

## **Endorsed by the Desert Southwest Annual Conference June 11, 2022**

Thirty-one years ago, the Florida Board of Ordained Ministry noticed that white men were having no problem passing executive session, whereas women and people of color were being denied membership. As a result, they began voting on provisional and full members as a voting slate. Up until this year the executive session had approved three slates exactly as the Board of Ordained Ministry has recommended them. This week, that did not happen.

On behalf of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, we recognize those candidates for commissioning as provisional members in the Florida Annual Conference. They have been called by God, they have done the work, and they have been recommended by the Florida Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for commissioning and provisional membership.

However, the Executive Session of the Florida Annual Conference did not support the work of their colleagues on the Board of Ordained Ministry. They did not approve the entire slate of 16 candidates for provisional membership because two of the candidates identify as LGBTQIA.

We stand with the candidates and the Board of Ordained Ministry in Florida and acknowledge and accept their call to serve as commissioned clergy. We in the Desert Southwest Conference, along with the rest of the Western Jurisdiction, continue to be a Safe Harbor to any candidate or clergy who seeks it, as we have and continue to support, the queer clergy in the Desert Southwest Conference. The Desert Southwest Annual Conference stands with the Florida 16.

Carlene Barbeau  
Tim Jones Barton  
Lucas Bonates  
Paola Bustillos  
Mary Jackson  
William Kendust  
Shawn Klein  
Gary Logan

Clark McClain  
Kipp Nelson  
Carey Stevens  
Sherlain Stevens  
Anna Swygert  
Kaylee Vida  
Erin Wagner  
Sarah Wise