

- Lay and Clergy Members of the Conference will register upon arrival at the conference site.
- Name badges will be distributed at the Registration sites (see below).
- Registration sites and times:
 - Sunday 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm Harrell Center (Room 202)
 - Monday..... 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Harrell Center (Room 202)
 - Tuesday..... 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Harrell Center (Room 202)
 - Wednesday..... 8:00 am - 10:00 am..... Harrell Center (Room 202)

Sunday..... 4:00 pmHousing Check-in (Bethea Welcome Center)

Contact Emergency Dial: 911 Phone: 828-452-2881 Fax: 828-452-2225

Meal tickets will be given to you at check-in based on the meal option that you chose when making your reservation. Please always have them with you so they can be presented to the Dining Room Attendant for entry. Keep in mind, these meal tickets are treated as cash. Your meal ticket color will reflect the building you are staying in during the conference, so please eat in the proper location to avoid long lines. All private meal functions will be charged separately by the sponsoring group or organization.

Chaplain By Appointment Only Terrace (Room 213)

Schedule an appointment KathyHeustess@holston.org or 843-421-3536

Prayer Room 7:00 am - 10:00 pm Room of Memory (adjacent to Memorial Chapel)

Information Center (Messages)..... Stuart Auditorium (Lobby)

Display Area..... Harrell Center (Room 201)

Bishop Stuart Auditorium (behind stage, 1st room on the left)
 Communications & Staff..... Harrell Center (Lower Level - Room 102)
 Conference Secretary & Staff Stuart Auditorium (Stage)

HOLSTON CONFERENCE SURVIVAL GUIDE 2025

Brought to you by Conference Lay Leadership & the Office of the Conference Secretary



I'm packing for Annual Conference, wonder what I should wear?

- ✓ Casual clothes are fine. Bring an umbrella and jacket.



I have just turned into Lake Junaluska, where do I go first?

- ✓ Stop at Bethea Welcome Center first which is on the left.
- ✓ Continue to the Harrell Center to get registered and get your name badge (you need to wear your name badge to all of the sessions).



How in the world do I find my housing?

- ✓ You can ask when you register, and they can tell you the location of the various hotels and housing.



Is Stuart Auditorium on the road that goes through Junaluska? Will it come up on my GPS?

- ✓ Stuart Auditorium is on the main road, and it is the biggest building on the right as you are going through. GPS will direct you.



How do I find the lay orientation?

- ✓ Terrace Hotel – 3rd Floor across from Stuart Auditorium.



Are there assigned seats in the main auditorium?

- ✓ No, just sit in any section.



What if I want to talk or ask a question?

- ✓ You raise your hand and wait for the Bishop to acknowledge you.



Who sets the rules?

- ✓ We use the rules that are in our Conference Journal.



Where do I get food?

- ✓ It depends on where you stay, buy a meal ticket, food trucks, or just go to local restaurants.



I left my glasses and phone in Stuart Auditorium, what do I do?

- ✓ Go to the back of the auditorium which has the lost and found items.



Where do I find the reports?

- ✓ Download the Book of Reports before you come to Lake Junaluska, print off your paper copy if you prefer, or order your printed copy from the link on ac.holston.org.



Where do I turn in my church's mission money?

- ✓ There will be a mission emphasis on Monday night at which time the offering will be collected.

Questions: CharlotteRiggins@holston.org



Bethea Welcome Center



The Cross



Stuart Auditorium



Harrell Center



Memorial Chapel



The Gardens (Labyrinth)



Terrace Hotel
Photos courtesy of Lake Junaluska



Lambuth Inn

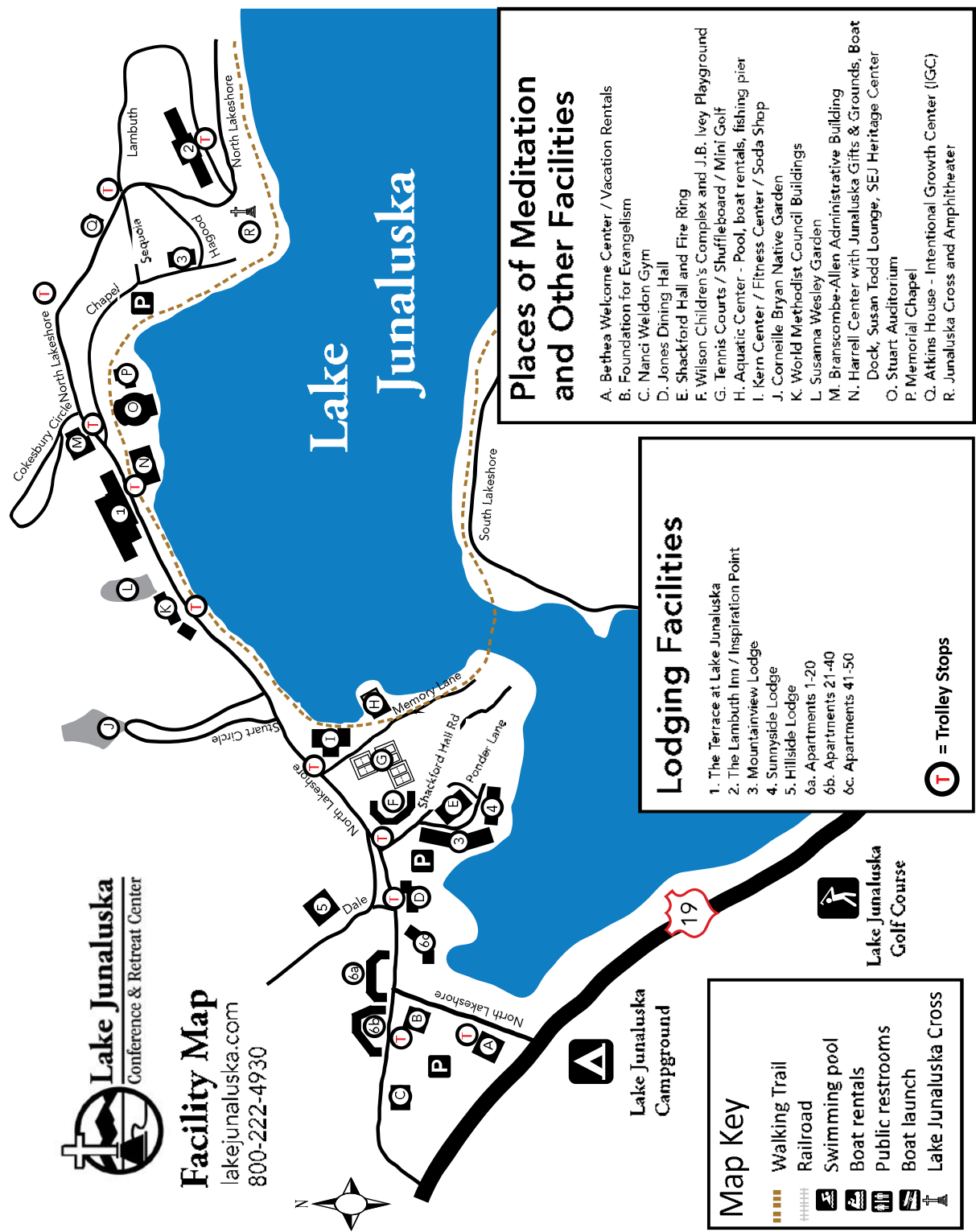


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SECTION I
INTRODUCTIONS AND ORIENTATION

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GREETING - BISHOP WALLACE-PADGETT

Dear Friends,

I look forward to our gathering at Lake Junaluska on June 1-4 for the 2025 Holston Annual Conference. This will be our 201st Annual Conference and the first in Holston Methodism's third century. Many thanks to Director of Connectional Ministries Rev. Mike Sluder, Conference Lay Leader Mrs. Becky Hall, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop Mrs. Lori Sluder, the Annual Conference planning team and countless staff and volunteers for their tireless work in preparing for our gathering.

Our 2025 theme: "Together in New Beginnings" describes the opportunity before us in the here and now. We are a group of 534 churches who have linked arms after a challenging time in the life of our denomination and are moving into the future together. Romans 12:5 summarizes Holston's identity beautifully: "So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

This year's guest preachers and teachers are Bishop Darryl Starnes Sr. and Bishop Hector Antonia Burgos-Núñez. Bishop Starnes will be an ecumenical presence in our Sunday Credentialing Service and the guest preacher at the Monday Morning Worship Service led by our Dismantling Racism Committee. He will also preach during Monday evening's Missions Service. Bishop Burgos-Núñez will lead us in Tuesday Morning Worship and preach at our Wednesday morning Sending Forth Service.

I first met Bishop Darryl Starnes, Sr. through the World Methodist Council. The presiding bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the Piedmont Episcopal District, Bishop Starnes was born in Hampton Virginia but spent most of his childhood and teenage years living in Knoxville, Tennessee. Elected in 1996, Bishop Starnes has made a positive difference wherever assigned. Bishop Starnes and his wife, Camille Cullom Starnes have three children: Alicia Courtney (Rev. Rodney), Millicent, and Darryl Jr. and are the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren: Mya, Malachi, Kaiyon, Benjamin, Caleb, Jayelle and Chloe.

Bishop Hector Burgos-Núñez, one of my Northeastern Jurisdictional colleagues was elected to the episcopacy on November 4, 2022. The first Puerto Rican bishop in The United Methodist Church, he serves with vision and effectiveness as resident bishop of the Susquehanna and Upper New York Episcopal areas. Bishop Héctor, as he prefers to be addressed, and his wife, Jazelis Adorno, have four children, Fabián, Joel, Marcos, and Valeria.

The 2025 Annual Conference Mission Offering will help rebuild the Ishe Anesu Mission House that burned due to electrical issues in August 2024. Holston Conference has been in partnership with Ishe Anesu for 25+ years. The offering will also assist in supporting Holston's Disaster Recovery which provides emergency and recovery services for people and places affected by natural disasters.

Thank you, Holston, for being a place of New Beginnings. What a history we have! What a future is before us!

It is a joy to serve as your bishop. Blessings to you in all that you do.

In Christ,

Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop
Holston and West Virginia Conferences



== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

I want to welcome you to this pre-conference Book of Reports (BOR). It is available in electronic format and a printed version. As a member of the Annual Conference, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the various items included in this document. You should also plan to bring this document to the conference sessions. It will be referenced by most of the speakers that come before the conference.

I want to bring to your attention some changes related to materials normally supplied at the conference. This Book of Reports is such a change. Due to economic restraints, we no longer make printed copies available. Everyone can access the pdf and read the material on an appropriate electronic device. I suggest that, prior to the conference, you download a copy to your device rather than trying to do so on-site.

For pastors, we want to make you aware that the clergy session, which will be held on Sunday afternoon at 4:30 pm, will only have electronic documents available for you to use. In the past, we had that multi-page document with the various numbers and names, and you would be instructed where to turn to read the names. In this time of looking for savings wherever possible, it was decided it was not a wise use of funds, nor environmentally friendly. Therefore, again this year, please download a copy of the Business of the Annual Conference (BAC) ahead of time. The download can be found at ac.holston.org.

One of the elements of the clergy session and the BACs is that often we find misspelled names or other items that need to be corrected. There will be a QR code found on screen that can access an online correction form. There will also be a limited supply of paper correction forms available at the session. If you need a paper correction form, please see an Usher/Teller.

Finally, be aware that in the days before the Conference Session, we also create a document called Annual Conference Book of Reports - Errata/Addendum. This document tries to tie up loose ends that may not have been discovered when the Book of Reports was published online. This is another document you should have available during the conference session.

I anticipate the Annual Conference this year will be another exciting time of worship, learning, and decision making. I hope to see you there.

Submitted by, Terry Goodman, Conference Secretary /
Clergy Services, Director

== == == END OF REPORT == == ==

HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE - ORIENTATION GUIDE

1. What Is the Purpose of the Annual Conference?

Annual Conference is a yearly meeting of Holston United Methodists (lay and clergy) for spiritual renewal, business and ministry decisions; also, appointments and ordination of clergy take place. The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God.

John Wesley desired Annual Conference to be a means of God's grace through Christian "conferencing." But first it was inquired whether any of our lay brethren should be present at this conference, and it was agreed to invite from time to time such of them as we should think proper. 'Twas then asked, 'Which of them shall we invite today?' The answer was, 'Thomas Richards, Thomas Maxfield, John Bennet, and John Downes,' who were accordingly brought in." John Wesley – Edited by Albert C. Outler, Oxford The Holston Annual Conference of The Methodist Church was organized in 1824. There are history books by R. N. Price, I. P. Martin, Robert Hilten, and others.

2. Why Do We Have It? - Historical – John Wesley initiated the practice of having "Conference" with the first Methodist clergy. The practice has continued and expanded. Annual Conferences are mandated by the United Methodist Constitution as outlined in Division Two – Organization of The *Book of Discipline*.

3. Who Calls It? - The Bishop is responsible for seeing that it is carried out and sets the date. The Annual Conference sets the place.

4. Who Plans and Runs the Annual Conference? - The Annual Conference Program Committee arranges and plans the Conference. The Bishop presides.

5. What Is the History of the Annual Conference?

- The first Annual Conference was on Monday, June 25, 1744.

- "The following persons being met at the Foundry – John Wesley, Charles Wesley, John Hodges, Henry Piers, Samuel Taylor, and John Meriton – after some time spent in prayer, the design of our meeting was proposed, namely, to consider:

- what to teach;
- how to teach; and
- what to do, i.e., how to regulate our doctrine, discipline, and practice.

6. What Rules Does the Annual Conference Use to Operate? - Standing Rules in the Conference Journal.

7. Who Comes? - Lay members, clergy, and members-at-large. There are an equal number of lay and clergy members. Lay members are elected at the charge conference of the local church/charge each year. Members-at-large are laity elected annually at District Conferences. Other lay members are included based on positions and offices held within the districts and conference as outlined in the Discipline.

8. How Do I Participate?

- You must have an official name badge to vote.
- You may speak any time the chair recognizes you.
- Attendance at all sessions enhances participation, as listening to issues and reports being discussed is beneficial to knowing what is going on.
- Come prepared – read the Annual Conference Book of Reports, and Conference Rules of Order as found herein.
- A local church, district, an individual, or any official board, agency, commission, council, committee, or ministry team may submit a resolution to be voted on at Annual Conference. These resolutions must be received by the Conference Secretary no later than March 1.

9. Is There Follow-up?

- Reporting Guides are available to help with reporting back to the local church. These guides will be distributed at the laity orientation session and appear in Section III - Resources of the Book of Reports. The Call will highlight daily events and be available during conference. Summaries and pictures will also be available on the internet (www.holston.org).

10. Where Do I Go to Register at Annual Conference?

- Lay and Clergy Members of the Conference are asked to register upon arrival at the conference site. Name badges and meal plan tickets will be distributed at the Registration sites. Please note registration sites and times can be found on the inside front cover of the Book of Reports.

11. What Will I Get When I Register at Annual Conference? - An official name badge will identify you as a lay or clergy member of Annual Conference.

12. What is the Theme for this years Annual Conference? Together in New Beginnings

13. Who Do I See for What and Where?

- Additional Conference-related information can also be found at the back of Stuart Auditorium at the information desk.
- Restrooms are located on the lake side of Stuart Auditorium and in Harrell Center on both floors.
- Meals on Lake Junaluska grounds may be included as part of your room cost for certain accommodations or purchased separately at Terrace or Lambuth.
- Lost and Found centers are located at the Information Center in the lobby of Stuart Auditorium and the Registration Desk in the Bethea Welcome Center (Sunday) or Susan Todd Lounge at Harrell Center (Monday through Wednesday mid-morning).

14. Spiritual Needs - A Chaplain is available to meet with you by appointment. Please check the information desk at the back of Stuart Auditorium for more information. The Chapel Room of Memories is open from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. for prayer. (Chapel is located next to Stuart Auditorium).

15. Fun

- Golf, tennis, walking, paddle boats, fishing, rocking chairs, youth center (for teenagers), Lake Junaluska Bookstore and Cafe.
- Maggie Valley shops and attractions.
- Waynesville shops and attractions.
- Check with Lake Junaluska Administrative Office located across from Stuart Auditorium for more information on area activities and recreational opportunities or check the display racks located in Terrace and Lambuth.

16. Special Events / Fellowship Schedule - Orientation as scheduled in the Book of Reports. Special breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, and Fellowship times are listed on the inside back cover of the Book of Reports.

17. More Questions? How to Get Answers. - Before Conference – call the Annual Conference Connectional Ministries office in Alcoa at 865-690-4080 (toll-free at 866-690-4080) or call your district office.

18. Medical Concerns

- Go to information desk at Stuart Auditorium. For emergencies, call 911, or go to the emergency room at the hospital in nearby Waynesville.
- Check at the front desk where you are staying. First aid kits may be found at each place of lodging at Lake Junaluska. Emergency number at Lake Junaluska is (828) 452-2881.

19. Making Sense of the Material Maze

- If available, attend your District Pre-Conference Briefing or view the briefing online at ac.holston.org.
- Attend the Laity Orientation Session on Sunday afternoon.
- Read the Annual Conference Book of Reports.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions if there is something you don't understand.
- Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

20. How to Get Around

- Trolleys and buses operate on the grounds before and after all sessions.
- Walking is always an option.
- Parking is available on the main road with trolley service to bring you to the auditorium, the parking lot on the left side of the Stuart Auditorium, or behind the Lake Junaluska Administrative Office located across from Stuart Auditorium.

21. Lake Junaluska Resources

- Use Map available at Registration or at the Information Desk at the back of Stuart Auditorium.
- Go to Administrative Office located across the street from Stuart Auditorium.

22. Where to Stay (on/off the Lake Junaluska grounds)

- Call Lake Junaluska for housing (828/452-2881 or 800/222-4930).
- Call or visit the websites of the Maggie Valley or Waynesville Chamber of Commerce for housing options nearby.

23. What If I Want to Make or Speak on a Motion?

- See Rules of Order

24. How to Get an Issue Before the Conference

- Before Conference – Any church or district committee, commission, council, board, agency, ministry team, or individual may send a resolution to the Conference Secretary. Call the Conference Secretary's Office at 865-690-4080 (toll-free at 866-690-4080) if you have any questions. The deadline for resolutions was March 1. This deadline is published on ac.holston.org the first of the year.

25. Buzz Words and What They Mean

- AC...Annual Conference
- AP...Appalachian District
- AM...Associate Member
- BOLM...Board of Lay Ministry
- BOM...Board of Ordained Ministry
- Cabinet...The Bishop, The Assistant to the Bishop, District Superintendents, and, when appropriate, other conference staff. The Cabinet under the leadership of the Bishop is the expression of superintending leadership in and through the Annual Conference. *'Appointment Cabinet'* – The Bishop, Executive Assistant to the Bishop and District Superintendents; *'Extended Cabinet'* – The Bishop, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, District Superintendents, other conference staff, and Conference Lay Leader.
- CCFA...Conference Council on Finance and Administration
- CCYM...Conference Council on Youth Ministries
- CLM/LM...Certified Lay Minister – A lay minister that has received specific training and certification that will enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches and expand team ministry in churches.
- CLL...Conference Lay Leader

- Connectional...A network of interdependent relations among persons and groups on local, regional, national, and international levels of The United Methodist Church.
- CM...Clinch Mountain District
- CRM...Camp and Retreat Ministries
- Conference Lay Leader...Primary representative of the laity of Holston Conference. Elected by the Annual Conference. Chairs Conference Board of Lay Ministry.
- Deacon (PD FD RD)...Deacons are ordained to a lifetime ministry of the Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice, to both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connect the two.
- Deaconess (DC)...A lay woman who, in response to God's call and on recommendation of the General Board of Global Ministries, is commissioned by a Bishop to share faith in Jesus Christ through ministries of love, justice, and service. Deaconesses form a covenant community rooted in Scripture and informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope and global outreach. Deaconesses serve the church in any capacity not requiring full clergy rights. They are related to the General Board of Global Ministries. A lifetime commitment to mission is presumed.
- Diaconal Ministers (DM)...This consecrated lay ministry exemplifies the servanthood every Christian is called to live in both church and world.
- BOD - Discipline...(The *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church – 2016) "The Discipline is the book of law of The United Methodist Church. It is the product of the many General Conferences of historic religious bodies which now form The United Methodist Church." It is published every four years, after each General Conference.
- DA...District Associate
- DS...District Superintendent
- DT...Discipleship Team (to discern a vision and ministry direction for the Conference).
- Elder (PE FE RE)...Elders are ordained to a lifetime ministry of Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order. They are authorized to preach and teach God's Word, to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and to order the life of the church for Mission and Ministry. They begin this calling as Provisional Members.

