



Commissioning to the Gospel Ministry

**Lake Junaluska
91 North Lakeshore Drive
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745**

**May 31, 2025
4:00 PM**

The Call

To carry out the Gospel Commission, the Apostles at Pentecost immediately began proclaiming the crucified, buried and risen Lord to all who would listen first in Jerusalem, then Judea, and even to Samaria. Realizing the immensity of their task, they began enjoining others to assist, and appointed deacons.

Even this was not enough and they came to understand that every believer man, woman and child (as part of a *“holy priesthood”* 1 Peter 2:5) is commissioned to share the Gospel. John exalted Christ *“who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father”* Rev. 1:5,6. All who are saved have a witness to share.

Persecution forced believers to scatter and thus the Gospel began to spread to the uttermost parts of the earth. Disciples became disciple-makers, who, in turn, became disciple-makers, thus multiplying the effect.

While every Christian is under the Great Commission to share God’s love to a perishing world, Christ designated individuals who would be dedicated to this proclamation with their energies devoted *“continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word”* Acts 6:4.

First there were the Apostles; then others were set apart and commissioned for this work by the laying on of hands, like Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:2,3). Their work was to share Christ with people in new lands and to train more disciples.

Because this work has not yet been completed, today we are gathered to further carry forward the Gospel Commission in setting apart Beth Grissom for this Gospel work bringing people to Jesus and training them to become disciple-makers. May God bless her with abundant fruit of ministry in His strength, and us also as we together witness to God’s abundant grace for sinners.

Today, God’s calling in the life of Beth is recognized and acknowledged by our world church. A mantle of responsibility is placed on her that only God can help her fulfill. Fear not, Beth, *“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it”* 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

Commissioning Program

Welcome & Invocation	Elder Haskell Williams
Hymn of Praise*	Congregation
<i>“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”</i>	
Scripture Reading	Elder Vic Jaeger
<i>Psalm 30:11-12 NIV</i>	
Elder’s Recommendations	Lynn Ortel Elder Ryan Ashlock Kiera DesChamps
Introduction of Speaker	Elder Glen Altermatt
Special Music	Anna Grissom
<i>“Follow”</i>	
Commissioning Message	June Price
Commissioning Prayer	Elder Leslie Louis
Commissioning Charge*	Elder Rick Russell Elder Gary Moyer
Candidate Response	Elizabeth Grissom
Welcome to Ministry	Elder Leslie Louis
Placing of the Mantle	Elder Leslie Louis Elder Haskell Williams
Special Music	Rebecca Grissom Idaia Jannier
<i>“Goodness of God”</i>	
Benediction	Elder Darryl Bentley

*Commissioning Charge, pp. 6 & 7

*Hymn, pp. 9

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Hail Thee as the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Bloss'ming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou the father, Christ our Brother –
All who live in love are Thine:
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Elizabeth Grissom



Esther Elizabeth “Beth” Grissom can never remember a time when Jesus Christ wasn’t a meaningful part of her life. Born to Pastor Claude and Donna Steen, she was being prayed for long before she was born. Her childhood was spent growing up in Ethiopia where her parents served as missionaries. She heard stories of her grandparents and great grandparents’ service to God. She saw everyone around her living out their lives in service. At the very young age of eight, while attending an evangelistic event, Beth heard Jesus calling and accepted Him as her personal Savior. Soon after she saw the need for a Cradle Roll Sabbath School teacher. Upon convincing her father she was capable, she found a translator and started serving Jesus.

Beth continued serving in ministry throughout her elementary and high school years in various roles. Her senior year she found the weight of what to study in college crushing. She believed that she was called to ministry but as a woman wasn’t sure how that would look. At a Bible Conference, after taking a spiritual gifts test, the presenter let her know she had the gifts to be a pastor. Moments later he continued, “So you need to marry a pastor, so your gifts don’t go to waste.”

God had other plans for her which included bringing an accountant, Chris Grissom, into her life. Even before they were married, Chris recognized his gifts were to be used to support Beth in utilizing her spiritual gifts. Beth’s ministry has included being a stay-at-home mom, an elder in her church, then head elder, and interim pastor. She has served as part of the “Caring for Marriage” and “Caring for You” teams, a presenter for marriage and women’s ministry seminars, and for 8 years wrote and taught a life-application adult Sabbath School lesson. She worked as Marketing and Recruitment Director for Mount Pisgah Academy and is now serving as Prayer Ministries and Women’s Ministries Director for the Carolina Conference. Beth’s life in ministry has had many turns, but one thing has stayed the same: she loves the Lord and wants to do all she can to let those around her know of His great love for them.

“You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever.” (Psalm 30:11-12 NIV)

Ministerial Charge

Elder Russell: Seeing God has called you to the work of ministry and the church, having recognized that calling, has set you apart by the laying-on of hands, you are now invested with full ecclesiastical authority. No higher honor can come to any person, but such honor also involves great responsibility.

Congregation: *We charge you to minister as a servant.*

Elder Moyer: As a servant, make the Master your life-long study. Know what you teach, but first know Whom you teach. By spending time with Jesus you will become like Jesus, for it is by beholding that we are changed. As a servant, live like your Master lived. Like Jesus live simply and be what you expect others to become. “Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in purity (1 Tim. 4:12).

Congregation: *We charge you to minister as a shepherd.*

Elder Russell: Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep...The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep” (John 10:11, 13). Be a shepherd. Care genuinely about those entrusted to you. Watch over them. Feed them. Protect them. “Be gentle to all, able to teach, patient” (2 Tim. 2:24). And remember, your own family is the first flock you are charged to shepherd.

Congregation: *We charge you to minister as a watchman.*

Elder Moyer: As a watchman, warn the people of spiritual danger. Tell them of the goodness of the One who laid down his life to redeem them and is coming soon to take them to be with him. “So you, son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me” (Eze. 33:7).

Congregation: *We charge you to minister as a teacher.*

Elder Russell: Teach pastorally. Train those under your care to be followers of Jesus and leaders of men. Teach intelligently. Be a lifelong reader; read widely and study the Word of God daily. Teach doctrinally. “If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ” (1 Tim. 4:6). Teach plainly and practically, so even the children listen and understand.

Congregation: *We charge you to be faithful.*

Elder Moyer: Fix your eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith, so that when your work is ended you may say with Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:7, 8).



The Mantle

As Elijah returned from his encounter with God at Mount Sinai, he was divinely instructed to anoint certain kings and to commission his replacement.

He found Elisha plowing in his father's field. Walking past Elisha, Elijah threw his own mantle over the shoulders of Elisha. Elisha understood the meaning of this gesture and followed Elijah, being mentored as they worked together.

Later, as Elijah was completing his ministry, Elisha followed him relentlessly from town to town, even crossing the Jordan River on dry land after Elijah had struck it with his mantle.

Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted. Elisha's response was: "I want a double portion of your spirit." This was promised to him if he observed Elijah when he was taken. As Elijah was caught up to Heaven in a fiery chariot, his mantle fell.

Elisha tore his own garment and took up the mantle that had fallen from Elijah.

As the mantle of pastoral responsibility is placed on Beth's shoulders, we pray for a double portion of God's Spirit to rest on and to empower her.