

## Order of Recognition and Celebration of Service for Deaconesses, Home Missioners, and Home Missionaries

*This order may be incorporated into any worship service for Annual Conferences, UMW events, and local churches. Please adapt the language to reflect those being celebrated, omitting deaconess, home missioner, and/or home missionary as well as sisters or brothers as appropriate.*

*Hymns may be included before, after, or during this order. Suggested hymns from UMH:*  
593 Here I Am, Lord  
344 Tú Has Venido a la Orilla (Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore)  
451 Be Thou My Vision  
428 For the Healing of the Nations

### Leader:

Dear friends, let us recognize those who have responded to the call of God to become deaconesses, home missioners, and home missionaries. To alleviate suffering, to eradicate the causes of injustice that robs life of dignity and worth, to facilitate the development of full human potential, and to share in building global community through the church universal—these are ministries of Christ among us. Those called to these ministries need our loyal support and our prayers.

### Prayer:

God of love, justice, and service be present among us this day. Open our hearts, minds and doors to your work of restoration in this broken world. As we celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> year of the deaconess movement in our tradition, we come to you in gratitude for the Deaconesses, Home Missioners, and Home Missionaries among us.

Stand with them as they continue to express the love and concern of your believing community for the needs and concerns of this world. Continue to be with each of them as they answer God's call to a lifetime of servant ministry, serving on the cutting-edge of mission and ministry.

In the name of Jesus our Hope and Guide we pray, **Amen.**

### Leader:

As the Apostle Paul commended to the Roman church Phoebe, the first deaconess, we welcome and recognize our sisters and brothers "in the Lord in a way that is worthy of God's people," and commit to help them in whatever they may require from us, for they "have been [sponsors] of many people." (*Romans 16:2, CEB*)



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Leader (continued):

We are especially thankful for these persons serving in our midst.

*Recognize the name and ministry of each deaconess, home missioner, and home missionary participating in the service.*

**All:**

**We recognize today our sisters and brothers who have made a lifetime commitment to ministries of love, justice, and service. We extend our support and gratitude to you for answering the call of God in their lives. We thank you for your representation of God's love in all the world.**

Prayer of Blessing:

God of Justice, Loving Creator, and Servant of All, pour out your blessings on these deaconess, home missioners, and home missionaries. May they know the world is forever changed because of their lifetime commitment to ministries of love, justice, and service. Bless them; envelop them with love, hope, courage, wisdom, and strength that they might continue to boldly answer your call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our God. **Amen.**

Closing Litany:

Leader: God of Hope and Healing. When your people suffer, you suffer.

**All: Help us to alleviate suffering**

Leader: God of Justice and Liberation. When your people are denied dignity and self-worth, you cry out for justice.

**All: Help us to eradicate the causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth.**

Leader: God our Teacher and Guide. When your people are denied basic education and job training, you call us to action.

**All: Help us to ensure all persons have the opportunity to become all you have created them to be.**

Leader: God of all creation. Your people are all people.

**All: Help us to build a global community of love, justice and service.**

Leader: God of love, justice and service carry us into your world today. Help us to more fully know you and fulfill your call to action, so that we might be about your work of healing this broken world. **Amen.**