- General Conference....The legislative body of The United Methodist Church, composed of an equal number of elected lay and clergy delegates. It meets every four years and is the only body that can speak officially for the denomination.
- HI...Hiwassee District
- HM - Home Missioner...Lay man who is the counterpart of the Deaconess (see above).
- Jurisdictional Conference...A regional conference held every four years and attended by Holston Annual Conference by elected delegates, an equal number of lay and clergy. The business primarily involves the election and assignment of Bishops.
- Lay Leader...A function in the local church, carried out through a position elected by the Charge Conference, and who serves as the primary lay representative of the members of the local church. The Lay Leader has specific responsibilities detailed in the Discipline. Districts and Annual Conferences also elect lay leaders to serve as the primary representatives of their lay membership.
- Lay Members to Annual Conference...Lay members are elected at the charge conference of the local church/charge each year, and lay members at-large are elected annually at District Conferences. Other lay members are included based on positions and offices held within the districts and conferences as outlined in the Discipline.
- Lay Missioners...Committed laypersons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and work in a team with a pastor-mentor to develop faith communities, establish community ministries, develop church school extension, programs, and engage in congregational development.
- Lay Servants...Laypersons who complete lay servant training courses to serve the local church or charge in any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. Local Church Lay Servant has completed the basic training course; Certified Lay Servant has completed the basic and one of the advanced training courses for lay servant.
- Lay Speakers...Lay speakers are professing members of a local church or charge who are called and equipped to serve the church in pulpit supply by preaching the Word when the pastor is unavailable. Certified lay speakers will complete a course of study determined by the annual conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries.
- Local Pastor...A clergy person, serving under license, issued by the resident Bishop, who is authorized to perform all the duties of an ordained pastor, including the Sacraments, while assigned to a particular charge under the supervision of a District Superintendent.
- Ministry...The ministry of Christ is given to all Christians by virtue of their baptism (not reserved for clergy only).
- MV...Mountain View District
- NR...New River District
- NOW...Nurture, Outreach, and Witness ministry areas
- Ordination...The act of conferring ministerial orders, presided over by a Bishop. The authorization of the church for the practice of the Word, Sacrament, and Order (Deacon: Service & Compassion).
- OM...Other Methodist
- PRC...Personnel Resources Committee (recruits, employs, deploys, and evaluates staff of the Conference).
- Quadrennium...The official four-year period beginning July 1 following each General Conference, during which The United Methodist Church implements General Conference legislation.
- SEJ...Southeastern Jurisdiction
- SM...Smoky Mountain District
- SS...Scenic South District
- TR...Three Rivers District
- TV...Tennessee Valley District
- UMC...United Methodist Church
- UMM...United Methodist Men
- UWF...United Women in Faith
- WLI...Wesley Leadership Institute...A Conference initiative that creates educational opportunities for clergy through a Wesleyan perspective.

26. Fashion: What to Wear?

- Casual clothes are fine for all occasions; always wear a smile. God loves you!

- Avoid congregating at the entrances and exits, and avoid distracting conversations inside and outside the auditorium when Conference is in session.

27. Etiquette

- In Stuart Auditorium, please move toward the center of each section for seating, rather than taking up aisle seats.

Prepared by, Holston Conference Board of Lay Ministry

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

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**HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 1 - 4, 2025**

DEBRA WALLACE-PADGETT
Resident Bishop, Presiding

TOGETHER IN NEW BEGINNINGS

SCHEDULE / AGENDA

SUNDAY - June 1, 2025

Schedule / Agenda subject to change

Time.....	Event	Location
1:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Annual Conference Registration.....	Harrell Center
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Housing Registration	Bethea Welcome Center
3:00 p.m.	Rehearsal for Credentialing Service	Stuart Auditorium
4:30 p.m.	Laity Session.....	Terrace Auditorium
4:30 p.m.	Clergy Session	Stuart Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Break: Dinner	
7:15 p.m.	Pictures: Ordinands, Provisionals, and Associate Members	Memorial Chapel
7:30 p.m.	Sponsors and Cabinet line-up for Credentialing Service.....	Memorial Chapel
7:45 p.m.	Credentialing Service	Stuart Auditorium
	(Bishop Debbie Wallace-Padgett, preaching and presiding)	
	(Bishop Darryl Starnes, assisting)	
After worship	Rehearsal for Monday morning Communion servers.....	Stuart Auditorium
After worship	Rehearsal for Conference Choir	Memorial Chapel

MONDAY - June 2, 2025*Schedule / Agenda subject to change*

Time.....	Event	Location
8:30 a.m.	Worship and Communion..... (Bishop Darryl Starnes)	Stuart Auditorium
9:45 a.m.....	Hymn Opening Prayer Welcome from Lake Junaluska Organizing Motions Adoption of Agenda Setting Bar of Conference Election of Ushers and Tellers Report from Committee on Rules of Order State of the Church – Bishop’s Report Report from Conference Lay Leader Initial Budget Presentation from Council on Finance and Administration Report from Commission on Equitable Compensation Report from Personnel Resources Committee Report from United Women of Faith Report from Holston Foundation Discipleship Team -Witness (Denman Awards) Closing Prayer for the Session	
Noon.....	Break: Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	Conference Choir Rehearsal	Stuart Auditorium
2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service	Stuart Auditorium
	(Reverend Mickey Rainwater)	
3:40 p.m.	Hymn	Stuart Auditorium
	Vote: Constitutional Amendments Closing prayer for Session	
5:10 p.m.	Break: Dinner	
7:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Service.....	Stuart Auditorium
	Mission Celebration (Bishop Darryl Starnes) Report from Blessing of Hands-On Mission Kits and Mission Team Communion	
After Worship.....	Rehearsal for Tuesday morning helpers	Stuart Auditorium

TUESDAY - June 3, 2025*Schedule / Agenda subject to change*

Time.....	Event	Location
8:30 a.m.	Worship and Remember Your Baptism	Stuart Auditorium
	(Bishop Hector A. Burgos-Nunez)	
9:40 a.m.....	Report from Board of Trustees	
	Report of Board of Ordained Ministry	
	Report from Board of Pensions/Wespath	
	Retirement Recognition	
	Closing Prayer for the Session	
Noon.....	Break: Lunch	
2:00 p.m.	Hymn	Stuart Auditorium
	Report from Conference Strategy Team	
	Vote: Council on Finance and Administration (Budget)	
	Report from Board of Higher Education (Francis Asbury Award)	
	Report from Committee on Petitions and Resolutions	
	Report from Committee on Nominations	
	Report from Church and Society	
	Report on Discipling and Covenant Groups	
	Closing Prayer for the Session	
5:00 p.m.	Break: Dinner	
7:00 p.m.	Growing Together	Stuart Auditorium
	(Bishop Hector A. Burgos-Nunez)	

WEDNESDAY - June 4, 2025*Schedule & Agenda subject to change*

Time.....	Event	Location
9:00 a.m.....	Hymn	Stuart Auditorium
	Report from Camp and Retreat Ministries	
	Report from Committee on Congregational Development	
	Report from the Cabinet	
	Report from Multi-Cultural	
	Report from Young Adult	
	Report on New business	
	Minute Question # 79 (§360.3,4) "Where Shall Annual Conference Be Held?"	
	Thank you and Acknowledgements	
	Sending Forth	
	(Bishop Debbie Wallace-Padgett)	
	(Bishop Hector A. Burgos-Nunez)	
Noon.....	Adjournment	

= = = = **END OF SCHEDULE / AGENDA** = = = =

2025 HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE - ORGANIZING MOTIONS

Annual Conference Roll Call:

- I move that the registration constitutes the roll call and record of attendance. Excused clergy will be noted and recorded in the Journal.

Legal Limits for Voting and Business:

- I move that the legal voting and business limits of the 2025 Holston Annual Conference be the stage area, sections one (1) through ten (10), and pews of the George R. Stuart Auditorium.

Agenda:

- I move that the Schedule/Agenda as printed and included in the Annual Conference *Book of Reports* constitute the Agenda for the 2025 Session of the Holston Annual Conference, subject to any necessary changes and/or amendments by the Chair.

Reports:

- I move that reports found in the Annual Conference *Book of Reports* that do not require action and other reports submitted for information, subject to editorial corrections, be ordered to record and be published in the 2025 Conference Journal.

Ushers/Tellers:

- I move that the list of ushers and tellers as found in the *Book of Reports* and any necessary changes made since that printing by the Head Usher/Teller, be elected as the Ushers/Tellers of the 2025 Holston Annual Conference.

Submitted by, Rev. Terry Goodman, Conference Secretary / Director of Clergy Services

== == == **END OF REPORT** == == ==

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Every meeting of the General Conference brings the possibility of changes to our Constitution. When you hear the word Constitution, most likely you think of the Constitution of the United States that lays down the bedrock descriptions of who we are as a nation and how we function. The Constitution of The United Methodist Church can be thought of in a similar manner. In the Preamble to our Constitution, we read these words:

“The church is a community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redeemed and redeeming fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ’s own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the church seeks to provide for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.

The church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world, and its very dividedness is a hindrance to its mission in that world.

The prayers and intentions of The United Methodist Church and its predecessors, The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church, have been and are for obedience to the will of our Lord that his people be one, in humility for the present brokenness of the Church and in gratitude that opportunities for reunion have been given.

Therefore, The United Methodist Church has adopted and amended the following Constitution.1”

What follows are 60 articles in Five Divisions that lay the foundation for how our denomination operates in the world.

This year, we will be asked as an annual conference to vote on whether or not the denomination will amend our Constitution. In the pages that follow is the detailed description of the proposed amendments. When we gather as an annual conference we will vote separately on each of the four proposed amendments. Discussion will be allowed BUT there can be NO AMENDMENT to these proposals. We must vote on them as they are presented to us.

For the amendment to pass, it will require a 2/3 majority vote from all the annual conferences. This means that Holston will send its numbers of for and against to the General Conference Secretary and our numbers will be pooled with the numbers from every other annual conference. It is this aggregate number that must reflect a 2/3 majority in order for the amendment to pass. Also, please note, that no annual conference will be announcing their vote outcome lest the results from one annual conference unduly influence the vote of another annual conference.

So please take the time to read through these proposed amendments. You will not have time to do so at the time of the vote. One of the amendments is rather extensive. If you have questions, then please contact me and I will try to answer procedural questions, but am not able to answer questions about the meaning, intent or reasoning of the proposed changes. Instead, you will need to interpret the changes based upon what they say.

I look forward to seeing you at Lake Junaluska this coming June.

Submitted by, Rev. Terry Goodman, Conference Secretary / Director of Clergy Services

= = = = **END OF REPORT** = = = =

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference
To be canvassed for ratification by the Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

[The following proposed amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church were approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference and must now be voted upon by the members of the annual conferences. It is required that each one must pass with an aggregate 2/3 approval from all voting members as canvassed by the Council of Bishops. The proposed changes are indicated by strike-through for deletions and underscore for additions.]

This document is a DRAFT to be utilized as an initial informational and educational resource. The final document is subject to editing and verification.]

Ratification Ballot #1	Calendar Item 22	Approved 586-164	April 25, 2024
	Committee Item ST29	Approved 29-0	April 22, 2024
	Petition 21039		

[Editorial Note: Numbering of paragraphs will be subject to the final editing of The Book of Discipline 2020/2024. The proposed changes in this calendar item are included for internal reference. Due to the length and complexity of this calendar item, the text and formatting from the Daily Christian Advocate is being used for context.]

AMEND ¶ 9, (which shall be renumbered ¶ 10), 10 (which shall be renumbered ¶ 9), 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 61 and add new 13 as follows:

¶ ~~10~~ 9, ~~Article III~~ Article II. - There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional ~~central~~ regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

¶ ~~9~~ 10, ~~Article II~~ Article III. - There shall ~~may~~ be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are

hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

(NEW - Renumber subsequent paragraphs) ¶ 13. *Article VI.*— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

¶ 15. *Article III.* The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, ~~jurisdictional~~, and ~~central~~ regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference.

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and

further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 16. *Article IV*.- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

...

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, ~~and of central conferences,~~ district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide Church-outside the United States of America.

...

16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by ~~central~~ regional conferences without jurisdictions.

...

16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

...

16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶11.5.

¶ **23. Article I.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ **24. Article II.** - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

¶ **25. Article III.** - The ~~General Conferences~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

¶ **26. Article IV.** - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the ~~Council~~ College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

¶ **27. Article V.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

...

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the regional conferences.

6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling preacher~~ clergy or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

Section V. ~~Central~~ Regional Conferences

¶ 28. *Article I.*— There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America with such powers, duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

~~The number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be determined by the Uniting Conference. Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.~~

1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

¶ **29. Article II.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ **30. Article III.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective ~~central~~ regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. ~~The date and place of the first meeting succeeding the Uniting Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective central conferences, or in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.~~

¶ **31. Article IV.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

2. In regional conferences without jurisdictions, To elect the bishops for the respective ~~central~~ regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference: to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to

~~their areas;~~ and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such ~~central~~ regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶ 40 ~~within their respective areas.~~

5. To ~~make such~~ legislate and make rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including ~~such~~ changes and adaptations of the ~~General Discipline as follows,~~ as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference while upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

- a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.
- b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.
- c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum requirements.
- d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second

Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.

e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding mandated structures.

When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the ~~central~~ regional conference *Discipline* enacted by the ~~central~~ regional conference.

7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules: provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

~~To A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall~~ appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling-preacher clergy~~ or lay member of ~~that central~~ the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

¶ **32. Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall

consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the ~~central~~ regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ **33. Article II.**—The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy

and lay delegates to the General ~~Conference~~ and their ~~respective regional-jurisdictional or central~~ conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

¶ **34. Article III.**-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its ~~jurisdictional or central~~ respective regional conference, as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference. The additional delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to

the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

¶ **35. Article IV.**-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their ~~respective regional and jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference ~~as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions,~~ shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ **36. Article V.**-The lay delegates to the General Conference and ~~to their respective regional conference, and jurisdictional or central conferences~~ as well as jurisdictional conference if its

regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and jurisdictional or central regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.

[DELETE ¶ 38 and ¶ 39 and renumber all of the articles within its section and renumber all subsequent paragraphs of the Constitution.]

~~¶ 38. *Article II.*—The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be formed into central regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Uniting Conference, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries.~~

~~¶ 39. *Article III.*—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the jurisdictional conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences of each of the jurisdictional conferences involved.~~

~~¶ 40 *Article IVII.*—The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of regional and jurisdictional and central~~

conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

¶ 46. *Article II.*-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, ~~jurisdictional and central conferences~~ and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by ~~the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central~~ regional conference for those elected by such ~~central conference,~~ provided that episcopal elections in ~~central~~ regional conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of ~~the central~~ such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ 48. *Article IV.*-The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central conference~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

¶ 49. *Article V.*-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in ~~the jurisdictional or central conferences~~ their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless

that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions,~~ through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions,~~ to the work of the said ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions,~~ with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions,~~

¶ 50. *Article VI.* - ~~The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.~~
~~The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and b~~ Bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. ~~Each b~~ Bishops elected by a

~~central regional conference without jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church~~ shall have such tenure as the ~~central regional~~ conference electing ~~him~~ them shall have determined.

The ~~regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, jurisdictional conference~~ shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to ~~the~~ its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, at conference if a region has jurisdictions, its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the ~~jurisdictional~~ respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ **52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several ~~regional jurisdictional and central~~ conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

¶ **56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~

conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference.

...

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, ~~or regional, or jurisdictional or central~~ conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or a central~~ conference.

...

¶ 61. *Article III.* - A regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

[If ratified, the paragraphs would read as follows:]

¶ 9. *Article II.* - There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church and, if necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

Latest version: September 6, 2024

¶ **10. Article III.** - There may be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

¶ **13. Article VI.**— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

¶ **15. Article III.** The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General and regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the regional conference.

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference

shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 16. *Article IV*.- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

...

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide Church.

...

16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences without jurisdictions.

...

16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences, and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

...

16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

¶ **23. Article I.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ **24. Article II.** - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

¶ **25. Article III.** - The regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

¶ **26. Article IV.** - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

¶ **27. Article V.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

...

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the regional conferences.

6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

Section V. Regional Conferences

¶ 28. *Article I.*— There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

¶ 29. *Article II.*— The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ 30. *Article III.*— The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference.

¶ 31. *Article IV.* The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

2. In regional conferences without jurisdictions, to elect the bishops for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶ 40 .

5. To legislate rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including changes and adaptations of the general *Discipline* as follows, while upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

- a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.
- b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.
- c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum requirements.
- d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.
- e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding mandated structures.

When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional *Discipline* enacted by the regional conference.

7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

¶ **32. Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one

young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ **33. Article II.**-The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and their respective regional conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and

conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

¶ **34. Article III.** -The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the regional conference. The additional delegates to the regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall

be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

¶ **35. Article IV.**—The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ **36. Article V.**—The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ **40 Article II.**— The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction,

if a regional conference has jurisdictions. The authority of regional and jurisdictional conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

¶ **46. Article II.**-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by each regional conference, provided that episcopal elections in regional conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ **48. Article IV.**-The bishops of each regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

¶ **49. Article V.**-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented.

(3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ **50. Article VI.** - Bishops elected by the jurisdictions shall have life tenure. Bishops elected by a regional conference without jurisdictions shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing them shall have determined.

The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a region has jurisdictions, its findings for

such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power.

The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ **52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several regional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

¶ **56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, regional, or jurisdictional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

¶ 61. *Article III.* - A regional or jurisdictional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

Ratification Ballot #2	Calendar Item 240	Approved 607-67	May 3, 2024
	Committee Item GA11	Approved 48-2	April 26, 2024
	Petition 20240		

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

Latest version: September 6, 2024

- 5. Amended 2000.
- 6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

Ratification Ballot #3	Calendar Item 550	Approved 621-59	May 3, 2024
	Committee Item IC50	Approved 25-1	April 27, 2024
	Petition 20332		

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims ~~the value of each person that from God’s goodness and love, God created all persons as a God’s unique and beloved children. child of God~~ and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes ~~that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places. Racism opposes God’s law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God’s work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.~~⁷

7. Amended 2000

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God’s goodness and love, God created all persons as God’s unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God’s law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God’s work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.⁷

7. Amended 2000

Ratification Ballot #4	Calendar Item 555	Approved 547-99	May 2, 2024
	Committee Item OM153	Approved 39-4	April 27, 2024
	Petition 20070		

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from ⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their

Latest version: September 6, 2024

educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or ~~an M.Div. Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference~~ and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[Editorial note: The proposed change of language in this paragraph related to central conferences would be changed to reflect the necessary updates should the Proposed Constitutional Amendment related to Regionalization be ratified.]

NOMINATIONS FOR USHERS/TELLERS

Head Usher/Teller:

- (C) Tony Collins

Incoming Head Usher/Teller:

- (C) Rachel Collins

Appalachian District

- *No volunteers indicated*

Clinch Mountain District

- *No volunteers indicated*

Hiwassee District

- (L) Jenny Nevans

Mountain View District

- (L) Mark Grigsby
- (C) Judy Keller
- (C) Peter Kenny
- (C) Kathy Waters LaFollette
- (C) Vickie Moore
- (C) Stacey Morgan
- (L) Debbie Scott
- (L) Haden Scott
- (L) Pat Stanton
- (C) Tom Stanton
- (L) Marvin Stewart

New River District

- *No volunteers indicated*

Scenic South District

- *No volunteers indicated*

Smoky Mountain District

- (L) Nancy Bledsoe
- (L) Nancy Hydzik
- (C) Jennifer McIntyre
- (L) Carole Myers
- (C) Samuel Ward
- (L) Deborah Yantis

Tennessee Valley District

- (C) Teresa Atkins McClure
- (L) Marcia Barton
- (L) Myra Buffalo
- (C) Andy Ferguson
- (C) John Gargis
- (L) Stacey Gibson
- (L) Diane James
- (C) Livingstone Makwerere
- (L) John Morris

Three Rivers District

- (C) Amy Blumberg
- (L) David Frost
- (L) Clyde Harrell
- (L) Leanna Johnson
- (L) Lynn Mason
- (L) Bob Stinson
- (L) Betty Yeomans-Barton
- (L) Deborah Yeomans-Barton

Submitted by, Rev. Terry Goodman, Conference
Secretary / Director of Clergy Services

== == == **END OF REPORT** == == ==

SECTION II REPORTS

I CABINET - REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Greetings Holston Annual Conference

Since our last Annual Conference, following a year of transformation and formation, the Cabinet and Extended Cabinet have emerged as forward-looking visionaries. In changing times, we prayerfully seek the wisdom and leadership of the Holy Spirit to make us change agents for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Our Episcopal Leader, Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, ahs inspired us with guidance such as, “We are better together,” and the concept of “The Big Table.” Here are some highlights from our Cabinet Report for the conference year, July 2024-March 2025:

The Rev. Kim Goddard, who has served as District Superintendent and pastor for many years, is now serving as the Assistant to the Bishop, with a primary focus on developing passionate spiritual disciples and leaders. The vision of the Holston Conference is to create passionate spiritual leaders making disciples of Jesus Christ, and the mission of our beloved Holston Conference is to develop passionate spiritual leaders who reflect Jesus Christ.

As a Cabinet, we are intentional about forming covenant groups among ourselves to do just that—develop spiritual leaders. We, as a Cabinet, are modeling this for the entire conference, and we encourage you to join us.

As a result of the General Conference, there were changes that many of us celebrated, but at the same time, some of these changes left others disappointed. As a Cabinet, we want you to know that we see you, we hear you, and we sense the pain. As a result, the limited church closure process was attempted by the Holston Conference to facilitate our brothers and sisters who no longer wished to journey with us. This attempt failed, as the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church ruled this limited closure out of order and illegal, leaving no other process.

We, as a Cabinet, remain engaged in Cultural Competency Training. This type of training helps us understand how to interact with individuals of different cultures without implicit biases that we may or may not be aware of. This training is essential so that we may truly be better together, warm, winsome, and inviting to “The Big Table,” where all of God’s children “will study war no more.”

Glory Sightings from the Districts of the Holston Conference

In the Clinch Mountain and New River Districts, many young people entering ministry, Local Pastors School, and seminary are coming back to Holston to serve. It is exciting to see these passionate spiritual disciples on their way to becoming passionate spiritual leaders. Among them are:

- Dalton Richardson
- Jacob Countiss
- Josh Bass
- Chris Duble
- Carter Momsen-Hudson
- Jett McReynolds
- MacKenzie Henningsen
- Amanda Smith
- Noe Martinez
- Anna Beeken
- Kevin Harrod
- Saul Huerta
- Taylor Hines

These individuals, along with all the pastors and churches, give great hope for the future of The United Methodist Church, stated Rev. Jane Taylor, District Superintendent.

In the Scenic South and Hiwassee Districts, Rev. Micky Rainwater, District Superintendent, shared that some congregations have actually returned to pre-pandemic attendance levels, giving, and ministry. Additionally, some congregations have exceeded all expectations in their 2024 giving.

In the Appalachia District, Rev. Jeff Lambert, District Superintendent, highlighted The Table Ministry at The Corner in Kingsport, TN, started by Rev. Melissa Malcolm last August. This ministry has fed over 400 different people and now averages around 100 people per week, serving a warm meal every Monday and making a difference in many lives.

