellowship time following the service in Asbury Hall. All are welcome!

Our Sincere Appreciation to:

Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, the Bold Women of Lovers Lane, and the North Texas Conference United Women in Faith for hosting this service, for their abundant hospitality, generosity, and willingness to accommodate any request needed to create the beautiful service and reception experienced here today.

Worship Hymns and Songs

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Blessed Assurance

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873; Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
vision of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

One Foot/Lead with Love

Words and Music: Melanie DeMore, Oakland, Ca. 2016

Refrain

You gotta put one foot in front of the other
And lead with love
Put one foot in front of the other
And lead with love!

Repeat

Don't give up hope (Don't give up hope)
You're not alone (You're not alone)
Don't you give up (Don't you give up)
Keep movin' on

Refrain

Lift up your eyes (Lift up your eyes)
Don't you despair (Don't you despair)
Look up ahead (Look up ahead)
The path is there

Siyahamba

Text and Music: South African, English trans. Gracia Grindal, 1984

Siyahamb' e kukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

Repeat

Siyahamba, siyahamba, Oo
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
Repeat

We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of God.
Repeat

We are marching, we are marching, Oo
we are marching in the light of God.
Repeat

praying . . .
singing . . .

There's a Spirit of Love in this Place

Words and Music: Mark A. Miller ©2003 Abingdon Press,
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There's a spirit of love in this place,
there's a spirit of love in this place,
you can't see it but it's there,
just as precious as the air,
there's a spirit of love in this place.

There's the presence of peace in this room,
there's the presence of peace in this room,
in God's tenderness is found peace that
passes human bounds,
there's the presence of peace in this room.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, we bless your holy name.
O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, there's a spirit of love
in this place.

There's a space for grace in our hearts,
there's a space for grace in our hearts,
it's in learning to forgive that our spirits truly live,
there's a space for grace in our hearts.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, we bless your holy name.
O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, there's a space for grace,
there's the presence of peace,
there's a spirit of love in this place.

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Words: Brian A. Wren, 1987 © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
Music: Carlton R. Young, 1984, © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

Uyai Mose

Words and Music: Alexander Gondo; Arr. by John Bell © 1994 WGRG
The Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications

Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker.
Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker.
Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker.

Uyai mose, tinamate Mwari.
Uyai mose, tinamate Mwari.
Uyai mose, tinamate Mwari.
Uyai mose zvino

Welcome

Words: Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller; Music: Mark A. Miller
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Let's walk together for awhile and ask where
we begin to build a world where love can grow
and hope can enter in, to be the hands of healing
and to plant the seeds of peace,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
all are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together of a time when we will share
a feast, where pride and power kneel to serve
the lonely and the least, and joy will set the table
as we join our hands to pray,

Refrain

Let's dream together of the day when earth and
heaven are one, a city built of love and light,
the new Jerusalem, where our mourning turns
to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!

Refrain

We've Come This Far By Faith

Words and Music: Albert Goodson, 1956

We've come this far by faith,
leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word;
God's never failed us yet.

O, can't turn around,
we've come this far by faith,
we've come this far by faith,

Worship Leaders

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr., Bishop of the North Texas and Central Texas Conferences of The United Methodist Church

Sally Vonner, General Secretary & CEO, United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Board of Directors

'Ainise 'Isama'u, President

Cynthia Rives, Vice President

Bethany Amey Sutton, Secretary

Heidi Careaga, Finance Committee Chairperson

Daryl Junes-Joe, Governance Committee Chairperson

United Women in Faith Senior Leadership Team

Tamara Clark, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Mollie James-Vickery, Operational Officer

Sung-ok Lee, Connectional Officer

Susan Moberg, Corporate Secretary

Wendy Campbell, President, North Texas Conference, United Women in Faith

Rev. Dr. Stanley Copeland, Senior Pastor, Lovers Lane United Methodist Church

Ruth Robinson, United Women in Faith member, Hamilton Park UMC, mentor to Sally Vonner

Performing Artists

All artists are from St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas

Music Director, Monya Logan

Song Leader/Soloist, Alfrelynn Roberts

Drummers, Len Barnett, Jr. and Nick Rothouse

St. Luke Community UMC Sacred Dancers

Special Guests

Greg Arnold, General Secretary and CEO, United Methodist Men

Brittany Barnett, Founder and President, Girls Embracing Mothers, Social Justice partner organization, Reading Program author

Rev. Edlen Cowley, Metro District Superintendent, North Texas Conference

Dan Krause, General Secretary, United Methodist Communications

Moses Kumar, General Secretary, General Council on Finance and Administration for The United Methodist Church

Shellie Ross, Executive Director, Wesley-Rankin Community Center, Dallas, Texas, United Women in Faith National Mission Institution

Jami Russell, CFRE, Executive Director, Dallas Bethlehem Center, Dallas, Texas, United Women in Faith National Mission Institution

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. sisters in attendance today

Sally's family from near and far

Sally's friends from Tyler, Texas and beyond

The CEO Installation design and planning team included United Women in Faith staff from the offices of the General Secretary, Development, Events Management, Communications, Transformation, and others.