

**Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church**  
Cranston, Rhode Island



**Installation Service**  
of the Rev. Dr. Linda Hartley  
as **Pastor** of the  
**Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church**  
September 28, 2025  
2:00 PM

# *Installation Service*

**Prelude** *“Chimings”* Pat Thurman

**Welcome and Greeting** Jim Ellison

**Call to Worship** The Rev. Tim Chesser

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: This is the day that we open our hearts to a new chapter of ministry.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: This is the day that we celebrate all that God has done and will  
continue to do.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: This is the day that we recognize that God is making all things new.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**Invocation** (*in unison*)

**Almighty God, look with favor upon us assembled here today to worship you. We offer you our praise for all your gifts so abundantly poured out upon us, especially for the gift of your church. We also thank you that in the fullness of time, you sent your Son to be our Savior that we may know your truth and love more completely. Be with us now as we look ahead toward a new chapter of our mutual ministry. Extend your blessings upon us and guide us into the future you hold out to us, a future filled with hope and service in your name. Amen.**

**Hymn #569** *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

<b>Scripture Lessons</b>	Sue McMillen
Isaiah 52:7-10	(OT p. 683)
Luke 5:1-11	(NT p. 62)

**Sanctuary Choir** *“Sanctify This Place”*

**Greetings from ABCORI:** Eva Irby-Davis

## **Charge to the Pastor**

From a Representative of ABCORI  
From a Representative of Congregation  
From a Colleague

The Rev. Tim Chesser  
Bob Butzier  
The Rev. Delphain Demosthenes

## **Hymn #571**

*“Christ, You Call Us All to Service”*

## **Words of Installation**

John McCann

Leader: Beloved in Christ Jesus, we are assembled here before God to install Reverend Linda Hartley as pastor of the congregation. She has been duly called to this holy office by your invitation, and as we believe, by the direction of God. May the Holy Spirit add a blessing to this service of installation.

*To the minister to be installed as pastor:*

Leader: Linda Hartley, having been ordained as a minister of Jesus Christ, and having accepted the invitation of the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church to become its minister, do you solemnly pledge that you will serve this congregation to the best of your ability, according to the affirmations you have given in your ordination?

Response: With reliance upon God, I do.

Leader: I charge you to be a good minister of Jesus Christ, remembering that, like our Lord, you have come “not to be served but to serve” and to keep yourself at all times in true devotion to your high calling. Will you seek to practice daily the faith you profess, administer the ordinances in purity, proclaim the truth with love, and endeavor to lead this people in the ways of Christ the Lord?

Response: With reliance upon God, I will.

*To the assembled congregation:*

Leader: Members of Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church are you persuaded as a church of Jesus Christ that you are ready to be instructed, led, and strengthened in the ways of the Spirit by the one who stands before you in answer to the call of God?

**Response of the Congregation: We are.**

Leader: In recognition of the Christian partnership that must exist between minister and people, do you now affirm your loyalty to this church and to this ministerial relationship? Do you promise to give your utmost in devoted service and loyal cooperation?

**Response of the Congregation: With reliance upon God, we do.**

**Prayer of Blessing**

The Rev. Tim Chesser

**Laying on of Hands by Deacons and Declaration of Installation**  
*(congregation in unison)*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, we declare you commissioned to be pastor of this congregation; and we commend to you the grace of God in the fulfillment of our ministry together. May God bring you joy through every act of service. Amen.**

**Response of the Pastor**

Pastor Linda Hartley

**Closing Hymn #393**      *“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*      *(All verses - no circle)*

**Benediction**

Pastor Linda Hartley

**Postlude**      *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*      Martin Luther; Based on Psalm 46

## ***Participants***

***The Rev. Tim Chesser*** – Chair, Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry, ABCORI

***The Rev. Delphain Demosthenes*** – Pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Seekonk, MA

***Eva Irby-Davis*** – President, ABCORI

***Jim Ellison*** – Moderator, Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

***Bob Butzier*** – Financial Secretary, Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

***Sue McMillan*** – Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

***John McCann*** – Assistant Moderator, Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

***Margery Jones*** – Organist and Choir Director

***Board of Deacons*** – Mike Moore (Chair), Chuck Jones, Scott Lewis, John McCann,  
Amy Thibodeau

***Sanctuary Choir*** – Darlene Conti, Jim Ellison, Julie Ellison, Michelle Emery, Bob Kolb,  
Scott Lewis, Jamie Spinney, Paula Bowry, Mindy McCann, Amy  
Thibodeau, Joanne Wales

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