In the Three Rivers and Mountain View Districts, the people of the Holston Conference and beyond came together to support communities hard hit by Hurricane Helene. Thank you all! Rev. Lambert affirmed what we all believe; amazing work is being done everywhere. We are connected—praise God!

Additionally, the Holston Foundation provided full scholarships to the youth at Centenary UMC in Erwin, Tennessee, due to the recent flooding.

Rev. Ann Robins, District Superintendent of the Tennessee Valley and Smoky Mountain Districts, celebrates that four of our pastors have been selected for the 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders Cohort, a program organized by The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City.

What incredible Glory Sightings—and there are so many more!

Church Closures (July 2024-March 2025)

Now, let us pause to remember, reflect, and reminisce on the list of church closures within the Holston Conference.

We honor these churches' tenure, celebrate their faithfulness, and commemorate their effectiveness in reaching people for Jesus Christ and transforming the world. Perhaps you remember someone who was saved, married, confirmed, baptized, or funeralized in one of these sacred places. Let us pause and reflect.

- Bales Chapel UMC—Greeneville, Mountain View District
- Flintstone UMC—Georgia, Scenic South District
- Wesley UMC—South Pittsburgh, Scenic South District
- Rehobeth UMC—Greeneville, Mountain View District
- Doe Valley UMC—Mountain City, Three Rivers District
- Telford UMC—Telford, Three Rivers District
- Mayes Chapel UMC—New Tazewell, Mountain View District
- Bradburn Hill UMC—Greeneville, Mountain View District
- Black Fox UMC—Cleveland, Hiwassee District
- Carter Street UMC—Radford, New River District
- Hunter UMC—Elizabethton, Three Rivers District
- Watauga Point UMC—Elizabethton, Three Rivers District
- Rye Cove UMC—Appalachian District
- Sunbright UMC—Tennessee Valley District
- Fenders—Smoky Mountain District
- Door of Heaven—New River

As we know, change is inevitable. It is always happening, but let us move forward together and remain Holston Strong.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men and women.” Colossians 3:23

Faith, hope, love.

Humbly submitted,

Angela M. Hardy Cross, Dean of the Cabinet

RESOLUTION(S) FOR CLOSURE(S)

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
BALES CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE
MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Bales Chapel United Methodist Church located at 2505 Roaring Fork Rd, Greeneville, Tennessee, 37745 in the Mountain View District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the church property is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship and

Whereas, the Mountain View District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting electronically on the 29th day of July, 2024, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Mountain View District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Bales Chapel United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.3 b).

Therefore, be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.3 b) of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.3 of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the first day of August, 2024



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.3 b)

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.3

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
FLINTSTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FLINTSTONE, GEORGIA
SCENIC SOUTH DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Flintstone United Methodist Church located at 2503 Chattanooga Valeey Road, Flintstone, Georgia in the Scenic South District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the remaining local church members see no viable option for the church and voted to close the church at a duly convened meeting on the fifth day of June, 20224, and

Whereas, the Flintstone United Methodist Church – Church Conference requests the proceeds of the sale of church property be designated for “congregational development” and emerging churches in the Scenic South District, and

Whereas, the Scenic South District Board of Church Building and Location meeting on the ninth day of July, 2024 has determined exigent circumstances exist, and has given its consent for the closure; and

Whereas, since exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church’s property, namely, it is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship, and its vacancy presents a threat to its destruction, vandalism and other structural hazards; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Scenic South District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Flintstone United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.3.

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.3 of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.3 of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this day, July 16, 2024



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Dr. Angela Hardy-Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

☐ Copy of Title to Church Property attached

☐ Vacant Property Report attached

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.3

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SOUTH PITTSBURG, TENNESSEE
SCENIC SOUTH DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Wesley United Methodist Church located at 300 Magnolia Avenue, South Pittsburg, Tennessee in the Scenic South District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the remaining local church members see no viable option for the church and voted to close the church at a duly convened meeting on the 23rd day of June, 2024, and

Whereas, the Wesley United Methodist Church – Church Conference requests the proceeds of the sale of church property be designated for “congregational development” and emerging churches in the Scenic South District, and

Whereas, the Scenic South District Board of Church Building and Location meeting on the ninth day of July, 2024 has determined exigent circumstances, and has given its consent for the closure; and

Whereas, since exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church’s property, namely, it is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship, and its vacancy presents a threat to its destruction, vandalism and other structural hazards; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Scenic South District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Wesley United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.3.a.

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.3.a of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.3.a of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this day, July 16, 2024



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Dr. Angela Hardy-Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

☐ Copy of Title to Church Property attached

☐ Vacant Property Report attached

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE OF
REHOBETH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE
MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Rehobeth United Methodist Church located at 205 Rehobeth Church Lane, Greeneville, Tennessee 37745 in Mountain View District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the church property is no longer maintained as a place of worship; and

Whereas, the Mountain View District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 6th day of August, 2024, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Mountain View District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Rehobeth United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.3 b),

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.3 b) of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.3 of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 13 day of August, 2024.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Reverend Dr. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of the Cabinet

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.3 b)

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE OF
DOE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MOUNTAIN CITY, TN
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Doe Valley United Methodist Church located at 110 Spear Branch Road Mountain City, TN 37683-6094 in the Three Rivers District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the remaining local church members see no viable option for the church and voted to close the church at a duly convened meeting on the fifth day of May, 2024, and

Whereas, the Three Rivers District Board of Church Building and Location meeting on the twenty ninth day of July, 2024 has given its consent for the closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Three Rivers District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Doe Valley United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶ 2549.2(b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Recommendation of the Bishop, the local District Superintendent and a majority of the District Superintendents be presented to the next meeting of The Holston Annual Conference for a declaration that Doe Valley United Methodist Church be closed:

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶ 2549 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further affirmed that title to the church property shall immediately vest in the Holston Conference Board of Trustees upon action of the Annual Conference declaring the church closed.

Signed this day, August 20, 2024



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Dr. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

Voluntary Closure under BOD ¶ 2549.2

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
TELFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TELFORD, TENNESSEE
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Telford United Methodist Church located at 1775 Old State Route 34 Telford, TN 37690-2732 in the Three Rivers District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the remaining local church members see no viable option for the church and voted to close the church at a duly convened meeting on the twenty sixth day of September 2024, and


Whereas, the Three Rivers District Board of Church Building and Location meeting on the thirty-first day of September, 2024 has given its consent for the closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Three Rivers District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Telford United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.2(b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Recommendation of the Bishop, the local District Superintendent and a majority of the District Superintendents be presented to the next meeting of The Holston Annual Conference for a declaration that Telford United Methodist Church be closed;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further affirmed that title to the church property shall immediately vest in the Holston Conference Board of Trustees upon action of the Annual Conference declaring the church closed.

Signed 

December 2, 2024

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



December 2, 2024

Rev. Dr. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

Voluntary Closure under BOD ¶2549.2

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
MAYES CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEW TAZEWEEL, TENNESSEE
MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Mayes Chapel United Methodist Church located at 945 Lonesome Valley Rd., New Tazewell, Tennessee, 37825 in the Mountain View District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the remaining four local church members see no viable option for the church; and

Whereas, the Mountain View District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 19th day of September 2024, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Mountain View District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Mayes Chapel United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.4b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.4b) of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.4 of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 1 day of February , 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
BRADBURN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE
MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Bradburn Hill United Methodist Church located at 1325 Kingsport Highway, Greeneville, Tennessee, 37743 in the Mountain View District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years; and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the church property is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship; and

Whereas, the Mountain View District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 15th day of January 2025, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Mountain View District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Bradburn Hill United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.4b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.4b) of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.4 of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.4b)

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 1 day of February, 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.4b)

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
BLACK FOX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE)
HIWASSEE DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Black Fox United Methodist Church located at 1820 Old Chattanooga Pike SW, Cleveland, TN in the Hiwassee District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely that it is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship, and its vacancy presents a threat to its destruction, vandalism and other structural hazards, and

Whereas, the Hiwassee District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 12th day of December, 2025, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Hiwassee District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Black Fox United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.4b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.4b) of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.4 of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.4b)

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 1 day of February, 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
CARTER STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RADFORD, VIRGINIA
NEW RIVER DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

[Note: if the church is **not** incorporated refer to BOD 2540; if it **is** incorporated, refer to 2541]

Whereas, the Carter Street United Methodist Church located at 1229 Second Street Radford, Virginia in the New River District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized, and/or is no longer used, kept or maintained as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and/or the remaining local church members see no viable option for the church to continue; and

Whereas, the Charge Conference of the Carter Street United Methodist Church, meeting on the 26th day of January, 2025, approved a resolution authorizing the transfer of title to the property to the Holston Conference Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, the New River District Board of Church Building and Location, the District Superintendent, and the local church Pastor have all properly investigated the missional needs and alternative considerations for property use in conformity with the provisions of ¶2540.3 [or ¶2541.3 – if incorporated] of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline and have provided written consent to the conveyance of all of its property from the Carter Street United Methodist Church to the Board of Trustees of the Holston Annual Conference; and

Whereas, the District Superintendent has certified that this conveyance to the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees conforms to the provisions of ¶2540 (or ¶2541 – if incorporated) and ¶2549.4(a) of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline, as well as other related provisions of The United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Recommendation of the District Superintendent and by action of the local church charge conference as reflected in the written consent affixed hereto, the Bishop, the local District Superintendent and a majority of the District Superintendents affirm the actions taken herein and recommend that these matters be presented to the next meeting of The Holston

Voluntary Closure under BOD ¶2549.4.a)

Annual Conference for a declaration that Carter Street United Methodist Church be closed;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further affirmed that title to the local church property shall be transferred to the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees for its disposition via the appropriate deed(s) of conveyance.

Signed this day, the 9 day of February , 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
HUNTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BLUFF CITY, TENNESSEE
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Hunter United Methodist Church located at 722 Highway 91, Elizabethton, Tennessee, 37643-9201 in the Three Rivers District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the church property has been abandoned and/or is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship]; and

Whereas, the Three Rivers District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 17th day of February, 2025, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Three Rivers District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Hunter United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.4b.

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.4b of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.4 of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.4b)

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 4 day of March, 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
WATAUGA POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ELIZABETHTON, TENNESSEE
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Watauga Point United Methodist Church located at 409 Gap Creek Road, Elizabethton, TN 37643-3831 in the Three Rivers District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the church property has been abandoned and/or is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship; and

Whereas, the Three Rivers District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 17th day of February, 2025, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Three Rivers District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Watauga Point United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.4b.

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.4b of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.4 of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.4b)

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 4 day of March, 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE OF
RYE COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DUFFIELD, VIRGINIA
APPALACHIAN DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Rye Cove United Methodist Church located at 2642 Brick Church Rd Duffield, VA 24244 in the Appalachian District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church members see no viable option for the church and voted to close the church at a duly convened meeting on the 12th day of March, 2025, and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized;

Whereas, the Appalachian District Board of Church Building and Location meeting on the 17th day of March, 2025 has given its consent for the closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Appalachian District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Rye Cove United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.2(b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Recommendation of the Bishop, the local District Superintendent and a majority of the District Superintendents be presented to the next meeting of The Holston Annual Conference for a declaration that Rye Cove United Methodist Church be closed;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further affirmed that title to the church property shall immediately vest in the Holston Conference Board of Trustees upon action of the Annual Conference declaring the church closed.

Signed this day, March 19, 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Reverend Dr. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of the Cabinet

Voluntary Closure under BOD ¶2549.2(b)

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
SUNBRIGHT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNBRIGHT, TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE VALLEY DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Sunbright United Methodist Church located at, 7911 Morgan County Highway, Sunbright, Tennessee 37872 in the Tennessee Valley District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely, the church has notified the Conference that it was no longer serving as a United Methodist congregation and has improperly attempted to disassociate itself from the United Methodist Church in violation of the United Methodist Book of Discipline

Whereas, the Tennessee Valley District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 18th day of March, 2025, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Tennessee Valley District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Sunbright United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.4b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.4b) of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such

property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.4 of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 19th day of March, 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
FENDERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SWEETWATER, TENNESSEE
SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Fenders United Methodist Church located at 2528 Oakland Road, Sweetwater, Tennessee in the Smoky Mountain District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the church property has been abandoned and/or is no longer maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship; and

Whereas, the Smoky Mountain District Board of Church Building and Location meeting on the 6 day of April, 2025 has given its consent for the closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the Smoky Mountain District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Fenders United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.2(b),

Therefore be it resolved that the Recommendation of the Bishop, the local District Superintendent and a majority of the District Superintendents be presented to the next meeting of The Holston Annual Conference for a declaration that Fenders United Methodist Church be closed;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further affirmed that title to the church property shall immediately vest in the Holston Conference Board of Trustees upon action of the Annual Conference declaring the church closed.

Signed this day, April 9, 2025

Voluntary Closure under BOD ¶2549.2(b)
Fenders



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

Voluntary Closure under BOD ¶2549.2(b)
Fenders

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE
OF
DOOR OF HEAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GALAX, VIRGINIA
NEW RIVER DISTRICT
HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, the Door of Heaven United Methodist Church located at 9743 Grayson Parkway, PO Box 294 Galax VA 24333-0294 in the New River District of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church has served the community and the Holston Annual Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ for many years, and

Whereas, the local church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church and no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church's property, namely the congregation and pastors no longer associate with or worship as a United Methodist Church and

Whereas, the New River District Board of Church Building and Location, meeting on the 8th day of April, 2025, has also declared that exigent circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property and consent to its closure; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, the District Superintendent of the New River District, and a majority of District Superintendents have given their consent for the closure of Door of Heaven United Methodist Church, in accordance with The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶2549.4b).

Therefore be it resolved that the Bishop, the local District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and a majority of the District Superintendents make a formal declaration that exigent circumstances exist for the closure of this local church in accordance with ¶2549.4b) of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline; and

*Exigent Circumstances Closure under BOD ¶2549.4b)
Door of Heaven*

Be it further affirmed that the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Holston Annual Conference Board of Trustees, with authority to hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, in accordance with ¶2549.4 of The 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Be it further resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect and preserve all deeds, records, and official documents from the church, including its furnishings and fixtures, in a timely manner in accord with ¶2549 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist Book of Discipline;

Signed this the 9th day of April, 2025.



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop



Rev. Angela Hardy Cross
Dean of The Cabinet

==== END OF RESOLUTION(S) FOR CLOSURE(S) ====

==== END OF REPORT ====

II COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

The Communications Advisory Council (CAC) continues to support and advise the Holston Conference's dedicated communications team. Comprised of clergy and lay professionals with expertise in media, public relations, and marketing, the CAC serves as a consulting body to ensure our communications remain effective, relevant, and impactful.

In the past year, Holston Communications has made significant strides in expanding our reach, enhancing digital engagement, and resourcing our conference ministries. Below are some key highlights from the year:

Daily Coverage of General Conference 2024

One of our most significant initiatives was providing comprehensive, real-time coverage of the 2024 United Methodist Church General Conference. This included:

- Daily news updates on the events and key decisions from General Conference.
- Spotlight stories on the Holston Delegation, capturing their experiences and insights.
- Emotional reflections to provide an inside look at the joys, challenges, and spiritual depth of this historic gathering.
- Social media highlights, offering rapid updates, behind-the-scenes content, and interactive engagement to keep our conference members informed and connected.

Launch of HopeInHolston.org

In 2024, we developed and launched HopeInHolston.org, a dedicated subsite that served as a hub for Holston's Bicentennial celebrations, General Conference updates, New Voices initiatives, and the unveiling of our new Mission and Vision statements. This platform has allowed us to centralize major conference milestones and provide resources for local churches to engage with these transformative moments.

The Connectional Corner: A Church Communications Blog

Recognizing the evolving challenges in church

communications, we launched The Connectional Corner (holston.org/connectional-corner). This blog serves as a resource hub for church leaders, offering practical advice on digital and traditional church communications, creative ideas for reaching diverse audiences, and Christ-centered inspiration to empower local churches in sharing their message effectively.

Amen for AI?! webinar

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes a significant tool in ministry, we hosted *Amen for AI?!*, a webinar featuring Dr. Kelly Price, which introduced clergy and church leaders to AI's potential. This event covered:

- How AI can assist in ministry preparation, content creation, and outreach.
- Ethical considerations for using AI in a ministry setting.
- Practical demonstrations on AI tools that can enhance church communications.

Beyond these major initiatives, we continue to provide essential communications support across Holston Conference, including:

- Marketing and branding support for conference ministries.
- Video production, email marketing, and social media engagement to enhance visibility.
- Training and consultation for local churches, helping them navigate modern communication strategies.

Our Mission Moving Forward

Above all, Holston Communications remains committed to sharing the hope, joy, and love of Christ through every platform available. As we move into our 2025 theme of Together in New Beginnings, we will continue our mission of developing passionate spiritual leaders who reflect Jesus—ensuring that our communication efforts inspire, inform, and connect our Holston Conference family.

Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Tim Jones
Director of Communications

===== END OF REPORT =====

III COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CD)

Isaiah 43:19 “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

The Office of Congregational Development & Revitalization (CDR) is committed to the future of the United Methodist Church, believing that God can accomplish more than we can ask, dream, or imagine. CDR plays a vital role in partnering with God to equip congregations to plant New Places for New People and revitalize existing congregations. Both CDR teams support the Holston Conference by identifying, equipping, and shepherding Passionate Spiritual Leaders, and providing congregations with planting and revitalizing resources and tools for developing NEW Passionate Spiritual Disciples.

We collaborate closely with congregation and conference leaders and the appointive cabinet to discern strategic areas for New Places 4 New People and revitalized congregations.

This report highlights key accomplishments where CDR efforts, in partnership with God, have made significant strides in strengthening congregations and planting New Places 4 New People across the Holston Conference, including:

- Launching & equipping Prayer Movement Teams through the Prayer Summit. The Summit focus was on equipping laity and clergy to launch prayer movement teams in their contexts. These teams aim to help them equip the church to engage in Breakthrough Prayer.
- Cultivating an innovative culture through encouraging holy experiments. Holy experiments happen when laity and clergy create contextually innovative ways to start new relationships with new people in their communities.
- Expanding equipping, resourcing, and coaching for revitalization and re-missioning to congregations as recommended by their district superintendent. A 6-week equipping called Revitalization Road Trip was one of these expanded resources.

- Developing a New Places 4 New People Cultivators pathway. This includes laity and clergy who are being equipped to equip passionate spiritual leaders to plant New Places 4 New People. In addition, we had Small Rural Church training, Local Church training, and New Places 4 New People equipping events across the conference.
- Establishing Catalyst: A Church Planting Initiative that includes an in-person retreat, monthly large group, small group, & coaching for participants across ten months. Participants will create a Ministry Action Plan to plant a New Place 4 New People as their Catalyst Project.
- Prioritizing these values: Prayer Movement Team; innovation, generosity plan; new people, the new plant and revitalization plans are contextual, organic, & reflect the community’s diversity.
- Collaborating with Conference Strategy Team, Realignment Task Force, Limited Church Closure Process, District Superintendents, Conference Trustees, Rev. Leah Burns, Associate Director of Multicultural Ministries, CDR teams, and Bishop Wallace-Padgett.
- Providing community demographic reports through Mission Insite. These reports offer strategic data, and congregations are equipped to utilize this data for informed decision-making and planning in their planting and revitalization efforts.
- Offering training, onboarding, preaching, and other CDR resources to our local congregations, district offices, and conference ministries.

These initiatives aim to empower congregations to grow spiritually, engage with their communities in new ways, and foster innovative and culturally sensitive planting and revitalization efforts.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your continued partnership! We invite you to join us in prayer as we pursue Congregational Development's initiatives, working together to equip churches to be more vital. If you and your congregation seek guidance in dreaming with God, please get in touch with our office to set up a meeting or discuss how Holston Conference CDR can support you.

Keep shining,

Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold, Director of CDR

Rev. Jim Goddard, CDR Directional Team Chairperson
Congregational Development Teams

== == == END OF REPORT == == ==

IV BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Holston Conference is blessed by the impactful work of our Campus Ministries and Conference Universities. Our involvement on seven different campuses provides opportunities for countless young adults in worship, discipleship, and service. This ministry on college campuses is a crucial part of meeting young people where they are, strengthening their relationships with Christ, and equipping them on their faith journeys for their futures. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry exists to support these ministries. Our goal over the past year has been to increase communication, oversight, and support of these ministries as vital parts of the Holston Conference.

Let us not forget that it was the "Holy Club" at Oxford University that John and Charles formed while in college with other students that served as the initial starting point

of the later Methodist movement, providing these young adults spiritual growth, accountability, and experience in ministry that became their life's work. It was also this work of campus ministry that first earned them the insult as "Methodists." College campuses have always been a vital place of mission and discipleship in our Church and we are grateful for our chaplains and Wesley Foundation directors who continue this work today.

Take a few minutes to read the reports from these ministries below and see all that God is continuing to do on college campuses throughout the conference. Please also prayerfully consider how you and your local churches can partner with these ministries with your time, prayer, and gifts to continue their excellent work.

-Alex Thompson, Chairperson

== == == END OF REPORT == == ==

IV EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Greetings from the ETSU Wesley Foundation! It is my joy to share with you some of the many ways the Holston Conference has been present for college students and young adults in the Tri-Cities this year! At ETSU Wesley, our motto is "OFFERING CHRIST to and CHANGING LIVES of YOUNG ADULTS." We do this by investing in student leaders and equipping them to be leaders in the church. ETSU Wesley has a long tradition of this kind of discipleship as now countless alumni serve in leadership roles throughout our conference and connection. To provide insight into our year of ministry, here are some highlights...

- With the generous stewardship of many donors and God's blessings, we've now completed over 101% (\$607,000) of our capital campaign, Renewing Our Faith, Restoring Our Foundation. Many vital improvements to the building are now well underway.
- Our students served on a mission team to Willow, Alaska and plan to send more in 2025.
- We began a new ministry program, "Praying with Wesley" each Monday on Campus to share the Good News of Jesus Christ among students.

