

Intergenerational Charge to Graduates

You have been called by grace and gifted by the Spirit to serve in various ministries within and beyond the church.

I charge you, therefore, to respond faithfully to your calling and to claim your gifts and share them extravagantly wherever you go.

You have been educated to be yourselves theological educators in church and society.

I charge you, therefore, to be always learners who are forever curious, excited about learning and teachers who teach by word and example.

You have been educated for ministry in an ecumenical context.

I charge you, therefore, while cherishing your own unique denominational heritages, to appreciate the rich diversity of faith and practice inspired by the longing to follow Jesus, and to pray for and converse with all our companions in the faith in hope of greater solidarity.

You have been educated for ministry in a religiously plural world.

I charge you, therefore, to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ unashamedly, but with sensitivity and respect for persons of other faiths, who, as pilgrims on other spiritual paths, believe sincerely that they too have been touched by the Holy One.

You have been educated for ministry in a divided, deeply wounded and violent world.

I charge you, therefore, to be peacemakers and seekers of justice, gentle but firm in your rejection of that which demeans, dehumanizes and destroys the sustainability of life on earth, patient but insistent that evil will not prevail but rather the coming kingdom of God.

Finally, you have been educated for ministry in a world that God created and pronounced good and in which God is present and everywhere at work.

I charge you, therefore, to rest in the love of God that surrounds you, a love we have come to know by following in the way of Jesus, and to grow continually in the Spirit that nurtures the potential not only of the church as a community of care and healing, but of each one of you in understanding yourself as a child of the Holy One, related to all others near and far, a minister of reconciliation with important work to do so long as you have breath.