Ministries and Mission Interpreters  
A Service of Commissioning  
October 28, 2012

In this circle of earthly existence you shine so finely,  
it surpasses understanding. God hugs you.  
You are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God.  
—Hildegarde of Bingen

Millions and millions of years would still not give me half enough time  
to describe that tiny instant of all eternity  
when you put your arms around me and I put my arms around you.  
—Jacques Prévert

Everybody needs a hug. It changes your metabolism.  
—Leo Buscaglia

Gathering Music  
Samite - Wasuze Otya? - (Uganda)  
Music from the Coffee Lands – Putumayo World Music

Call to Worship

One: From the depths of my soul I hear a gentle voice.  
All: Do not leave anyone without love. Do not forget anyone. Give from what you have received.

One: A gentle voice offering an invitation.  
All: Dare to do as I did. Rejoice in my peace. Rejoice as you serve. Never doubt in stretching out your hands in blessing as you give and receive.

One: Inviting me once again to give away love.  
All: Serve without restrictions, without judging for whom. Forget your prejudices, fears and trust my voice inside you.

One: Inviting me once again to give away your love.  
All: When you give in truth what I have placed in you, you will receive a double portion of Shalom.

One: From the depths of the soul we hear your gentle voice, O God, inviting us once again to give away your love.  
All: God still speaks and we listen, following the gentle voice of love.

Hymn:  
The Peace of the Earth – Guatemala (arr. John Bell)

The peace of the earth be with you,  
the peace of the heavens too;  
the peace of the rivers be with you,  
the peace of the oceans too.  
Deep peace falling over you;  
God’s peace growing in you.  
(Repeat)
A Litany for Becoming

One: Come, Spirit of God, fall upon us – each one of us.
Left: For I have lost the riches of my faith and in my poverty, I hunger to hear good news.
Right: For I am captive to my pain and sadness and from this prison, I long for release.
One: Come, Spirit of God, fall upon us – each one of us.
Left: For I have shut my eyes to the despair of the world and in my blindness, yearn to recover your vision.
Right: For I am oppressed by obligations and skewed priorities, and my soul aches for freedom.
One: Come, Spirit of God, fall upon us – all of us.

All: We ask for courage to stand and proclaim God’s favor pouring out abundant life. Justice and peace, truth and mercy fulfilled in all creation as promised in scripture. Come, Spirit of God, fall upon us – each and every one of us.

Silent Reflection

Holy Wisdom / Holy Word

Mark 10:46-52

Blind Bartimaeus

Mission Story

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

Sacrament of Holy Communion and Commissioning of MMIs

Prayer of Preparation

One: Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness, isolated, yet seeking community, overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity, shamed, yet seeking grace:

All: We yearn for the healing you promise.

One: God of Justice, we come before you selfish, yet seeking a generous heart, arrogant, yet seeking humility, responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

All: We yearn for the justice you promise.

One: God of Peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance, agitated, yet seeking serenity, angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

All: We yearn for the peace you promise.

One: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new, we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

All: God, we give ourselves to renewal through you. This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. Amen.

Words of Institution

Table Prayer

Amazing God, your claims on us are as old as creation and as new as this very moment. Help us to hear you calling us, not alone that we may be healed, but that we might become instruments of healing in a hurting world. Restore to us that sight that is beyond seeing, so your church may respond with joy to the great high priest, in whose name we pray and carry out our ministry.
Prayer of Jesus
Our Father/Mother God in heaven, Holy is your Name.
May your reign come, your desire be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us the bread we need for today.
Forgive the wrong we have done
as we forgive those who've done wrong against us.
Save us in times of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the realm, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table and Offering of Action Plans
One: The gifts of God for the people of God.
All: Holy God, We thank you for the gift of your constant love.
One: The gifts of God for the people of God.
All: We thank you for your gift of community uniting us as sisters and brothers around the globe.
One: The gifts of God for the people of God.
All: We thank you for your gift of the Christ who entered our world, spoke words of truth, revealed your love, and offered himself as a living sacrifice for us.
One: The gifts of God for the people of God.
All: Blessed by the gift of Christ’s love, and gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer our gifts – our hands, our hearts, our very selves in service to you.
One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.
[Please come forward to offer your action plan, receive a stole, and share this holy meal as a commitment to interpret the mission of our global ministry]

Communion Music: Ayub Ogada - Kothbiro - (Kenya)
Music from the Coffee Lands – Putumayo World Music

Sharing the Feast of Love

Litany of Commissioning
One: Having shared your mission action plan you have received a stole and Global Ministries pin, to affirm your commitment to interpret the mission and ministry of the common global mission of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). With God’s help will you seek to be an advocate for our united effort to embody the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the globe?
All: I will, with the help of God!
One: Will you interpret the work of those in mission, sharing the stories of lives healed, renewed, and transformed?
All: I will, with the help of God!
One: Will you humbly speak and live your faith in the fullness of Christ’s love?
All: I will, with the help of God!
One: You are now interpreters, advocates, partners in our common global mission.
**Hymn:**  
*Sizohamba Naye – Swaziland (arr. Iona Community)*

Sizohamba naye, wo wo wo, Sizohamba naye.  
Sizohamba naye, wo wo wo, Sizohamba naye.  
Ngoomshla wenja-bula, sizohamba naye.  
Ngoomshla wenja-bula, sizohamba naye.  
(repeat)

We will walk with God, my brothers, we will walk with God  
We will walk with God, my sisters, we will walk with God.  
We will go rejoicing, till the kingdom has come.  
We will go rejoicing, till the kingdom has come.  
(repeat)

Sizohamba naye, wo wo wo, Sizohamba naye.  
Sizohamba naye, wo wo wo, Sizohamba naye.  
Ngoomshla wenja-bula, sizohamba naye.  
Ngoomshla wenja-bula, sizohamba naye.

**God’s Blessing**

One: God knows what you are capable of, and encourages the goodness within you to blossom and flourish.  
**All:** We will work for a world that blesses everyone.  
One: As we go forth into the world we will ask ourselves: how well is God’s vision for a new world revealed in our own lives?  
**All:** We will open ourselves to God’s gentle persuasion. We will trust that we, too, have something to offer. We will be consumed by God’s love for a world in need of hope, of justice and of peace. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace**

A hug delights and warms the heart,  
it brings us closer together and breaks down walls.  
A hug is something everyone does in the same language,  
that must be why God gave us arms.  
—Anonymous

**Sending Music**  
Juan Carlos Ureña - Este Son - (Costa Rica)  
Music from the Coffee Lands – Putumayo World Music

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This service of worship was created by Rev. Kurt Weiser, Pastor of Liberation United Church of Christ (Lakewood, OH), and Rev. Cliff Aerie.

The Call to Worship was modified from the Writings of Patricia Gómez, of Iglesia Pentecostal de Chile.

The Prayer for becoming was modified from the writings of Elena Huegel.