- Over 100 students engaged in our Weekly Tuesday Night worship across 2024, and our active student leadership team continues to encourage and mentor students in spiritual growth, service, and fellowship.
- We have helped connect and have 7 students serving in part time jobs at United Methodist Churches... Evan Davidson - Youth Director at Wheeler UMC Blountville, Layne Maddox - Children's Ministry Intern at First UMC Johnson City, Anthony Vaughn - AV Tech at Munsey Memorial UMC, Annalise Jolly - Children's Ministry Intern at Munsey Memorial UMC, Brooke Satterfield - Youth Ministry Intern at Colonial Heights UMC, Kamry Bolin - Youth Ministry Intern at Colonial Heights UMC and Kennedy Marshall - Brooks Music Scholar at Trinity UMC Greeneville.
- We connected 5 students to serve as camp counselors at Camp Bays Mountain.

Would you consider helping us OFFER CHRIST to and CHANGE LIVES OF YOUNG ADULTS for the 2025/2026 school year? Here are some ways we invite you to help...

- Commit to pray for ETSU Wesley throughout the year.
- Learn more about our ministry at www.etsuwesley.com
- If you know any students who will be attending college in the Tri-Cities, please help us connect with them. You can email us at etsuwesley@gmail.com. Also, please share our online new student guide at www.etsuwesley.com/newstudentguide.
- Consider giving to our annual campaign. You can give at www.etsuwesley.com/donate or donate by mail at: ETSU Wesley Foundation, 1100 Seminole Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604.

For every way you have supported and sustained our ministry, thank you. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as the Director of the ETSU Wesley Foundation.

Blessings,
Caleb Frazier, Director



==== END OF REPORT =====

IV RADFORD UNIVERSITY - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Radford Wesley Foundation continues to be a supportive place for Radford University students, offering a sense of belonging and community and embodying a ministry that is truly a “home away from home.” Our mission is to provide students with a space for spiritual growth, Christian fellowship, and leadership development. We are honored to serve as a nurturing, supportive community where students can find both spiritual guidance and a sense of belonging during their college years. This year has been filled with remarkable moments and connections that affirm the importance of this vital ministry.

A Place to Belong

At the heart of our ministry is the desire to create a safe, welcoming space for students. Many students, whether dealing with homesickness or personal challenges, find comfort in the Wesley Foundation as their home away from home. They have referred to Co-Director, Cory Schepisi, as their “dad away from dad.” At the Wesley Foundation, students experience the kind of care and compassion that is often missing in their academic and social lives. A memorable moment this past year encapsulates the essence of care. A student, in the midst of a distressing situation, approached our other co-Director and, sobbing, said, “Honestly, I looked over at her, and she looked like a mom, and I just needed a mom hug.” These kinds of interactions speak to the heart of the Wesley Foundation as a mission of the United Methodist Church

Passionate Leadership and Vital Ministry

Radford is a mission field, teeming with opportunities for passionate leaders to rise up and make a difference. The Radford Wesley Foundation has always been a place where students can cultivate their leadership skills, serving both the local community and their peers. This year, we saw remarkable growth in student-led programs. One of our student leaders initiated a “Sushi Making Night” that brought nine new students into our community. Several of those students have since returned, invited friends, and become integral members of our Wesley family.

We also saw students volunteering at local churches, assisting with AV and historical documentation, and working in the church nursery. Another student leader serves on a local church’s Staff Parish Committee, demonstrating the far-reaching impact of our ministry. And yet one has applied to work at Camp Dickenson. This is what passionate leadership looks like in action—students taking initiative to serve and grow, all while nurturing their own spiritual development.

Expanding Reach, Growing Relationships

Our connections with the wider Radford community have deepened this year. We had the privilege of meeting with Radford University’s Vice President for Student Enrollment who expressed a clear need for more student support services, especially in the realm of spiritual care. Counseling services at Radford have seen a significant increase in student visits, highlighting the need for emotional and spiritual support. She emphasized the importance of involving campus ministries more directly in meeting this need, affirming the vital role we play in the lives of students. Other key university leaders have recognized the critical role that faith communities like Wesley play in student retention and overall well-being. As we continue to build these relationships, we are excited about the opportunities ahead to deepen our partnerships and expand our impact.

A Year of Service and Growth

This year, we have not only focused on spiritual growth but also on serving those around us. Through our mission projects, including our work with UMCOR, Project Crossroads, and Project Linus, students have

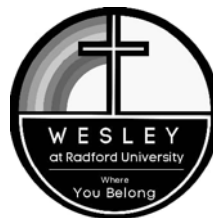
been able to put their faith into action, helping those in need both locally and globally. We also continued our Bible studies, offering students a space to engage with Scripture and grow in their understanding of God’s Word.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was the launch of our first-ever Wesley Fest, an Alumni Homecoming celebration. The event was a wonderful success, bringing together current students and alumni in a joyful celebration of community. We are already looking forward to next year’s Wesley Fest, where we hope to build on this success and foster even deeper connections within our Wesley family.

Gratitude for the Journey Ahead

As we reflect on the year, we are filled with gratitude for all that God has done in and through the Radford Wesley Foundation. We are blessed to witness the transformation of lives—both through spiritual growth and the development of passionate leaders who will go on to serve in their communities and beyond. We are deeply thankful for the support of our board members, staff, students, and donors, district churches and the conference whose generosity and commitment have made this ministry possible.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are filled with anticipation for the many ways God will continue to work through us. Our goal remains the same: to provide a loving, supportive environment where students can encounter Christ, grow in their faith, and prepare to lead with passion and purpose. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this vital ministry. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of Radford University students, and we look forward to the continued journey of faith, service, and community-building that lies ahead.



===== **END OF REPORT** =====

IV UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, CHATTANOOGA - WESLEY FOUNDATION

Greetings from your United Methodist Campus Ministry in Chattanooga!

Thanks to all our local churches who support the work of the Wesley Center with their prayers, their presence, their gifts and their service.

Students took the lead this year, scheduling a family fun day complete with a parking lot meet up at the UTC vs Wofford game, a cookout in the backyard at Wesley, and a night full of family games. They also put together a Thrifty Formal, drawing attention to the environmental impact of fast fashion, and raising money for Mustard Tree Ministries. We ended the year with a trip to Epworth by the Sea for a week of relaxation, reflection, and service. In addition to service outings in the area, students also had time for

some Methodist heritage visits to see things like the place John and Charles Wesley first set foot in North America.

The 2024-25 is one for the books, and we look forward to the start of the 2025-26 academic year. On behalf of the students, staff and board of the Wesley Center at Chattanooga, we thank you for your support.

Keith Moore, The Wesley Center – The United Methodist Campus Ministry for Chattanooga



=== **END OF REPORT** ===

IV UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE - WESLEY FOUNDATION

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! I bring greetings to you from the UTK Wesley Foundation. The 2024-25 academic year was my fifth year at the UTK Wesley Foundation. It has been an outstanding year. Our leaders have grown so much and done so many great things to welcome new people to our Wesley Family, to offer programs to help people have fun and grow in Christ, and to bring new leaders in to fill their shoes. It's time for our seniors to fly, but it's bittersweet for me. The growth and maturity they take with them are amazing. That's for sure.

We began the academic year with a Week of Welcome full of inviting activities for new students to have the opportunity to see what Wesley is all about. Wesley Olympics, ecumenical four square, and worship/devotion time together got us off to a great start. The semester continued with several students visiting for the first time a few weeks into the term. Our first year students (almost 10) are excited about our ministry and ready to pitch in to help and participate in all the areas.

We continue to have a student led team built on the premises of Fellowship, Discipleship, and Leadership. These three areas seem to work for us as we grow in relationships with God and each other. Each year, our program changes, but the foundation has remained the same. My role in this process continues to be one of guidance and providing resources to strengthen the leaders and the ministry.

We spent a great deal of time developing relationships with the church in the area. Nearly every Sunday, a group of students and I visited an area church. These visits have provided us with the opportunity to be visible within our churches in our supporting districts and to share with them what Wesley is all about. In March, we hosted our first Gala. We enjoyed celebrating the churches, small groups, and individuals who provide support for the ministry at Wesley by providing meals, leading programs, assisting with small building projects, and getting to know us. We shared amazing food, special memories, and dreams for the future.

Our building needs lots of love, and we have been thrilled that some of our churches have prioritized the upkeeps of the brick and mortar that provides our students with their Wesley home - a place where they lounge, eat, study, worship, and play.

Holston Conference's support of the ministry to the students at UTK continues to make a huge difference in the opportunities we can offer. We are able to further the mission of the UMC - to make disciples for the transformation of the world - one life at a time.

Mary K. Briggs, Executive Director of the UTK Wesley Foundation



==== END OF REPORT =====

IV UNIVERSITY OF VA-WISE - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Wesley Foundation at UVA Wise is an open and inclusive Christian community of spiritual exploration. Wesley is the presence of the UMC making disciples for the transformation of the world on the college campus. Thank you, Holston, for help making Wesley ministries possible! New voices are being invited, formed, equipped, called, and sent forth through your campus ministry in Wise, Virginia. Individuals, local churches, and districts have shared their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness at UVA Wise this year. Holston, your support has equipped Wesley to be an outreach to the whole college community: students, faculty, and staff. Thank you, again, for enabling God to change lives through the Wesley Foundation at UVA Wise.

offered to the entire Christian community on campus. God is moving in the lives of those who are a part of Wesley: several students have made professions of faith and been baptized (including one student who arrived on campus in fall 2023 and did not know what a Bible was), faculty and staff pray for the campus community weekly, and many have experienced a closer walk with God because of their involvement at Wesley.



Ministry includes nurture, outreach, and witness on campus at UVA Wise. The students participate in weekly gatherings that consist of dinner & discussion, Bible study, and prayer. Faculty and staff also have a weekly gathering opportunity focused on study and prayer. Monthly ecumenical nights of worship (Campus N.O.W.) are coordinated by Wesley and

Spiritual growth has been evident as students are equipped and enabled to be peer leaders. The Wesley student group is very diverse and gifted. One student led an initiative to use personal faith-related tattoos as invitational outreach to others working in the gym on campus. One student shared a testimony and encouraged others to do so frequently. One student has coordinated a praise team to lead music at campus worship events. At least three students have committed, at the time of writing this report, to working at Holston Conference camps this summer. These students are leaders of the UMC right now, and are already sharing their gifts with Wesley, local churches, and other ministries.



The Smiddy's Closet ministry, a partnership with the UVA Wise office of Career Discovery, is a place where students can acquire free professional attire once per semester. The closet has been well-used and appreciated by students who might otherwise not have the opportunities and success they are seeking. It is housed in the Wesley building and there is always a need for donations of clean, used clothing in good condition to maintain the ministry. Students may obtain one complete head-to-toe outfit per year to assist in their endeavors.

For the past 22 years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as campus minister and director of the Wesley Foundation at UVA Wise. Wesley has been significant in my own formation as a Christian, and I am incredibly grateful to have been trusted and

charged with leading the ministry at UVA Wise. My relationships with countless students, faculty, staff, and community members over the years have been edifying and fruitful. Many former students now serve as lay and clergy leadership within the Church. I have been tremendously blessed and have experienced much spiritual growth during my tenure. As I transition to a new role within Holston, I want to take a moment to personally say thank you Holston. You have not only supported Wesley, but you have also supported and nurtured me as a Christian leader. What a gift that has changed my life forever.

Thank you for changing lives one person at a time by extending ministry from local churches to our college campuses. Holston, you are making a difference in countless lives. Thank you.

~ Rev. Dr. M. Beth Tipton, Director



==== **END OF REPORT** =====

V BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

The Conference Board of Lay Ministry is comprised of District Lay Leaders, Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men, Women, and Youth, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, and members-at-large. The role of this board is to provide leadership and connectional relationships of laity and clergy throughout the Conference. The aspects of this include fostering the work of laity in their churches, home, workplace, community, and world by promoting programs and training that cultivates the biblical basis for lay life.

Our Book of Discipline affirms that the ministry of the laity is one of the significant evangelistic tools for our congregations of the United Methodist Church. We desire to help make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This year has again been a different one for our Conference. Churches are still trying to get congregants to return to worship services in person as they remain settled in watching the services online at home. Some churches have continued to lose members after the decision of the Judicial Counsel to not allow any more disaffiliations. With that in our rearview mirror, Holston is working to stay strong and to move forward together. As people have returned, the sense of community is re-emerging. Our strong mission emphasis remains in place realizing that we all have neighbors who need our love, care, and assistance. Lay and clergy, working in tandem, have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. New ways of doing worship and reaching people are evolving, as creative ways to reach new folks are created. It has been exciting to see how our churches have remained persistent in their efforts to live out their missions.

We encourage laity to use their God-given talents in a variety of ways such as outreach, missions, teaching, youth mentoring, working with persons who are homeless, sharing their faith with others for the Kingdom, and working together with their clergy. These are just a few of the ways to serve. There are avenues of training for laity including Lay Servant Ministries. This includes training for Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers. All of these learning opportunities and curriculum equip laity to be informed and confident in the Christian work that they do in their areas. Our Lay Servant Training remains vital with some classes offered by Zoom and others in person. Participation has been very steady.

With the work that Holston has been doing these past few years, the Conference is emphasizing discipleship learning and development of passionate spiritual disciples and passionate spiritual leaders. As the number of these folks grow, we are striving to have shared ministries working in passionate spiritual groups. This is an area that will further help our sense of connection.

An exciting new feature that our Conference Board of Laity has started is monthly Zoom sessions featuring different speakers and staff that share information about various topics. It is called Linking Laity for Empowerment. The participants get to chat with other laity around Holston Conference and share ideas of missions and programs that work in their churches. More local church laity need to get plugged in as this increases our feeling of being connected.

One of the traditional roles of the Board of Lay Ministry at Annual Conference is to provide opportunities to give prayer requests while at Lake Junaluska. There will be cards at the back of Stuart Auditorium with a box to submit them in. The Board of Lay Ministry members will divide the prayer request cards and continue to pray for those needs. Let's continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, dig deep into our learning more of the Word, and be passionate about who we are as Christians.

~Becky G. Hall, Conference Lay Leader

===== **END OF REPORT** =====

VI DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

To our brothers and sisters in the Holston Annual Conference,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, from the Discipleship Team,

The Discipleship Team's focus this year has been to our the "ACTION" into our Ministry Action Plan. As a reminder our Mission and core values are as follows.

Mission: Empowering and resourcing passionate spiritual disciples and passionate spiritual leaders across the conference

Our three core strategies:

- Model spiritual formation/spiritual practices
- Offer/Train Disciple-making systems/pathways

- Create, provide, and communicate available resources/training

We are beginning to implement these core strategies in the days ahead. We will be leveraging digital assets to be able to share information across the conference. Likewise, We are beginning to build a network of persons who are passionate about discipleship to share stories and ideas.

The Holy Spirit is igniting a passion for Discipleship in our Annual Conference and we are excited to be a part of that good work.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Randall Wright, Chair

===== **END OF REPORT** =====

**VI.a.1 WILLOW COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY REPORT
ALASKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Willow Community Food Pantry is a vital source of support for individuals and families facing food insecurity. Through our programs, we provide access to nutritious food, financial assistance, and heating resources. Our efforts are made possible through dedicated volunteers, community partnerships, and generous donors.

Each month, we serve between 182-193 households, impacting 350-450 individuals. We distribute 100 senior boxes containing juice, cereal, protein, carbohydrates, vegetables, fruit, and powdered milk. Additionally, we provide 190 TEFAP food boxes to families in need. Our children's food support program delivers approximately 110 food bags each month, reaching 335-380 children, ensuring they receive the nutrition they need. In total, we distribute over 5,000 pounds of food monthly.

Beyond food assistance, we offer financial aid of up to \$175 per family per year based on need, helping families cover essential expenses. Recognizing the harsh Alaskan winters, we also provide a truckload of firewood each heating season to families struggling to stay warm.

The Willow Community Food Pantry remains committed to alleviating food insecurity and supporting our community through food distribution, financial aid, and heating assistance. We are grateful for the continued support of the Alaska Annual Conference, our volunteers, and community partners as we work together to bring hope and stability to those in need.

John Redmond, Pastor of Willow UMC

== = END OF REPORT == =

VI.a.2 PROJECT CROSSROADS

During this past year we have celebrated 31 years of full-time ministry with Project Crossroads. Harry retired from Project Crossroads at the end of 2024. Kirk Lowe, the new executive director, joined the Project Crossroads staff in July 2024. We completed a lot of turnover over last year including disaster relief logistics with recovery work from Hurricane Helene. Harry still serves as the Clinch Mountain District Disaster coordinator through 2025.

Harry had the opportunity to share our ministry in eight churches across the Holston and Virginia Conferences. Kirk has been able to share in several of these visits with the congregations as well. He has a growing speaking list for 2025.

Notable ministry highlights in 2024 include:

1. 23 mission teams; more than 250 volunteers; more than 4500 volunteer hours; serving hundreds of residents
2. More than 1100 cleaning kits distributed and restocked; more than 1600 hygiene kits distributed and restocked in response to Hurricane Helene.

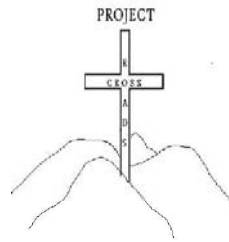
3. At least one flood relief/Helene recovery project per week between October and the end of 2024.

Project Crossroads is partnering with the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce and Smyth County Community Foundation in assisting with long term Helene recovery. Look for much of our work to have a recovery aspect for the next few years.

Harry and Kirk gave oversight to the ministries and mission of Project Crossroads with Kirk taking more responsibility of the day-to-day operations toward the end of 2024. Harry continued to serve in partnership as a Physician Assistant in the Mel Leaman Free Clinic, seeing patients who do not have insurance. He also teaches PA students of the Emory and Henry PA Program in the clinic as a part of their training. In 2025, Harry plans to continue this role on a volunteer basis as part of his ministry. This outreach will no longer be a formal part of the mission of Project Crossroads. The Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinic in 2024 was canceled due to a water main break on the Emory & Henry campus. Harry is also planning a

regional health clinic day not affiliated with RAM in 2025. Harry continues to serve on local and regional housing development committees for governmental agencies.

We want to thank Holston Conference for supporting the ministries of Project Crossroads over the past thirty plus years.



Harry Howe & Kirk Lowe

=== **END OF REPORT** ===

VI.a.3 SOUTH SUDAN

The focus of the mission is leadership development and education. It is a challenge in the context of food insecurity and lack of security. Political leadership is lacking due to tribalism which has resulted in numerous militia groups fighting among themselves. The people struggle to survive. There is a great need for trauma healing and for hope. The rate of suicides is increasing. The pastors conduct trauma healing workshops in addition to spreading the good news of the Gospel. The church leaders work of evangelism increased the number of churches to 30. Through the efforts and support of Holston Conference, the

Foundation, MEF and the Harris Fund persons have obtained Master Degrees in education, Bachelor Degrees in Business Administration, Nursing and Clinical Medicine and Public Health. Thirteen students were enabled to finish secondary school. Twenty six students have received full scholarships for the four years of secondary school from the MEF and Holston Foundation. God through the power of the Holy Spirit has extended through Holston Conference healing, grace and hope to the those suffering from hunger, disease, trauma, hopelessness, and opportunities for education. On behalf of the South Sudanese thank you.

=== **END OF REPORT** ===

VI.a.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ADVANCE 2025



formerly Advance Specials
The Advance
Advancing hope in Christ's name
Holston Annual Conference 2026 www.holston.org

Be a 5-Star Church

To qualify for the 5-Star Award, churches must:

1. Pay tithe apportionment in full and give at least \$25 in categories 2 through 5:
2. Give to at least one International Advance
3. Give to at least one U.S. Advance
4. Give to at least one UMCOR Advance
5. Give to at least one Conference Advance

International Advance

A. Missionaries Assigned to Holston Conference

	GBGM Code	Holston Project #
<i>Jeanne Ntambo</i>	Code: 14176Z	939
Country: Democratic Republic of Congo		
<i>Gaston Ntambo</i>	Code: 14177Z	940
Country: Democratic Republic of Congo		
<i>The Rev. Bill Lovelace</i>	Code: 11872Z	054
Country: Lithuania		
<i>Helen Roberts-Evans</i>	Code: 3021129	705
Country: Liberia		
<i>Missionaries Around the World</i>		
(Any Amount)	Code: 00779Z	075

(Other missionaries may be supported by Holston churches. Inquiry should be made through the Conference Mission Sec.)



Courtesy of GBGM: Gaston & Jeanne Ntambo—Missionaries/Democratic Republic of Congo



Courtesy of Africa University

B. Africa

	GBGM Code	Holston Project #
1. ISHE ANESU Project Zimbabwe	Code: 13071A	160
2. Africa University Scholarship	Code: 3021028	629
3. Imagine No Malaria	Code: 3021190	684

C. Mexico

"Give Ye Them To Eat" Hunger Program	Code: 07629A	074
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D. Estonia

1. Baltic Mission Center	Code: 010923N	055
2. Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary Scholarship (\$1,500 per year)	Code: 1502113	203

E. Paraguay

New Horizon School	Code: 3021089	421
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Courtesy of Give Ye Them To Eat-Mexico

Covenant Relationships

with Missionaries and Persons in Mission

Although Advance salary support for missionaries is needed in any amount, churches wishing to have a Conference Covenant Relationship with a missionary provide \$1,000 per year; churches under 333 members provide \$3 per member per year. A GBGM Covenant Relationship with a missionary requires \$2,500 per year; churches under 333 members provide \$5 per member per year. Covenant Relationship forms and information can be secured from the Conference Mission Secretary. On the conference deposit slip, list the missionary's name, code number, and the amount.

United States Advance

	GBGM Code	Holston Project #
A. Missionaries Assigned to Holston Conference John Redmond	Code: 931511	874
B. Appalachian Ministries Network	Code: 982041	007
C. Appalachia Service Project	Code: 982050	092
D. Four Corners Native American Ministries, Shiprock, NM	Code: 581254	023
E. Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Kentucky	Code: 773365	088
F. Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, NC	Code: 731372	042



Courtesy of Four Corners Native American Ministries—Mission Team



Courtesy of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)—Work Project

	GBGM Code	Holston Project #
G. Willow, Alaska Church & Community Ministry	Code: 931520	264
H. Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Kentucky	Code: 773726	010
I. Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, VA	Code: 801600	029
J. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, SEJ Jurisdiction, Birmingham, AL	Code: 901875	043
K. Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Parish Partners	Code: 583634	056



Courtesy of UMCOR Emergency Relief—Ukraine

UMCOR Advance

	GBGM Code	Holston Project #
A. Heifer Project, Living Gift	Code: 982532	031
B. UMCOR Disaster Response in U.S.	Code: 901670	026
C. UMCOR Emergency Relief (Around the World)	Code: 982450	050
D. World Hunger / Poverty	Code: 982920	016



Courtesy of Mike Sluder (Celebrating Ishe Anesu's 25th Anniversary)

Conference Advance

A. Persons in Mission assigned to Holston Conference

		Holston Project #
Harry Howe	Marion, VA	020
	Code: 982926	
Paul Priest	Costa Rica	1006
Fred and Libby Dearing	South Sudan	719
Lisa Nichols	Jubilee Project	330
	Code: 982953	
Nancy Chinzvende	Zimbabwe	919
David Warden (salary)	Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conf.	925

B. Asbury, Inc. 091

C. Campus Ministry and Wesley Foundations

<i>(Be sure to indicate which ministry you are supporting)</i>		
1. ETSU		064
2. Radford University		127
3. UT Knoxville		305
4. UT Chattanooga		313
5. UVA at Wise		061

D. Disaster Relief Within Holston Conference 143

E. District Advance (Indicate which project)



Courtesy of Habitat for Humanity, Loudon County

Holston Annual Conference 2025 Offering

*Ishe Anesu
and
Long-Term Disaster Response*

Holston
Project #

F. Habitat for Humanity Ministries

1. Galax, VA	093
2. Smoky Mountain District	541
3. Mountain View District	542

G. Holston Conference Camps 543

1. Camperships

Bays Mountain	238	Dickenson	437
Lookout	276	Wesley Woods	275

2. Camp Development Funds

Bays Mountain	101	Dickenson	236
Lookout	078	Wesley Woods	113

3. Annual Ministry Funds

Bays Mountain	486	Dickenson	488
Lookout	487	Wesley Woods	489

4. Camp in the Community 869

5. Camp & Retreat Ministries 870

H. Homes for Children

1. Dermid Family Services, Bristol, VA 103

2. Holston Home, Greeneville, TN 002

I. Neighborhood Centers

1. Wesley House Community Center 080

2. The Bethlehem Center 079

J. Student Aid, Conference Scholarship Grants

1. Emory & Henry College 085

2. Tennessee Wesleyan University 125



Courtesy of Wesley Foundation, UVA Wise -- Disaster Response

Conference Advance *Continued*

**Holston
Project #**

K. Support for Action Ministries

	847
1. Appalachian Trail Chaplaincy	936
2. Bishop Mission Initiative	917
3. Celebrate Recovery North	133
4. Coalition for Kids, Inc.	
5. Community Youth Outreach, 1st UMC, Johnson City	906
7. Medical Mission	364
8. Elk Garden School Community Ministries	937
9. Emerald Youth Foundation-Just Lead	014
10. Freedom Global	924
11. GATE-Gateway to Independence	612
12. Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc.	066
13. Help For Haiti Children's Shelter	913
14. Interfaith Health Clinic	492
15. Jubilee Project, Inc.	015
16. Morgan Scott Project	013
17. Mountain Top	1008
18. Nuba Mountains-Sudan	1009
19. Project Crossroads Ministries	047
21. Proverbs 3:27 Mission (<i>formerly The Hunt House</i>)	918
22. SIFAT-Alabama	670
23. Strength for the Journey	300
24. Susannah's House	830
25. Unity Center	151


Courtesy of Coalition for Kids, Inc..
**Holston
Project #**

L. Volunteer in Mission Projects and Personnel Projects approved by the Conference

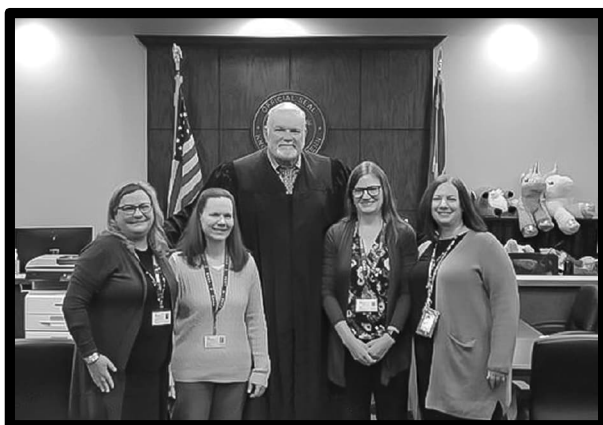
1. New Church Development/ Orphanage in Guatemala	121
2. New Church Development in Costa Rica	161
3. New Church Development in Holston	380
4. New Church Development in Latvia	365
5. Resurrection-Costa Rica	920

M. World Ministries

1. South Sudan Projects	537
2. Global Hope Partners	490
3. Magdy Bassaly- Ambassadors for Christ International	501

N. "Change for Children"

012

Courtesy of Morgan Scott Project

Courtesy of CASA of East TN, Inc. ~ New Advocates

 **The Advance** *formerly Advance Specials*
Advancing hope in Christ's name

Holston Annual Conference 2026
www.holston.org

==== END OF REPORT =====

VI.b NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM

At every stage of life, we are called to make disciples, to be disciples, to learn from the words of Jesus in a way that will help us make an impact in our communities, in our conference and in our world. The nurture team's work is to help ensure that we have appropriate teaching and care for those in our church and conference at every stage of life. While there will be separate reports from the teams of Children Ministry, Youth Ministry, Camping and Retreat Ministry, and Older Adult Ministry, I want to highlight that these ministries as part of the Nurture Team are helping to impact, at the conference level, ways to engage in discipleship in the various ages and stages of life in the church. Many ideas and experiences impact the way disciples young and old engage with their local churches and communities.

In addition to these great connectional ministries, over the past couple of years a new engagement as been developed called Linking Laity for Empowerment. The Linking Laity initiative creates an online webinar discussion that allows Laity from around the conference to engage with one another, share ideas, and hear from conference leaders in a way that helps the laity make a greater impact in their local churches.

The nurture team is hopeful that through new inspiration and ideas we will be able to engage with greater impact in the future. Through continued connection building, and the sharing of impacts that are made in local churches we can help nurture the growth of disciples at every stage of life.

Rev. Sam Ward, Chair

=== **END OF REPORT** ===

VI.b.1 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

At a recent meeting of the Holston Conference Children's Ministry Team, one of our team members shared the story of a young boy in their ministry who upon hearing the story of Adam's creation in Genesis 1 said, "wow, we're all just holy dirt bags." We, of course, all burst into fits of laughter! What a joy it is to share in the faith formation of children! We are so thankful for the parents and grandparents who entrust them to our care on a weekly basis. We are also so thankful for you, Holston Conference, who enable our ministry to expand by empowering us to serve as your Children's Ministry Team! We are excited by the work our team is doing and we hope you will join us as we take a moment to give thanks for this holy responsibility.

As the Holston Conference Children's Ministry Team, our work is best summarized by our covenant: We are called to **CELEBRATE** the stories of what's happening in children's ministry around the conference; **ENCOURAGE** new and improving ministries; **EQUIP** leaders with tools and resources; and **CONNECT** leaders in deep relationships to grow.

This year, we have **CELEBRATED** with so many churches who are beginning new ministries. We are energized by the stories we have heard of churches ministering to whole families at Messy Church events or Dinner Church weekly activities. We celebrate that teaching parents to incorporate faith into family life is becoming a norm for many of our churches.

Our Annual Change for Children offering in particular has focused on **ENCOURAGING** these new and improving ministries. With your generous giving, we have awarded over 15 grants this year to churches across our conference. We are sponsoring an international counselor for Camp in the Community, providing food for children at weekly programs, and baby supplies for a brand new diaper ministry. Understanding that children's ministries are often the least funded programs in most church budgets, we plan to launch a campaign in the next year to increase our fundraising for Change for Children so we can double our impact in the next 5 years. A reminder: our deadlines are August 15th and February 15th.

As we provide funding for programs, we also aim to EQUIP leaders and parents with resources through our Cultivate Faith Bucket List. The Bucket List is a monthly email of seasonal resources for use in the church or home composed by our team of experienced children's ministry leaders. Sign up for the Bucket List on the Children's Ministry homepage. Soon we will also publish a searchable archive of all Bucket List activities for leaders and parents as well. Another key component of our work is providing Safer Sanctuary Training. Members of our team are trained in the updated Safer Sanctuaries curriculum. We are ready to serve as a local resource for your churches through emails, phone calls, or training events. Additionally we have made new Safer Sanctuary materials available to churches at the district offices.

Finally, your Holston Conference Children's Ministry

Team hosts a Facebook page where we seek to CONNECT leaders. We hope you will join us there for love, support, and shared resources: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1EH8aQwjth/>

Blessings,
Deaconess Margaret Frazier
Chair, Holston Children's Ministry Team



===== **END OF REPORT** =====

VLb.2 CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Holston Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) has had an outstanding year!

CCYM serves as a platform for youth voices to be heard as an active and vital part of the Holston Conference. Scripture that has continued to encourage CCYM is 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."

A report on Assembly 2024 from CCYM President, Lorelai Ziegler: Assembly is a time that youth can come together and spend a week at a college campus. This year was at Emory and Henry, and we had a great time. Our amazing speaker Chris Black spoke on the things Jesus did before his death on the cross, and how we can be disciples. This week varied from games to worship, interest groups, and to family time. Youth from all over developed a stronger relationship with the Lord and

created bonds with new friends. We are excited for next year's Assembly at Tennessee Wesleyan University!

In January of 2025, churches across Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia gathered in Pigeon Forge, TN at Resurrection 2025. This year's theme, Simply Jesus, truly reflected the hearts of today's youth, as over 3,300 youth gathered to worship and deepen their faith. This generation is hungry for God. As we reflect on another successful Resurrection, we cannot wait for the next.

CCYM extends our deepest gratitude to the Holston Conference for supporting our youth. Youth play a crucial role in the church as they represent the future, bring fresh perspectives, energy, and enthusiasm. Thank you to the clergy and youth leaders who work tirelessly to inspire and invest into the next generation of our church.

===== **END OF REPORT** =====

VI.b.3 YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Across the Holston Conference, young adults are searching for meaningful community, spiritual depth, and a Church that reflects both courage and compassion. And while the path has not always been clear, there are real signs that the Spirit is moving—through relationships built on campus, ministries reimaged in local churches, and conversations that make space for honest questions and new ideas.

We've inherited a Church shaped by tradition and change, by strength and struggle. Rather than clinging to what has been, we're invited to partner with God in what is emerging. That begins by celebrating where life is already breaking through—and being bold enough to ask where the Church is being called next.

Where We See Life

Despite the ongoing challenges of reaching and retaining young adults in the Church, there are vibrant pockets of ministry that point to what's possible when we make space for new voices and new ways of being the Church. These moments remind us that growth doesn't always look like numbers—it looks like relationships, trust, and consistency.

At the University of Tennessee, we've seen students like John and Delilah grow from first-year participants into community-shaping leaders—crafting worship services, organizing outreach, and helping their peers feel seen and supported. In Kingsport, a group of young families at Colonial Heights gathers weekly for connection and conversation, forming deep ties that now help shape the church's leadership and life. At Dublin UMC, Beth stepped up during the pandemic to organize and sustain the church's praise band—and continues to bring energy and consistency to worship each week. And at Fountain City UMC, a dinner-and-game night evolved into a Bible study called Bread and Broth—where young adults break bread, share soup, and engage scripture in creative, contextual ways.

Across Holston, we see young adults stepping up, starting small, and creating spaces where community can grow. These aren't isolated successes—they're glimpses of what's possible. When we invest in young people and listen well, the Church becomes more dynamic, adaptive, and alive. Young adults aren't a challenge to be mitigated—they are members of the body of Christ, bringing creativity, courage, and clarity of mission.

A Call to Action: Local Churches and Conference Leaders Alike

Creating a culture that values young adults is not the responsibility of one ministry team or committee—it belongs to all of us. Whether you're a small church in a rural community or serving in conference leadership, there are steps you can take to make space for young adults to be seen, heard, and empowered.

We believe every local church—regardless of size, budget, or location—can take meaningful action:

- Invite young adults into leadership—not just token participation, but real responsibility.
- Build relationships through connection points that matter: shared meals, small groups, or casual spaces where young adults already gather.
- Invest in the young adults already present. Even one or two young people can be a starting point for transformation.

At the conference level, we must acknowledge where we've fallen short and lead with courage. Young adults are too often absent or overlooked in our committees, under-resourced in our budgeting, and excluded from decision-making. If Holston wants to grow, we must evolve.

We challenge Holston's leadership and decision-makers to:

- Invite and empower young adults in meaningful leadership across the conference. Trust their voices and give them room to lead.
- Listen deeply to the hopes and frustrations of young adults—and be willing to adapt.
- Identify and change the cultural and structural barriers that keep young people from participating fully in the Church.
- Stretch the table. Holston leadership has shown great care for older voices uncomfortable with change; we must now show equal courage in making space for younger, forward-looking individuals seeking a spiritual home marked by honesty, justice, and belonging.

Young adults are already building meaningful relationships, seeking spiritual depth, and leading change in our communities—whether the Church is part of it or not. If our structures remain rigid or unwelcoming, the Church will simply be left behind.

To Our Fellow Young Adults

Our hope is that some—hopefully many—of our churches will take this report to heart. If they do, it may mean that you’ll be invited to step into new leadership roles or contribute your voice in ways you haven’t before. If that happens, say yes. And when you do, show up fully. Take the responsibility seriously. Offer your creativity, your convictions, and your presence.

We know the Church hasn’t always made space for us. But change is possible. We believe our generation is called to lead the Church into the plans God has for us. Let’s be bold enough to shape what comes next, together.

Looking Ahead

There is still hope. God is moving among the young people of Holston. The question is: will Holston show up to meet them?

Let’s be the kind of church that refuses to write off a generation. Let’s invest with courage and consistency. Let’s become a place where young adults are not only served, but empowered to lead.

Ben Smith
Chair, Young Adult Ministry Team

=== **END OF REPORT** ===

VI.b.4 CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY BOARD

Camp and Retreat Ministry in Holston is arguably one of the most fruitful disciple making and faith mentoring tools we have developed over the years.

Every year, thousands of children and youth attend summer camp, led by the enthusiasm and faithful discipleship of young adult counselors and staff. Campers learn they can do hard things like climbing walls, caving and canoeing. They build confidence in team activities like ga-ga ball, ropes courses, and games. Campers and staff grow in their faith through worshipping God under a blanket of stars around a campfire creating memories that last a lifetime. Young people give their hearts to Jesus, they re-commit their lives to following Jesus, they hear the call to ministry and begin a path of pursuing a future serving God.

Our Conference's investment into camp has been a good one, and will be a gift that continues to supply us with faithful pastors, lay leaders, and strong members in our local churches of all ages and life stages. The Camp and Retreat Ministry Board is working on many projects at once. Anticipating future change in our Conference, we have been working with Kaleidoscope to talk through feasibility plans for each individual camp as well as the camping ministry as a whole in Holston Conference. We have adapted in the past, and we will be proactive to adapt for future thriving. Our five Conference camps are all in. Each of our camp boards have at least 80% of their members as part of a United Methodist Church. We strive to ensure that our Ministers-in-Residence are UMC clergy in good standing, or clergy from denominations in full communion with the UMC.

We are planning, praying and preparing for another great summer at our Conference Camps. Central to our bible study curriculum this year is the book of Esther. The book of Esther does not mention God by name, but God's presence is around every turn. The power dynamics and the risk to Esther are palpable in the story as she ultimately speaks truth to power at great personal risk to save her people. Her cousin and a father-figure in her life, Mordecai, famously pronounced that Esther was born "for such a time as this." This timely story is the theme of summer camp.

Please pray for everyone connected to the camps this summer. Take a moment to lift each camp up: Camp Lookout, Camp Wesley Woods, Camp in the Community, Camp Bays Mountain, and Camp Dickenson. Pray for counselors, staff, ministers-in-residence, campers, their families and our supporting churches. As we continue to adapt and change to meet the ever-evolving needs of children, youth, and young adults in real time at our camps, as members of the Holston Conference and your local church, we covet your prayers and the support of your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. May the Esthers of our Conference hear the words of Mordecai echo in the ears of their hearts, perhaps we were all born "for such a time as this."



===== END OF REPORT =====

VI.c OUTREACH / ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

The Outreach/Advocacy Team plays a vital role in fostering community engagement, raising awareness, and driving meaningful change. Our mission is to help Holston to connect with diverse populations, address pressing social issues, and advocate for policies and initiatives that promote equity, inclusion, and justice. By building strong relationships within Holston, community members, and organizations, we aim to empower individuals and amplify voices that

might otherwise go unheard. Through collaboration, education, and advocacy, our team remains committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. For more information, you can contact the Outreach/Advocacy Chair, Deaconess Lori Sluder, at LoriSluder@holston.org or one of our members. The team list can be found in the Nominations Report.

===== **END OF REPORT** =====

VI.c.1 RELIGION AND RACE MINISTRY AREA

Historical Context

The United Methodist Church was officially formed on April 23, 1968, through the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction—a segregated body of African American Methodist congregations. From this merger, the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) was established to confront and dismantle racial discrimination, hold the newly formed denomination accountable to its commitment to rejecting the sin of racism in every aspect of church life, develop interculturally competent leaders, and foster authentic community.

While racism remains the primary focus, the commission's perspective and partnerships have expanded to facilitate vital conversations about religion, race, and culture while also addressing broader injustices, including poverty, nationalism, tribal conflicts, gender discrimination, homophobia, disability rights, and generational bias. This holistic approach recognizes that all forms of oppression are interconnected and cannot be dismantled in isolation.

Disciplinary Mandates

The 2022–2024 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church constitutes the law and doctrine of The United Methodist Church and outlines the roles and responsibilities of general agencies in the denomination. ¶ 2002. Purpose — The purpose of the General Commission on Religion and Race shall be to challenge, lead, and equip the people of The United Methodist Church to become interculturally competent,

to ensure institutional equity, and to facilitate vital conversations about religion, race, and culture.

Religion and Race Ministry Area

Responsibility: Monitor and advocate for racial equity within the Holston Annual Conference. Hold the Conference, local churches, general agencies, and other connectional structures of The United Methodist Church accountable while fostering partnerships to advance equity and inclusion.

The Religion and Race Ministry Area will assume responsibility for supporting and strengthening efforts related to Achieving Intercultural Competency and Racial Equity in the Holston Annual Conference, ensuring meaningful progress in dismantling barriers and promoting full participation for all.

2025–2028 Quadrennium Strategic Plan for Implementation

- Cultivate Intercultural Leadership – Train and equip church leaders to engage in ministries that promote intentional diversity and inclusion.
- Ensure Institutional Equity – Advocate for just and equitable policies at all levels of the Conference by addressing systemic barriers that prevent the full participation of marginalized communities.
- Facilitate Vital Conversations on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture – Create safe spaces for dialogue on racial justice and cultural awareness while encouraging truth-telling and reconciliation efforts within the Conference.

- Strengthen Anti-Racism and Diversity Efforts – Promote awareness and challenge privilege, bias, and discrimination while supporting cross-racial, cross-cultural, and multicultural ministries.
- Support Local Church and Conference-Level Initiatives – Encourage local churches to apply for CORR Action Fund grants and provide resources to support the development of contextually relevant diversity and inclusion ministries.
- Engage in Global Racial Justice Efforts – Strengthen the Conference’s role as a global leader in racial justice advocacy by addressing issues of racism, ethnocentrism, and tribalism worldwide.

Significant Milestones Achieved

During the 2024 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, all legislation proposed by the General Commission on Religion and Race was overwhelmingly approved. This marks a historic step forward in the mission to foster an inclusive and just community within The United Methodist Church.

Key Legislative Victories:

- Article V Racial Justice Constitutional Change – This amendment underscores The United Methodist Church’s dedication to actively confronting and eliminating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy within the Church and society. This legislation will now go before all annual conferences for a ratification vote to amend the Constitution. (See additional information at the Religion and Race Ministry Area display table in Harrell Hall at Lake Junaluska.)
- Disability Awareness and Inclusion – The General Conference reinstated the Disability Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church within the Church’s structure under GCORR. Moving forward, GCORR will oversee Disability Awareness Sunday in partnership with the committee.

- Expanding Cultural Competency & Multicultural Ministries – The General Conference approved legislation supporting multicultural ministries, requiring cultural competency training for church leaders, and expanding the use of inclusive language on official forms to better recognize biracial and multiracial identities.
- Two New Disciplinary Mandates for Equity & Inclusion:
 1. Fair Process & Inclusive Policies – Ensures that complaints and proceedings against racial/ethnic/tribal minorities follow fair process and align with UMC inclusion policies.
 2. Diverse & Transparent Leadership Selection – Requires that all denominational task forces and ad hoc committees (including those under the Council of Bishops) reflect diverse representation and transparent selection processes.

A Call to Action

The work of the Religion and Race Ministry Area is to ensure that Holston Conference lives into its commitment to be an anti-racist church. This means:

- Engaging in difficult conversations
- Advocating for just policies
- Holding ourselves accountable for inclusion—or exclusion
- Creating spaces where all voices are valued
- Ensuring that our church reflects the fullness of God’s beloved community

I invite you to join me and the committee in this work—to listen, to learn, and to act. Together, let us strive for a church that embodies the justice, love, and radical inclusivity of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, and may God bless this work.

Donna M. Mosby, Chairperson
Religion and Race Ministry Area



===== END OF REPORT =====

VI.c.2 CHURCH AND SOCIETY MINISTRY AREA

Our quadrennial Holston Conference Church and Society Committee, has been busy meeting monthly, since being newly appointed at Annual Conference in June 2024.

- Our committee met by Zoom with a former member of General Board of Church and Society for background and perspective;
- Our vision is: Passionate Spiritual Disciples Seeking Justice;
- Our mission is: Living Faith, Seeking Justice, and Pursuing Peace;
- Our committee launched its web page in January 2025 (holston.org/churchandsociety), with links to the newly revised Social Principles and to the General Board of Church and Society website, along with writings and other forms of media related to the Social Principles. It also includes a mailbox for comments: churchandsociety@holston.org;
- The committee chair has attended several District Clergy Meetings to introduce the work of the committee and ask the clergy directly for examples of living out the Social Principles in their church and/or community. Our committee is considering these examples for posting on our webpage and/or utilizing

in presentations to groups in our Holston Conference;

- Our committee posted a Statement on Immigration on its web page and our committee is part of the three-prong Holston Response to immigration issues affecting our brothers and sisters in Christ in our Holston Conference;
- At Convocation in February 2025, as a way to raise awareness and educate clergy on the new Social Principles, our committee presented a three-part program, beginning with Social Principles Trivia Game, followed by speaker Rev. Kim Goddard on her experiences at General Conference, and ending with a panel discussion with Revs. Sharon Bowers, Kim Goddard, and Don Hanshew; and
- Our committee looks forward to presenting at Annual Conference in June 2025 with examples of living out the Social Principles within our Holston Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellis Richardson
Chair, Holston Conference Church and Society
Committee

===== **END OF REPORT** =====

VI.c.5 DISABILITY CONCERNS

Because you are taking time to read this, thank you for your interest in Holston's churches' relationships with people with different abilities. Recognizing the Conference's vision statement: "*A conference of passionate spiritual leaders making disciples of Jesus Christ*," churches' engagements with people living with disabilities is vital. Consider the sheer population numbers: One-third of Tennessee adults, 29% of Virginia adults and 29% of Georgia adults live with at least one functional disability. Of those individuals, most – if not all – are surrounded by additional family members, caregivers and networks of supportive friends. It's easy to conclude that the universe of people in Holston directly touched by disability involvement is quite extensive. Likewise, members of this sizeable group offer our churches people with the potential to become (some already are!) passionate spiritual leaders.

Perhaps a more apt name for the "Disability Concerns Committee" is the "Disability Opportunities Committee."

In support of disabilities ministries, activities in recent months include:

- Presentations at district clergy meetings and the Conference Extended Cabinet to emphasize the importance and benefits of accessibility audits, as required by the Book of Discipline
- Updating the Disability Ministries page on Holston.org (<https://www.holston.org/disability-ministries>). The page includes links to useful information resources and to a suggested template for accessibility audits.
- Hands-on assistance to churches in completing accessibility audits
- Offering to conduct audits for as many as four churches per district at no cost or expectation of reimbursement for travel expenses or time
- Maintaining Holston's relationship with the United Methodist Church's Disability Ministries Committee (umcdmc.org), including Holston's financial support thanks in part to a designated donation by a Holston family

Disability Concerns will continue encouragement of churches' compliance with the Discipline's requirement to conduct and file annual written accessibility audits. Relevant portions of paragraphs 2533.6 and 2550.10 of the 2020/24 Book of Discipline are noted below. Compliance has long been a shortcoming among most churches in the Conference. Yet it is a fundamental and valuable first step in making each church more welcoming, more inviting, more approachable and more resourceful.

From the Book of Discipline, 2020/2024:

¶2533.6 (page 745):

"The board of trustees shall conduct or cause to be conducted an annual accessibility audit of their buildings, grounds, and facilities to discover and identify what physical, architectural, and communication barriers exist that impede the full participation of people with disabilities and shall make plans and determine priorities for the elimination of all such barriers...The Accessibility Audit for churches shall be used in filling out the annual church and/or charge conference reports."

¶2550.10 (pages 762-763):

"*Board of Trustees Report to the Charge Conference*—The board of trustees shall annually make a written report to the charge conference, in which shall be included the following: ...

10. An evaluation of all church properties, including the chancel areas, to ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities; and when applicable, a plan and timeline for the development of accessible church properties."

Audits can be completed without cost and obligation, and no special expertise is needed. No particular format is required. The free version available via <https://www.holston.org/disability-ministries> (look on that page for the link to the form) is comprehensive, user-friendly, and used by many United Methodist churches in other conferences. Only two to five hours of time is needed to complete it (depending on the size and number of the church's building(s)). After completion of the audit the first year, annual updates can be done with nominal effort.

Submitted by Steve Richardson, Disability Concerns Committee

===== END OF REPORT =====

VI.c.6 STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY TEAM

Strength for the Journey is a five-day retreat held annually that provides a safe, caring and healing community for people living with HIV. The retreat is open to anyone with HIV/AIDS without regard to religion, race, gender or sexual orientation. The week includes activities to nourish the mind, body and soul, so that participants may return home with a renewed strength and spirit.

The retreat began in 1997 at Buffalo Mountain Camp through the creative leadership of Dot Avers and several clergy of the Holston Conference. The retreat is currently held at Wafloy Retreat Center in Gatlinburg and recently celebrated twenty-five years of walking by the side of these men and women who have often felt unloved and outcast.

Leadership is made up of a volunteer staff along with individuals who present programming and workshops at no cost to the retreat. Campers have the opportunity to focus on their own personal life journey and explore ways in which they may enrich and strengthen themselves.

While partial funding is provided by Holston Conference, we depend on the generous support of Holston Churches, other area churches and individual donations to fund the retreat each year. Through your generous support we continue to change lives. Thank you for helping us offer them Christ.

Volunteers are available to present information about the Strength for the Journey ministry to your local church. Contact Gaye King, revgaye@comcast.net, for more information. Financial support can be sent to Holston Project #300.

Gaye King, Design Team Chair and Retreat Coordinator



=== END OF REPORT ===

VI.d STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The Holston Conference Stewardship Team continues to focus on pathways for strengthening stewardship and generosity in Holston’s churches. We work to provide tools and learning opportunities for both clergy and laity to help them lead, support, and encourage stewardship efforts in their congregations. Both scripture and our Wesleyan heritage affirm the strong link between our call to faithful discipleship and our call to lead generous lives.

Two of our ongoing programs highlight the equipping efforts for both Holston’s Stewardship Team and the stewardship office, which is housed and significantly funded through the Holston Foundation.

The first program that provides an impact is the large, bi-annual generosity event that the Stewardship Team has helped facilitate in Holston in recent years. In September 2024, we hosted our second such event: “Beyond Generosity.” Over 170 clergy and lay attendees gathered at Concord UMC in West Knoxville to experience dynamic teaching, ideas, and encouragement from Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, Rev. Rachel Billups, Rev. Daniel Ogle, Rev. Lisa Yebuah, and Rev. Matt Rawle. Planning is already underway for our 2026 event. Together, over 370 clergy and laity have participated in our first two generosity events.

Our second program is the continued financial training we provide for Holston’s first year provisional elders. Working in partnership with the Board of Ordained Ministry, we facilitate the curriculum “Saving Grace – A Guide to Financial Well-Being.” Initiated in 2021, thirty-six of our provisional elders have completed this training as of spring 2025. The goal is to help clergy grow their personal financial skills and to aid them in becoming stronger financial leaders in the churches they serve. They receive concrete guidance on saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt. Through this they learn how to build a sustainable financial plan, understand clergy taxes and benefits, plan for retirement, and faithfully live into their calling to become financial leaders in their congregations.

Furthermore, we continue to offer stewardship grants to churches seeking to initiate new ways to deepen generosity in their ministry settings. We are available to speak at District clergy gatherings and to consult with pastors and finance/stewardship teams regarding financial challenges in their churches. In this time of transition and challenge for our churches and church leaders, we exist to offer encouragement and practical support in areas of faith, money, and stewardship.

Our thanks are offered for the continued support of the Holston Foundation and Holston Conference in providing stewardship leadership in Holston. We especially thank the members of the Conference Stewardship Team, Rev. Richard Edwards – Director of Stewardship, and Mrs. LeRae Edwards Collins – Holston Foundation Director of Communications.

Rev. Paul Seay, Chair

===== END OF REPORT =====

**VI.e WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM
CHURCHES OF EXCELLENCE IN EVANGELISM FOR 2024**

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT

Gold

- Arcadia UMC

Silver

- First Broad Street UMC
- St. Matthew UMC
- Vermont UMC

Bronze

- Colonial Heights UMC
- Grange Hall UMC
- Mt. Carmel UMC
- Old Union UMC

Honorable Mention

- Gate City UMC
- Lebanon UMC
- Trinity UMC, Big Stone Gap

CLINCH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Gold

- *Not Applicable*

Silver

- Byars-Cobb UMC
- John Wesley UMC

Bronze

- Cedar Bluff UMC
- State Street UMC
- Trinity UMC

Honorable Mention

- Clearview UMC
- Lebanon Memorial UMC
- Three Springs UMC

HIWASSEE DISTRICT

Gold

- First UMC, Madisonville

Silver

- Niota UMC

Bronze

- Keith Memorial UMC

Honorable Mention

- St. Paul's UMC

MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT

Gold

- Mt. Carmel UMC (Greeneville, TN)

Silver

- *Not Applicable*

Bronze

- Dandridge First UMC (Dandridge TN)
- Centenary UMC (Morristown, TN)

Honorable Mention

- Tate Chapel (Greeneville, TN)
-

CHURCHES OF EXCELLENCE IN EVANGELISM FOR 2024 - CONTINUED**NEW RIVER DISTRICT****Gold**

- First Pearisburg UMC
- Rural Retreat UMC
- Floyd UMC
- First Pulaski UMC

Silver

- Auburn

Bronze

- *Not Applicable*

Honorable Mention

- Thornsprings

SCENIC SOUTH DISTRICT**Gold**

- Christ United
- Signal Mountain
- Signal Crest
- St. Marks
- White Oak
- Eastdale Village Community UMC

Bronze

- Tyner
- East Ridge
- Bethlehem-Wiley UMC

Honorable Mention

- Lookout Mountain
- Red Bank
- Harrison

Silver

- First-Centenary
- Washington Hills

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**Gold**

- Cokesbury
- Ebenezer

Bronze

- Middlesettlements

Silver

- Broadway
- First Maryville
- Green Meadow
- Meadow

Honorable Mention

- Seymour
-

CHURCHES OF EXCELLENCE IN EVANGELISM FOR 2024 - CONTINUED**TENNESSEE VALLEY DISTRICT****Gold**

- Concord
- Irwin's Chapel
- Powell

Silver

- Beaver Ridge
- Central, Lenoir City
- First Farragut
- Fountain City
- Middlebrook Pike
- Trinity, Knoxville

Bronze

- Bradbury
- Church Street
- Kingston
- Second

Honorable Mention

- First Oak Ridge
- First Oneida
- Memorial
- Valley Church

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT**Gold**

- First UMC, Elizabethton

Silver

- Centenary UMC, Erwin
- Jonesborough UMC

Bronze

- Blountville UMC

Honorable Mention

- *Not Applicable*

==== **END OF REPORT** ====

VI.e.3 HISPANIC / LATINO LEADERSHIP TEAM

Queridos hermanos en Cristo,
¡Que la asombrosa gracia y paz de Dios sean con cada uno de ustedes mientras vivimos la nueva realidad de cada día nuevo!

Dear Siblings in Christ,

May God's amazing grace and peace be with each and every one of you as we live into the new reality of each new day!

The Hispanic/Latino Ministry Team of the Holston Annual Conference seeks to remain faithful to our call by Jesus Christ to bring the good news of the Gospel to each and all in our world, are committed to broaden our capacity to witness to the growing Hispanic's population at this time in our history.

In Holston as well as nationally, the Hispanic/Latino communities are a growing demographic group and there are abundant and exciting possibilities for discipleship in these communities. We give thanks for the Hispanic churches in Holston – Roca Eterna in Maryville, TN; Iglesia Rios Agua Viva in Morristown, TN; Nacimiento de Fe in Hillsville, VA. We give thanks as well for all the ministry outreach happening all around the conference; and we're thankful also for the partnerships and other collaborations going on between and in Holston churches to support and include Hispanic/Latino communities.

In the coming year, look for the Hispanic/Latino Ministry Team to continue to support the development of fruitful Hispanic and Latino disciples in our communities. Our main goals will be 1) to grow and strengthen Hispanic churches and ministries, 2) to start new congregations and ministries in Hispanic communities, 3) to identify and equip pastors, lay missionaries, lay certified ministers, and other individuals who aspire to serve in the churches. We also seek to raise awareness and keep leaders and churches informed about immigration and other social concerns and create educational materials to foster effective dialogue about practical solutions around the concerns critical to Hispanic/Latino communities.

Over the past months, there have been questions about how we can be present for and love our immigrant friends, family, and neighbors. While so much is up in the air and we do not have many concrete answers, we can start with growing our knowledge base. Here are some resources for those looking to begin learning:

1. **Bilingual Worship Resources** <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/worship-matters-episode-67-fiesta-jubilosa-bilingual-worship-resource>
2. **Hispanic-Latino/a Pastoral Initiative** <https://divinity.duke.edu/houses/hispanic-house/hlpi>
3. **United Methodist workshops/seminars, discipleship books, and other resources specifically for equipping Hispanic disciples:** <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/equipping-leaders/hispanic-latino#:~:text=The%20Office%20of%20Hispanic%2FLatino,discipleship%20books%2C%20and%20other%20resources.>
4. **Fresh Expressions in Spanish** - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/expresiones-de-amor-fresh-expressions-en-espa%C3%B1ol>
5. **El Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry** <https://nphlm.org>
6. **Solidarity with the Sojourner Webinar** <https://youtu.be/e3wBBAsHxe8?si=u5R2QI9GX9Dkhsog>
7. **What to do when ICE comes** A Message from Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Cruz and Rev. Daniel Medina <https://youtu.be/nG6p-e8IIZo?si=JY7uQ4cf14dtlzKp> on what to do when ICE comes.
8. **Kids in Need of Defense** English: [KIND+-+Know+your+rightsd.pdf](#) and Spanish: [KIND-Conozca+tus+derechos.pdf](#)
9. **Family Preparation:** Spanish: [7-Steps-for-Parents-English-CMS.pdf](#); English: [7-Steps-for-Parents-Spanish-CMS.pdf](#)

For more information about Hispanic/Latino Ministries in Holston and how you and your church can be involved, please contact the Ministry Team Chair, Rev. Felix Perez-Alvarez at perezalvarezfelix@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
Reverend Felix Perez-Alvarez, Chair

== == == **END OF REPORT** == == ==

VII COMMITTEE ON SEXUAL ETHICS AND BOUNDARIES

Report of the Sexual Ethics and Boundaries Committee

This year was a busy year for the Sexual Ethics and Boundaries Committee. We met in July and January with many email conversations between. We have another meeting set for May.

In our first meeting, we made a list of what we needed to be doing over the next few years based on the charges we have been given in the past:

- Lead discussions of what is abuse for clergy and lay people
- Educate about Sexual Harassment
- Help define and remind us all about standards of ministerial conduct
- Teach how to use social media responsibly
- Teaching when and how to report abuse to local authorities.
- Draft legislation for General Conference concerning Sexual Ethics and Boundaries

One old business item was finding out advice the Cabinet and other groups can share with new clergywomen. We decided to do two surveys of all the clergy in the Conference. One was for those clergy who identify as female, and the other for those who identify as male. The survey was promised to be anonymous. We will only be speaking about the results in general terms.

From this we learned:

- We need to teach what sexual harassment is on its most basic level
- 34% of Female Clergy in Holston reported being sexually harassed by Clergy
- 6% of Male Clergy in Holston report being sexually harassed by other Clergy
- 46% of Female Clergy in Holston report being sexually harassed by a congregation member
- 12% of Male Clergy in Holston report being sexually harassed by a congregation member
- Some Clergy who report harassment feel supported, some Clergy feel unsupported.
- In many cases reports were ignored. Especially in the “olden days”.
- There is a feeling that our system has no consequences for those who misbehave.

The full survey resulted in over a hundred pages of material. It should be remembered that we did not specify time. Some of the incidents reported happened over 10 years ago, but some were from modern day times. It is clear that clergy are encountering crisis situations, and they need help and support when they do. Several clergy said that above all else they just want to be believed. More education and training is essential.

In August, the Rev. Leah Burns lead an excellent training at the Local Pastors school. She has done this for many years, and has graciously continued to be supportive of the Sexual Ethics and Boundaries Committee.

We also formed a subcommittee of people who have some expertise in Domestic Violence to be available to the Outreach Committee and other Conference groups.

As the year went on several other things came to light. Education on matters like reporting child abuse varies wildly across the conference. One pastor will say something very different than the next. Once we realized this, we knew we needed to put together some solid educational materials pastors can refer to. We then came up with the idea of preparing a large packet of materials to be shared just before Annual Conference. We are calling it “the Big Bundle of Handouts” These are information handouts pastors can refer to during the year. They include:

- Advice to Starting Pastors from Older Pastors
- List of Domestic Violence Agencies in Holston Conference
- When and How to Report Child Abuse
- Information on the “Do No More Harm” program
- The Power and Control Wheel - a sociology model for understanding abuse

We made a video called “Pies and Consequences”.

Looking ahead into the future, we are in discussion with the design team for Convocation 2026 about doing a workshop there on “How to Recognize Abuse”.

Soon we will need to present the clergy with a mandated training on Sexual Ethics for this next Quadrennium. We discussed what did and did not work about the last training, and what we want to add.

The next training is planned to include;

- Making good choices to protect children
- Improving our knowledge of the kinds of difficulties clergy can encounter
- Encouraging a strong support system for clergy who are victims of harassment
- What abuse is and how to recognize the warning signs
- Maintaining proper boundaries

We have had many good suggestions like including how to recognize human trafficking. Please feel free to contact Carmel Day with more suggestions. carmelday3000@gmail.com

Thank you to our members from this past year:

- (L) Donita Denton (TR)(2021)
- (L) Judy Cole (TR)(2021)
- (L) Harold Bryson (SS)
- (C) Diana Brown Taylor (TV)(2023)

- (C) Carmel Day (MV)(2023)
- (C) Mary Grace Ellis (AP)(2024)
- (L) Karla Kurtz (NR)(2024)
- (L) Ben McDonald (HI)(2024)
- (C) Robert 'Bob' Ruth (AP)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Board of Ordained Ministry Robert Countiss
- Director, Center for Wellbeing Kathy Heustess
- Conference Secretary / Staff Resource Terry Goodman

In addition the Sexual Ethics Committee would like to thank:

Rev. Leah Burns for teaching the Local Pastor's School and always being there with advice.

Brandy Williams for helping us all out.

Submitted, Rev. Carmel Day

== == == **END OF REPORT** == == ==

VI.h OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

For several years now, at the Annual Conference, I have highlighted the importance and urgency of multicultural ministry in the churches of the Holston Conference. To be sure, Scripture testifies to a church that includes people of all peoples, tongues and tribes, and it is important that we come together, despite our differences, to forge churches that reflect that diversity of the people of God. But multicultural ministry is challenging! I read a quote recently that says: "Make no mistake about it: living as a multicultural church is hard work. It can be difficult, challenging, exhausting. Sometimes it feels just too hard." So if it is that hard, why even try?

Well...we try because this is the vision of God's Kingdom ... described beautifully by the Apostle John in Revelation 7:9: "After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They all were standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." (CEB) It's what we pray for each time we say the Lord's Prayer ... "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Contrast and compare that beautiful vision of God's Kingdom with our current reality in our churches and our communities ... and what do you see?

Well ... what you see is that Sunday morning is the most racially, linguistically and culturally segregated hour of the week... still! It is rare to attend a weekly worship service that is fully ethnically, racially, and linguistically diverse. We have been worshipping separately for hundreds of years. "Why ... that's the way it's always been" many say. "Why would we change?"

But it is God's desire that we be in worship and ministry together...not separately ... that's why! Passionate spiritual discipleship thrives in spaces where a whole host of people with diverse perspectives come together.

Think about the story of Pentecost when people gathered from all over the known world and became a new thing ... a multi-ethnic, multicultural, multiracial worship experience! It was a miracle...a multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual miracle!!

Well, friends...the wind is blowing; the fire is burning! Can you sense it? Can you hear it? God is up to something...even now. Jesus is calling us, as passionate spiritual disciples, to get out of our places of comfort and sameness and go...go everywhere, to make disciples of all people for the transformation of the world.

Hear the Spirit's challenge: "Bring everybody to the table ... everybody." "Trust each other." "Don't be afraid to fail!" "Take a risk!" "Mix it up." "Be open to whatever comes next." "View the future with curiosity and hope." "Step out in faith in whatever crazy direction God will lead you next." "Believe in each other; believe in God."

So where do we start?

We start with ourselves, by honestly examining our churches and being willing to allow the Holy Spirit to open new doors and new possibilities ... all of which will certainly be uncomfortable.

Ture...we might lose the comfort of playing all of our favorite hymns as frequently as we used to sing them. We might not have one language or race represented at our church meetings making pivotal decisions. We might not be able to look at the potluck and instantly know the dishes, the ingredients and seasonings. We just might see and hear the Gospel message retold in Swahili, or Spanish, or Quechua, or Arabic, or French.

Friends, we can't miss this opportunity to be the church...a multicultural, multiracial, multilingual, multiethnic church! The Holston Office of Multicultural Ministries is here to help you and your congregation to work on this. Workshops, trainings, Bible studies, Sunday school lessons, book studies, children's

messages and activities and much more are available to help you and your church get started.

Let's pray...

May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
bring fire to the earth
so that the presence of God
may be seen
in a new light,
in new places,
in new ways. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Leah Burns

Associate Director of Multicultural Ministries



===== END OF REPORT =====

VI.i COMMITTEE ON DISMANTLING RACISM

The United Methodist Church has an ongoing commitment to racial justice as part of its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Holston Conference Dismantling Committee, first created in 2020 as a Task Force, focuses on helping clergy and churches in addressing racism by increasing awareness, building relationships and developing a lifelong commitment to racial justice.

We work to build a better understanding of the root causes, harms, and strategies for reducing racial inequity in the United Methodist Church and in the Holston Conference. Our actions and decisions are designed to foster both the structural and cultural change required to advance our vision of a just, inclusive and equitable Annual Conference.

Our Commitments:

- We recognize racism as a sin.
- We commit to dismantling racism wherever it manifests.
- We commit to challenging unjust systems of power and access.
- We work for equal, equitable and full participation for all. We are dedicated to leading clergy and congregations in addressing racism in meaningful ways. We are on a journey to increase awareness, build interracial relationships and develop a life long commitment to racial justice. All are invited on this journey.

We encourage you to participate in any or all of these instructive and inspiring activities at the Conference:

Monday June 2:

- At 7:00am worship in the Lake Junaluska Chapel. Guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin, District Superintendent in the Florida Annual Conference.
- At 8:30am Annual Conference worship service and Bible Study in Stuart Auditorium. Featured guest preacher will be Bishop Darryl Starnes, bishop in

Tuesday June 3:

- At 8:30am Annual Conference worship service and Bible study in Stuart Auditorium. Featured guest preacher will be Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez, Episcopal leader of the Susquehanna and Upper New York Episcopal Areas and the first Puerto Rican Bishop in the UMC. Worship elements and music will be brought to you by the Holston Hispanic/Latino Ministry Team.

1. Show up: While at the Conference seek to be present, to participate in the conversation, to hear the pain of others, and for look for opportunities to use your voices for change.
2. Pray up: Listen for the voice of Jesus in both private acts of devotion and public acts of worship. Consider how God is calling you and your church to be engaged in dismantling racism, not for just a moment, but for a lifetime.
3. Connect up: Develop and build relationships by joining hands and hearts to journey side by side.
4. Act: Jesus calls us to speak up and to join in the work. When you go back home, work for justice in your church, in your community, at work and at school.



===== **END OF REPORT** =====

VII BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY (BOM)

Bishop Wallace-Padgett, and members of the Annual Conference, it is truly an honor and privilege to serve as the chair of the Board of Ministry for the Holston Conference and to present the report of the Board to you. This is my ninth year to serve on the Board and the first as its chair. As all of you are well aware, in these last nine years of service on the Board, I and the Conference and the BOM have witnessed significant challenges and changes including, but not limited to, declining church attendance, a global pandemic which altered the ways we worshiped, economic challenges, social & political divisions, and a season of unprecedented disaffiliations. In difficult seasons of our lives, we often feel traumatized, burned out, disillusioned and/or disenfranchised for the world we now know feels different and unfamiliar.

If these last years have taught us anything it is that the only certainty that we know and come to accept is that nothing stays static or never changing, and it is for these days that we must remain faithful. For out of these difficult times, we find that we must grow and adapt, or we will indeed perish.

Our generous creator has formed us and implanted within us the skills, talents, and abilities to face the present by equipping us with intellect, wisdom, and a heartfelt desire to make His kingdom here on earth as He envisioned it. In this time of change we are granted visions to bring forth new ideas, adapt to new ways, learn true acceptance and love for one another, and to express compassion for all His creation.

From the inception of the movable tabernacle on to the formation of the Christian church, the people of God have gathered to be taught amidst the changing nature of our world; and no matter the circumstances of the times, the people's need to stay focused upon God and His desires. In these gatherings they learned how to live in right relationship with God and in community, they learned the value of the teachings and lessons of those who went before them and upon whose shoulders they now stand, and of the need for them to now pick up the baton for the next leg of the journey. They learned in their history and foresaw into their future, that they must keep going in order for God's mission on earth to become a new heaven and a new earth. It is this passion for God's church

that countless numbers of people have continued the march onward despite difficult and devastating issues that have risen before them; and in this present moment, we too continue to march on recognizing our opportunity to celebrate new beginnings.

Your Board of Ordained Ministry has continued to work valiantly to keep moving forward in its work of recruiting, training, and credentialing candidates for licensed and ordained ministry, as well as supporting the continuing education and effectiveness of clergy, ensuring they meet ethical and spiritual standards and become Passionate Spiritual Leaders. To meet our goals, we have increased the number of clergy and laity now serving on the BOM such that every part of our Conference has substantial and diverse representation. We remain keenly aware of the need to be a board that represents diversity within its ranks and one that seeks to recruit and support all persons who are answering the call to ministry regardless of gender, ethnicity, color or sexual identity. We also celebrate new methods of leading people to Christ through new ministry opportunities within communities.

To this end, we celebrate that one of the subcommittees of the Board, the Vocational Discernment Committee (VDC), received a \$12,000 grant in the spring of 2024. This grant was funded by the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE), for the development of Conference projects geared towards vocational discernment among young adults. The VDC has worked together over the last year to write a 6-session vocational discernment curriculum, developed a website for young adults discerning God's call for their lives (www.c3ministry.com), published a 40-day devotional on discerning God's call, and a plan for vocational discernment retreats throughout the year. College campuses, conference camps, and congregations doing ministry with young adults are encouraged to utilize the curriculum and devotionals, guide young adults to the website, and encourage young adults to attend future discernment retreats in order to help them discern God's call for their lives.

In addition to the work of the VDC, we celebrate all the work of all the subcommittees of the BOM who seek to help clergy with support, information, and transparency, as they move through the credentialing processes, relationship with the Conference and/or continuing education; and in understanding the key issues and practices for becoming a welcoming place for diversity, equality, inclusion and belonging. As the church moves into the future, it is the intention of the BOM that from the time of discernment for persons expressing interest in entering ministry, through further education and onward to ordination, the BOM is seeking to build relationships and support for the next group of clergy who will pick up the mantle of ministry.

As the chair, I express my deepest gratitude to each member of the BOM for their work on behalf of the laity and clergy of Holston Conference. Their faithful commitment to give of their precious time to abide by the Book of Discipline, attend meetings, chair subcommittees and divisions, work on new ideas, to offer encouragement and support, and to embrace and welcome new ways of promoting ministry helps to

keep this Conference moving forward with much faith and hope for what is yet to be. I also would like to publicly offer deepest appreciation for the tireless and valuable support of Rev. Terry Goodman, Director of Clergy Services and Concerns and his Executive Assistant, Brandy Williams without which the work of the BOM would greatly suffer. Lastly, we thank each of you in your local churches as you work to become Spiritual Passionate Disciples and encourage and support those within your community who exhibit the call to ministry.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett, members of the Annual Conference, this concludes the Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to make this presentation. I move for the acceptance of the report.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Glenna Manning, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

VIII GROUPS RELATED TO THE CABINET AND ORDAINED MINISTRY

VIII.d CENTER FOR WELLBEING SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

At the Annual Conference of 1972, the Holston Conference voted to add to the staff a Conference Counselor who would be available to clergy and their families, as well as to church staff. Back then, it was a bold new venture. Dr. Bill Balch filled that role for many years. I have heard many of my colleagues say that without the Counseling Center, it would have been hard to survive the early years of ministry. The Center was certainly a live saver for clergywomen in the eighties and beyond, when we were always the “first woman” appointed to our respective churches. Thanks to the small groups Dr. Balch facilitated, many of us became better pastors and learned that being a lone ranger could be defeating. It has continued to be a bright spot in Holston that our clergy have had this resource, which is now called the Holston Center for Wellbeing, and is staffed by Rev. Kathy Heustess. As times have changed and challenges have grown, even the most seasoned pastors often find themselves facing new mountains to climb and are blessed with the availability to draw upon this place of wellbeing.

As the supervisory Committee reviewed Kathy’s report and noted that even with the sharp decline in the number of clergy in the conference, the client hours remain even or slightly increased. The sharpest increase was with non-clergy church/conference staff. In summarizing the types of concerns, the list included disassociations, church splits, financial sustainability, how to preach

during the current political climate, transition adjustments, church conflicts, ADHD, and self-care, to name a few.

The number of hours on telehealth has decreased to 52% of all hours.

There are three small groups meeting monthly in Johnson City, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. The groups run from September through May and include reading three books for discussion, a critical incident report by each member, and supportive sharing.

Because of budget concerns, the location of the Center will likely change in the coming months. It is the strong opinion of the Supervisory Committee that it is an advantage to see our Counselor, who is well-trained and continues to add training for specific issues that emerge, and who is theologically trained, and knows the United Methodist Church quite well. We believe the health of our clergy, staff, and their families—and therefore the health of our churches—is better because of the Center for Wellbeing. Thank you, Holston, for funding this crucial ministry, which touches the “front lines” every week.

Brenda Carroll, Chairperson, Supervisory Committee

= = = = **END OF REPORT** = = = =

IX CONFERENCE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CCFA)

Our 2025 Holston Annual Conference theme is “Together in New Beginnings”. This is a relevant theme for our Holston Finance Council as well, as we have seen several of our own endings and new beginnings over the past year. Since we last met our Treasurer, Rick Cherry, retired. Rick served faithfully for over 2 decades in Holston, and we thank him for his commitment and dedication to the Church. Angela Lee, who served as the Assistant to the Treasurer and also had over 20 years of service in Holston, also retired. Angela had a wealth of historical knowledge, not only in the Finance Department, but also with the Trustees, as she oversaw our closed churches and worked on sales. We thank Angela for her time with Holston as well. And finally, Valarie Gallant, who covered our Accounts Payable retired the end of 2024. In the midst of these endings in Holston, we were thankful to have Christy Drenner step in as our Interim Treasurer from October 2024 – March 2025. Christy served as a Treasurer in the Texas AC, and is currently in private practice with a heart for helping Conferences through difficult transitional times. We were grateful to have Christy with us and wish her the best with her other good work.

We also are excited to welcome our new Treasurer, Fred Staley, Jr. Fred is coming back to the Holston area, where he previously lived in Blount County until 2013, from Richmond, VA, after working with the Episcopal Church. His experiences and expertise in finance, HR, facilities and risk management, and benefits administration make him well equipped to lead our Finance Department into its own new beginning.

CCFA would also like to express our gratitude for the tithes of our local churches, amounting to \$5,887,946, which supported many ministries within the Holston Conference budget last year. This was a decrease of \$694,147 from our 2023 tithe amount received of \$6,582,093, but shows the dedication, faith, and resilience of our churches during a difficult time in our denomination to continue to live into their connectional DNA and commitment. 425 out of our total of 536 churches were able to give in 2024 to help fund last year’s budget, and we are thankful for all the churches who make up our Conference, and for all the ways that we live into our connectional life together.

CCFA desires to be a resource for our local churches, as we are all stronger together, and the Conference budget is funded through the giving of our churches. We also want to hear from you, and so members of CCFA will be present this fall during the Bishop’s District Days to gather information and most of all listen to your thoughts, hopes, dreams, and concerns for Holston as we move forward.

In 2024, our unaudited expenditures totaled \$7,152,408, against an approved amended budget of \$7,181,386. Amending a Conference budget mid-year was a difficult process, and CFA wants to thank all of our Directors and ministry leaders in your efforts to help us in that endeavor and to maintain expenses to the budgeted amounts. However, the decrease in tithes collected led to the utilization of \$1.3 Million from the special account of disaffiliated churches’ tithes which we had held in reserve to use for this exact need. There is still \$300,000 dollars available in this reserve.

Our 2025 approved budget was set at \$6,782,541. Due to appointment changes and restructuring CCFA would like to propose a 2025 amended budget of \$6,248,660. This reduction comes from \$259,500 savings in Equitable Comp/Sustentation due to appointment changes, a reduction from PRC of \$145,166 due to Cabinet restructuring and the removal of the District Associate position after Annual Conference, a reduction of \$123,710 in our anticipated General Church apportionment that is in line with our income, and a savings of \$24,095 in DS expenses for travel, etc.

The budget summary for this amended 2025 budget and the 2026 is listed in the Book of Reports, and a full line-item report is on our website at www.holston.org/resource. There were many long hours spent in budget work, re-work, discussion, analysis, and most of all prayer as we worked to faithfully provide this Annual Conference with budget recommendations that are aligned with our Conference mission of passionate spiritual leaders making passionate spiritual disciples. Our obvious and immediate need was to align a Conference budget at the current level of Conference income, as the two years of apportionment monies received for budget transitions as specified by paragraph 2553 of The Book of Discipline for disaffiliating

churches have been largely used to cover our shortfalls the past couple of years, but also to present a budget that truly reflected our goals and values and who we are as Holston. This took time as we had conversations with Directors, Ministry Leaders, and many others who have been instrumental in the ministries of Holston over the years. I want to thank all of those who spent so much time in conversation and prayer to help us get here, and a heartfelt thank you to our Bishop, who worked alongside us faithfully and encouragingly to help provide other ideas for restructuring to better position us to be more fully directed in our missional goals and identity.

CCFA proposes a 2025 amended budget for the Holston Annual Conference of \$6,248,660.

CCFA proposes a 2026 budget for the Holston Annual Conference of \$5,979,878.

Regarding DS salaries, the CCFA recommends that the DS salary remain at \$102,112 per year.

CCFA recommends that Frank Staley, Jr. be elected as the Treasurer of Holston Conference for the remainder of this quadrennium.

Members of CCFA will be available for a CFA Chat in the Susan Todd Lounge, Harrell Center room 20, after Monday's budget presentation. It is located on the main floor of Harrell in the rear with the lake view. We will be there until 2PM on Monday to answer questions, and to hear your ideas, concerns, hopes, and dreams as related to the Holston Conference finances.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) recommends the continuation of the tithe which allows churches to submit 10% of their undesignated income to the Holston Conference. The primary responsibility rests upon the pastor to ensure full payment of the tithe. There are four exclusions to the amount that is included in determining the tithe:

1. Tuition based income (daycare, mother's day out, etc.)

2. Pass through donations sent to unrelated organizations (Advance specials, 5th Sunday offerings, UMCOR, etc.) The amount received matches the amount sent directly to the unrelated organization.

3. Endowment gifts (principal only unless earnings are also donor designated and actually used for such purpose.)

4. Designated funds from donor-designated gifts or capital-related gifts. Designated Funds are not related to operating expenses of the church. The balance sheet should contain any remaining amounts on hand at the end of the fiscal year.

A copy of the church tithe and remittance worksheet should be included with each church's monthly remittance by the 10th of the subsequent month for the collections received from the prior month.

Causes Beyond Those Included in Conference Budget

It is recommended that the Annual Conference continue recognition of local churches that give to the five-star program of payments. To qualify we would expect churches to send 10% of their income in compliance with the church tithe and remittance worksheet and at least one Advance Special in each of the four designated areas with a minimum payment of \$25.00 to each area.

District Superintendents

A. CCFA recommends salaries be set as listed above.

B. The itemized cost of travel for district superintendents in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed through their District Offices.

C. Actual moving expenses for incoming district superintendents shall be paid from the Cabinet Fund upon requisition to the Conference.

D. Direct invoicing costs for the Cabinet shall be paid by the Cabinet budget and the District Superintendent shall be responsible for funding the pastor's share of the insurance.

E. The conference designates an amount annually of a cabinet staff person's salary as allowance for parsonage expense excludable for income tax purposes. This amount is to be set after receipt of the Housing Allowance Resolution by the Conference Treasurer.

Office of Financial Services

A. The Office of Financial Services shall carry a fidelity bond of no less than \$1,000,000.

B. The conference treasurer shall provide quarterly reports to each church during the period covered by the report as directed by CCFA.

C. The conference treasurer shall be responsible for accounting for all conference receipts and disbursements in a timely manner. The treasurer's books shall be closed within guidelines of generally accepted accounting principles, with reports provided promptly.

D. The Holston Conference Treasurer shall pay General Church and Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionments at a rate determined by the approved budget in consultation with the Bishop for 2025 and 2026.

E. The Holston Conference shall maintain a cash flow reserve policy equal to ninety days of estimated expenditures.

Policies for Boards, Commissions, and Agencies

A. At the close of each monthly period, the conference treasurer shall deposit to the account of all Advance specials or other designated giving as they shall receive.

B. All requisitions for any funds shall be submitted on approved vouchers and shall bear the signature of the properly authorized representative of the board, commission, team, agency or staff. Any requisition in excess of \$10,000 requires a signature of the head of a team, committee, council, board and the corresponding staff representative.

C. The standard travel rate for attendance at meetings of conference boards, teams, commissions and agencies shall be the recommended IRS rate for charitable travel and an additional two cents per person per mile for others traveling in the same vehicle for the same board or agency. The travel rate for paid staff employed by the conference shall be the IRS recommended rate per mile per car or actual cost of public transportation, for travel related to the performance of duties of their office(s).

D. Every district office shall annually submit to Holston Conference Council on Finance and Administration a complete financial report for the previous year showing sources of funding, uses of such funding, and balances in all cash and investment accounts. Such financial reports shall have been reviewed or audited by an independent person prior to submission to Holston Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

Recommendations to the Local Churches

A. It is the policy of the Holston Conference that administrative boards or charge conferences designate annually, in an official resolution, an amount of the pastor's salary as allowance for housing expense (housing exclusion) or for parsonage expenses that are excludable for income tax purposes. This amount is to be set after dialogue between the pastor and the pastor (staff) parish relations committee.

B. Charges of the conference shall pay the moving expenses for incoming pastors. The amount paid to pastors for moving expenses should be included on the W2 as income.

C. Local churches are urged to pay the expenses for members of the Annual Conference, both lay and clergy, inasmuch as such persons from the church are official members of the conference.

D. Church treasurers are reminded that The Book of Discipline 2020/2024, ¶623, requires full payment of Ministerial Support approved by the charge conference including housing.

E. Since both past service and current pension obligations are remitted to the General Board of Pensions each month, and since other conference expenses must be met monthly, it is important that contributions from local churches be sent to the conference treasurer monthly.

F. We applaud the work of the Holston Foundation in their efforts to promote, attract, and manage special gifts, bequests, and endowments for our local churches and our Conference Institutions and Agencies. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration recommends the Foundation as trustworthy, efficient, and effective stewards of investment funds for all churches and institutions. We encourage all to utilize the materials and the expertise the Foundation provides as part of their mission to serve the church and the Holston Conference.

G. CCFA asks that each local church to conduct an annual stewardship campaign and to provide year-round awareness and teaching opportunities to share information about generosity and tithing as part of our Wesleyan heritage. Resources and information to assist the local church will be posted under the Finance Tab on our Conference website. CCFA will work alongside The Holston Foundation in providing resources and training opportunities for our church leaders.

Miscellaneous Recommendations

A. The Holston Annual Conference shall reimburse the church or institution in which this annual conference session is held for reasonable expenses incurred by that body in addition to payments from other sources, upon itemized statements.

B. The publishing of the 2026 Conference Journal will be contracted by the office of the Secretary of the annual conference and the price announced. An electronic version will be available online at Holston.org.

C. The conference will reimburse the members at-large for a per diem amount of \$45 per day with a maximum of 3 days and mileage, for the 2026 Annual Conference. We believe serving as an at-large delegate to Annual Conference is another way for lay members to serve their church. At-large members of the annual conference are elected to equalize the number of lay member with those clergy who are not serving in the local or are retired (The Book of Discipline 2020/2024, ¶ 33 Article 1).

D. Housing allowance paid to qualifying clergy on conference staff will be \$15,000 as parsonages are not provided.

E. The Holston CCFA reminds all churches and agencies of the annual conference that the IRS requires a Form 1099 for every person receiving non-employee compensation of \$600 or more per year. IRS Form W9 is used to obtain the information for filing the NEC Box 1. Also, all churches should be issuing W2 statements for all employees that are employed by the church. Each church should take great care to ensure they are meeting all of the requirements as outlined by the Internal Revenue Service to maintain the tax-exempt status.

Michael Vaughn, President, Holston CCFA

**HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BENEVOLENT GIVING COMPARISON**

Categories	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
3000 - Peace With Justice	\$1,148.51	\$1,634.10	\$1,440.06	\$1,411.32	\$2,384.50
3100 - Native American Ministries	\$2,027.00	\$1,724.56	\$2,112.00	\$3,027.00	\$3,059.50
3200 - World Communion	\$1,151.60	\$2,164.00	\$1,998.00	\$4,941.00	\$2,115.50
3300 - UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour)	\$11,932.00	\$16,649.56	\$22,356.22	\$15,264.50	\$5,753.00
3400 - Methodist Student	\$2,169.50	\$1,588.90	\$1,383.00	\$1,350.00	\$2,578.00
3500 - Youth Service Fund	\$130.00	\$723.00	\$771.50	\$407.50	\$175.00
3600 - Human Relations Day	\$1,495.00	\$1,359.26	\$1,470.75	\$1,497.00	\$3,672.23
4000 - AC Special Sunday Offerings	\$510.00	\$1,317.40	\$372.00	\$170.00	\$405.00
5000 - International Advance Specials	\$37,195.11	\$107,534.87	\$89,817.07	\$126,433.83	\$72,142.96
5100 - United States Advance Specials	\$70,660.00	\$70,928.67	\$89,755.47	\$71,191.05	\$90,896.31
5200 - UMCOR	\$262,385.59	\$319,737.00	\$648,225.49	\$384,544.78	\$273,851.59
6000 - Conference Initiated	\$579,462.91	\$394,390.29	\$639,029.33	\$672,227.68	\$557,165.58
7200 - World Service Special Gifts	\$246.00	\$275.00	\$337.00	\$170.00	\$145.00
Total Benevolences	\$970,513.22	\$920,026.61	\$1,499,067.89	\$1,282,635.66	\$1,014,344.17

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS (JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024)

	1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	3a	3b	3c	3d	3e	3f	4	
	Total Professing Members Reported at the Close of Last Year - 2023	Received this year by Profession of Faith through Confirmation - 2024	Received this year by Profession of Faith Other Than through Confirmation - 2024	Membership Restored by Affirmation of Faith - 2024	Added by Correction - 2024	Transferred in from another United Methodist Church - 2024	Transferred in from a Non-United Methodist Church - 2024	Received from closed or disaffiliated United Methodist Churches - 2024	Removed by Charge Conference Action - 2024	Withdrawn from Professing Membership - 2024	Removed by Correction - 2024	Transferred out to another United Methodist Church - 2024	Transferred out to a Non-United Methodist Church - 2024	Deceased - 2024	TOTAL PROFESSING MEMBERS Reported at the Close of This Year - 2024	Gain (Loss) in EOY Membership during 2024
AP	9,024	24	44	6	3	28	20	8	7	83	19	39	56	114	8,839	(185)
CM	8,414	32	30	1	1	44	21	5	0	8	5	22	38	116	8,359	(55)
HI	9,289	37	20	9	40	17	13	0	57	59	143	14	45	112	8,995	(294)
MV	6,746	22	72	1	416	19	30	3	96	251	60	17	316	93	6,476	(270)
NR	9,907	19	26	1	3	33	17	4	22	31	34	12	17	119	9,775	(132)
SM	14,794	27	40	11	56	65	53	6	4	33	47	40	20	128	14,780	(14)
SS	19,436	55	67	15	48	82	99	1	464	123	61	66	67	209	18,750	(686)
TR	8,831	36	35	0	1	41	17	16	6	93	89	178	36	99	8,476	(355)
TV	26,016	79	128	11	23	103	76	2	59	65	311	42	134	291	25,536	(480)
TOTALS:	112,457	331	462	55	591	432	346	45	715	746	769	430	729	1,281	109,986	(2,471)

District List:

AP - Appalachian
CM - Clinch Mountain
HI - Hiwassee
MV - Mountain View
NR - New River
SM - Smoky Mountain
SS - Scenic South
TR - Three Rivers
TV - Tennessee Valley

2026 Budget Summary	Approved 2024 Budget	Revised 2024 Budget	Approved 2025 Budget	Revised 2025 Budget	Proposed 2026 Budget
Annual Conference	\$135,086	\$115,900	\$104,310	\$115,900	\$100,000
Board of Higher Education	\$134,000	\$112,000	\$104,000	\$104,000	\$90,000
Board of Ordained Ministry	\$24,768	\$37,350	\$35,600	\$35,600	\$33,800
Cabinet	\$95,492	\$95,492	\$85,942	\$61,847	\$25,825
Commission on Archives and History	\$27,200	\$4,510	\$4,059	\$4,059	\$3,500
Communications	\$35,700	\$36,069	\$32,462	\$32,462	\$46,700
Congregational Development	\$341,890	\$283,000	\$262,840	\$262,840	\$200,000
Discipleship Ministry Teams	\$346,562	\$305,153	\$293,105	\$300,105	\$279,680
Financial Services	\$188,798	\$161,698	\$145,528	\$145,528	\$136,551
General Church Appointments	\$1,823,773	\$1,743,710	\$1,623,710	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Groups Related to Cabinet and BOM	\$46,171	\$38,995	\$35,755	\$35,755	\$16,275
Information Technology	\$166,000	\$180,300	\$170,980	\$170,980	\$160,000
Lay Ministries	\$405	\$405	\$365	\$365	\$350
Personnel Resource Committee	\$4,335,080	\$3,429,528	\$3,253,676	\$3,108,510	\$3,019,827
Trustees/EqComp/Episcopal	\$505,151	\$637,276	\$630,209	\$370,709	\$367,370
	\$8,206,076	\$7,181,386	\$6,782,541	\$6,248,660	\$5,979,878

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

2024 FIVE STAR CHURCHES AND 100% TITHE CHURCHES

We want to thank the churches who qualified for the Five Star Award. To be a Five Star Church, churches must pay the conference tithe 100% and pay at least \$25 in each of the four Advance mission categories. International Advance, U.S. Advance, UMCOR Advance and Conference Advance. In addition, we would like to thank all the churches who paid their 100% tithe. Those churches are also recognized below.

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

411505.....Dryden UMC
411447.....Tacoma UMC
417466.....Ross Campground UMC
417001.....Kendricks Creek UMC
417240.....Colonial Heights UMC
417067.....First Broad Street UMC
412145.....Prospect UMC

411323.....Trinity UMC Big Stone Gap
416850.....McFerrin UMC
416941.....Glen Alpine UMC
411538.....Seminary UMC
410410.....Fort Gibson UMC
412282.....Flatwoods UMC
416974.....Hermon UMC

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

417216.....Fudges Chapel UMC
411802.....First UMC Pennington Gap
416883.....Clouds Bend UMC
417147.....St Matthew UMC
411505.....Dryden UMC
417488.....First UMC Surgoinsville
411447.....Tacoma UMC
417466.....Ross Campground UMC
411755.....Campground UMC
416906.....Emory UMC Kingsport
417001.....Kendricks Creek UMC
417240.....Colonial Heights UMC
417067.....First Broad Street UMC

412145.....Prospect UMC
411323.....Trinity UMC Big Stone Gap
416850.....McFerrin UMC
416941.....Glen Alpine UMC
411607.....Gate City UMC
411961.....St Paul UMC
411538.....Seminary UMC
410410.....Fort Gibson UMC
412282.....Flatwoods UMC
411380.....Clintwood UMC
411711.....First UMC Jonesville
416974.....Hermon UMC
411414.....Rye Cove UMC

CLINCH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

421036.....Roberts Chapel UMC
 410534.....Lebanon UMC Chilhowie
 411048.....Laurel Springs UMC
 410465.....Washington Springs UMC
 421685.....Clearview UMC
 421184.....Elk Garden UMC
 965893.....Ebenezer UMC
 410237.....Wyndale UMC
 410988.....Madam Russell UMC
 410671.....Wallace UMC

410762.....Lebanon Memorial UMC
 410523.....Chilhowie UMC
 411050.....Zion Hill UMC
 410408.....State Street UMC
 410363.....Reynolds Memorial UMC
 410124.....Carvosso UMC
 410272.....Three Springs UMC
 410820.....Grace UMC
 410556.....Mountain View UMC Chilhowie

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

417216.....Fudges Chapel UMC
 411802.....First UMC Pennington Gap
 416883.....Clouds Bend UMC
 417147.....St Matthew UMC
 411505.....Dryden UMC
 417488.....First UMC Surgoinsville
 411447.....Tacoma UMC
 417466.....Ross Campground UMC
 411755.....Campground UMC
 416906.....Emory UMC Kingsport
 417001.....Kendricks Creek UMC
 417240.....Colonial Heights UMC
 417067.....First Broad Street UMC

412145.....Prospect UMC
 411323.....Trinity UMC Big Stone Gap
 416850.....McFerrin UMC
 416941.....Glen Alpine UMC
 411607.....Gate City UMC
 411961.....St Paul UMC
 411538.....Seminary UMC
 410410.....Fort Gibson UMC
 412282.....Flatwoods UMC
 411380.....Clintwood UMC
 411711.....First UMC Jonesville
 416974.....Hermon UMC
 411414.....Rye Cove UMC

HIWASSEE DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

414122.....Evensville UMC
 966454.....Reed Chapel UMC
 413880.....First UMC Copperhill
 413710.....Benton UMC

419124.....First UMC Madisonville
 414086.....St Paul's UMC
 414337.....Spivey UMC
 413743.....Calhoun UMC

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

414268.....Mt Carmel UMC
 413765.....Charleston UMC
 413732.....Carlock UMC
 414166.....Goodfield UMC
 414190.....Concord UMC
 413823.....First UMC Cleveland
 414122.....Evensville UMC
 966454.....Reed Chapel UMC
 413798.....Chilcutt UMC
 413880.....First UMC Copperhill
 414224.....Ooltewah UMC

414350.....Pleasant Hill UMC
 413947.....First UMC Dayton
 413710.....Benton UMC
 414064.....Mars Hill UMC
 419248.....Forkners Chapel UMC
 419124.....First UMC Madisonville
 414086.....St Paul's UMC
 414337.....Spivey UMC
 413743.....Calhoun UMC
 414177.....Ten Mile UMC

MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

420613.....Mulberry Gap UMC
 420145.....Caton's Grove UMC

420522.....Cedar Grove UMC New Market
 419911.....Mary's Chapel UMC

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

415560.....Tazewell UMC
 420613.....Mulberry Gap UMC
 415398.....Thompson Chapel UMC
 420384.....Centenary UMC
 420145.....Caton's Grove UMC
 420522.....Cedar Grove UMC New Market
 420305.....First UMC Jefferson City
 419911.....Mary's Chapel UMC
 395277.....Trinity UMC Greeneville

395938.....Grant UMC
 419922.....Harmon's Valley UMC
 420407.....First UMC Morristown
 420167.....First UMC Dandridge
 420327.....George Street UMC
 420806.....Russellville UMC
 966534.....Pruitt Hill UMC
 418995.....Beth Car UMC

NEW RIVER DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

422873.....Mountain Plains UMC
 965665.....New Mt Olive UMC
 422053.....Floyd UMC
 422042.....Fries UMC
 421218.....Green Valley UMC Eggleston
 421823.....Auburn UMC
 421060.....Virginia Avenue UMC Bluefield
 417923.....Shiloh UMC Bland
 422645.....St Paul UMC
 422406.....First UMC Pulaski
 422144.....First UMC Independence
 418118.....Parrott UMC

422714.....Camp Bethel UMC
 422601.....Thornspring UMC
 421878.....Oakland UMC
 421275.....Mountain View UMC Eggleston
 965530.....Bethel UMC Bluefield
 418233.....King's Grove UMC
 422736.....Willis UMC
 422268.....Davis UMC
 421652.....Edgewood UMC Pearisburg
 421402.....First UMC Pearisburg
 418211.....Fulton UMC

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

422292.....Flat Rock UMC
 422873.....Mountain Plains UMC
 418313.....Ebenezer UMC
 422862.....Island Creek UMC
 421721.....Pine Grove UMC Bastian
 965665.....New Mt Olive UMC
 422918.....Goshen UMC
 421641.....Providence UMC Pearisburg
 421424.....Big Stoney UMC
 422053.....Floyd UMC
 422042.....Fries UMC
 422485.....Carter Street UMC
 421218.....Green Valley UMC Eggleston
 421390.....Hales Chapel UMC Narrows
 422018.....Bethel UMC
 418472.....Mountain View UMC
 421823.....Auburn UMC
 422463.....Wesley Memorial UMC
 421060.....Virginia Avenue UMC Bluefield
 422383.....Aldersgate UMC
 417923.....Shiloh UMC Bland
 422645.....St Paul UMC

422406.....First UMC Pulaski
 422144.....First UMC Independence
 418118.....Parrott UMC
 422714.....Camp Bethel UMC
 422601.....Thornspring UMC
 421878.....Oakland UMC
 421275.....Mountain View UMC Eggleston
 965530.....Bethel UMC Bluefield
 421388.....Kathleen Memorial UMC
 422554.....Rural Retreat UMC
 418233.....King's Grove UMC
 422736.....Willis UMC
 422177.....Mt Zion UMC
 422268.....Davis UMC
 421652.....Edgewood UMC Pearisburg
 421402.....First UMC Pearisburg
 418211.....Fulton UMC
 422805.....West Galax UMC
 965984.....Crossroads UMC
 422213.....Forest UMC
 966044.....Randolph Avenue UMC

SCENIC SOUTH DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

412420.....Eastdale Village Community UMC
 966317.....Hurst UMC
 412783.....St Marks UMC
 412794.....Signal Crest UMC
 413220.....Signal Mountain UMC
 412588.....Lookout Mountain UMC
 412737.....Bethlehem-Wiley UMC

414144.....Fairview UMC
 413184.....Sand Mountain UMC
 413127.....Pikeville UMC
 412681.....Christ UMC
 414304.....Soddy UMC
 412497.....Whiteside UMC

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

966317.....Hurst UMC
 412783.....St Marks UMC
 412794.....Signal Crest UMC
 413220.....Signal Mountain UMC
 412588.....Lookout Mountain UMC
 412726.....St Elmo UMC Chattanooga
 412668.....East Ridge UMC
 412737.....Bethlehem-Wiley UMC

413231.....Havron's Chapel UMC
 414144.....Fairview UMC
 413184.....Sand Mountain UMC
 413127.....Pikeville UMC
 412681.....Christ UMC
 413402.....Wildwood UMC
 414304.....Soddy UMC
 412497.....Whiteside UMC

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

419705.....First UMC Sevierville
 419647.....Mountain View UMC
 418905.....Binfield UMC
 419374.....New Hope UMC
 417843.....Ebenezer UMC Knoxville
 419443.....First UMC Maryville
 419523.....Meadow UMC
 417683.....Cokesbury UMC Knoxville

419363.....Broadway UMC
 419465.....Peck's Memorial UMC
 419820.....Vonore UMC
 419807.....Tuckaleechee UMC
 419578.....Roberts UMC
 418040.....Colonial Heights UMC Knoxville
 415126.....Trinity UMC Lenoir City

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

419705.....First UMC Sevierville
 419762.....Camp Ground UMC
 418461.....Vestal UMC
 419000.....Murphy's Chapel UMC
 419088.....Axley's Chapel UMC
 419647.....Mountain View UMC
 419283.....Immanuel UMC
 418905.....Binfield UMC
 419204.....Green Meadow UMC
 419374.....New Hope UMC
 419751.....Wears Valley UMC
 417706.....Asbury UMC Knoxville
 417843.....Ebenezer UMC Knoxville

419443.....First UMC Maryville
 419523.....Meadow UMC
 417683.....Cokesbury UMC Knoxville
 419363.....Broadway UMC
 419660.....Luretta UMC
 419465.....Peck's Memorial UMC
 419820.....Vonore UMC
 419807.....Tuckaleechee UMC
 419578.....Roberts UMC
 418040.....Colonial Heights UMC Knoxville
 415126.....Trinity UMC Lenoir City
 419352.....Middlesettlements UMC

TENNESSEE VALLEY DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirements)

GCFA#..... Church

966374.....Haven Chapel UMC
 140316.....Valley Church
 418164.....Fountain City UMC
 414827.....Memorial UMC Clinton
 414884.....Concord UMC Knox
 415081.....Rocky Top UMC
 414953.....Jonesville UMC Roane
 418027.....Church Street UMC

414736.....Rugby Road UMC
 415308.....Oakdale UMC
 415503.....Solway UMC
 966363.....New Century UMC
 414703.....Bradbury UMC
 418324.....Oakwood UMC
 395951.....Bethel UMC Amherst
 966545.....Asbury UMC Clinton

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#... Church

966410.....Lennon-Seney UMC
 414680.....Beaver Ridge UMC
 966374.....Haven Chapel UMC
 395973.....Bookwalter UMC
 140316.....Valley Church
 415480.....Sinking Springs UMC
 415115.....Pleasant Grove UMC Union
 418164.....Fountain City UMC
 414827.....Memorial UMC Clinton
 414884.....Concord UMC Knox
 415081.....Rocky Top UMC
 414953.....Jonesville UMC Roane
 418027.....Church Street UMC
 415228.....Mt Hermon UMC Knox

414736.....Rugby Road UMC
 415525.....Sunbright UMC
 414851.....Bell's Campground UMC
 415308.....Oakdale UMC
 415046.....Kingston UMC
 415503.....Solway UMC
 414964.....Grigsby Chapel UMC
 966363.....New Century UMC
 414703.....Bradbury UMC
 418404.....Second UMC
 418244.....Lincoln Park UMC
 418324.....Oakwood UMC
 395951.....Bethel UMC Amherst
 966545.....Asbury UMC Clinton

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT

FIVE STAR CHURCHES

(100% Tithe paid plus satisfied 4 mission requirments)

GCFA#..... Church

415981.....First UMC Elizabethton
416085.....Centenary UMC Erwin
416416.....Mt Wesley UMC
416495.....Roan Mountain UMC
416223.....First UMC Johnson City
395734.....Jearoldstown UMC
416347.....Fairhaven UMC

416360.....Jonesborough UMC
415855.....Rockhold UMC
416382.....Limestone UMC
416303.....Munsey Memorial UMC
417513.....Wheeler UMC
416770.....Blountville UMC

100% TITHE PAYER CHURCHES

(Did not satisfy all missions)

GCFA#..... Church

416006.....Hunter UMC
415981.....First UMC Elizabethton
416085.....Centenary UMC Erwin
416416.....Mt Wesley UMC
416495.....Roan Mountain UMC
416063.....Watauga Point UMC
416223.....First UMC Johnson City
395734.....Jearoldstown UMC
410000.....Trade UMC

416347.....Fairhaven UMC
416360.....Jonesborough UMC
415855.....Rockhold UMC
410922.....First UMC Mountain City
416382.....Limestone UMC
416303.....Munsey Memorial UMC
417513.....Wheeler UMC
416770.....Blountville UMC

== == == **END OF REPORT** == == ==

2023 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Consolidated Financial Statements

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
INCORPORATED

Year Ended December 31, 2023

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

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DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' AUDIT REPORT

Council on Finance and Administration
Holston Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church, Incorporated
Alcoa, Tennessee

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Conference Treasurer of Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023, and the related consolidated statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Conference Treasurer of Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The accompanying consolidated financial statements do not present the expenses by their functional classification as required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ASU 2016-14, *Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Conference Treasurer of Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note N to the financial statements, Holston Conference has restated net assets at December 31, 2022 to record properties held for resale which were not previously recorded. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Conference Treasurer of Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the consolidated financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes ~~opinions. For discussion purposes only~~ but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Conference Treasurer of Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Conference Treasurer of Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Mitchell Emert + Hill

October 2024

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash		\$ 1,321,956
Investments:		
Money market accounts	\$ 266,344	
Pooled mutual funds	20,373,306	
Notes receivable	<u>406,018</u>	21,045,668
Apportionments receivable		692,196
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts		110,979
Notes receivable		135,198
Prepaid expenses		57,000
Deposits		5,000
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation		<u>6,339,497</u>
DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY		
		<u>\$ 29,707,494</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable		\$ 154,684
Due to affiliated organizations		1,795,841
Accrued liabilities		1,908
Note payable		<u>632,031</u>
		2,584,464

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	\$ 20,663,407	
With donor restrictions	<u>6,459,622</u>	<u>27,123,029</u>
		<u>\$ 29,707,494</u>

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Totals</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Apportionments from member churches	\$ 6,415,014	\$ 0	\$ 6,415,014
Disaffiliation payments	7,412,368	0	7,412,368
Contributions	1,462,960	1,179,418	2,642,378
Registration and fees	1,618,358	0	1,618,358
Pension and insurance payments	10,406,331	0	10,406,331
Investment gain	1,719,232	636,083	2,355,315
Gain on disposal of property held for sale	947,400	0	947,400
Miscellaneous income	217,797	0	217,797
	30,199,461	1,815,501	32,014,961
Net assets released from restriction	<u>1,121,596</u>	<u>(1,121,596)</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	31,321,057	693,905	32,014,961
EXPENSES			
General and jurisdictional apportionments	1,942,906	0	1,942,906
Appointment cabinet	1,318,694	0	1,318,694
Ministry teams	1,364,662	0	1,364,662
Conference missions	989,610	0	989,610
Youth council	194,968	0	194,968
Camping and retreat ministries	3,595,936	0	3,595,936
Board of Higher Learning	476,901	0	476,901
Outreach advocacy	453,045	0	453,045
Board of Ordained Ministry	235,904	0	235,904
Conference administration	1,963,724	0	1,963,724

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(continued)

Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Totals
Healthcare	7,948,850	0	7,948,850
Pension	1,834,688	0	1,834,688
Other	<u>740,919</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>740,919</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>23,060,807</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23,060,807</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	8,260,250	693,905	8,954,154
NET ASSETS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, as restated	<u>12,403,160</u>	<u>5,765,715</u>	<u>18,168,875</u>
NET ASSETS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	<u>\$ 20,663,407</u>	<u>\$ 6,459,622</u>	<u>\$ 27,123,029</u>

DRAFTS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year Ended December 31, 2023

CASH PROVIDED(USED) BY
OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in net assets		\$ 8,954,154
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	\$ 113,276	
Donated property	(746,000)	
Unrealized gain on investments	(2,235,447)	
(Increase)decrease in:		
Apportionments receivable	512,473	
Accounts receivable	(9,164)	
Increase(decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	(327,448)	
Due to affiliated organizations	555,207	
Accrued liabilities	(290)	
Postretirement benefit obligation	(100,414)	(2,237,807)

NET CASH PROVIDED BY
OPERATING ACTIVITIES

6,716,347

CASH PROVIDED(USED) BY
INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Increase in investments	(5,769,358)
Purchase of property and equipment	(33,286)
Payments received on notes receivable	14,006

NET CASH (USED) BY
INVESTING ACTIVITIES

(5,788,638)

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
(continued)

Year Ended December 31, 2023

CASH PROVIDED(USED) BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Principal payments on long-term debt	<u>(70,675)</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH	857,034
CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	<u>730,266</u>
CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR	<u>\$ 1,588,300</u>

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

NOTE A - DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated (the Conference) is one of the basic organizational bodies in the global United Methodist Church. The Conference consists of 9 districts in Tennessee, Georgia and Virginia. The Conference provides administrative and program services to churches, clergy and laypeople within its geographic boundaries. Primary among these services are ordination and assignment of ministers, volunteer training, new church development and the collection and remittance of funds for local, regional and international ministries. The consolidated financial statements present only the operations, activities and transactions of the Conference Treasurer's offices. District, camping activities and other ministry operations are maintained by separate organizations controlled by the Conference; however, they have not been included in the consolidated financial statements. During the year ended December 31, 2012, Holston Conference Holding Company, Inc. (the Holding Company), was formed for the purpose of receiving, holding, managing, selling and otherwise disposing of real property, fixed assets and furnishings of United Methodist Churches. The Holding Company is a separate legal entity operating under the authority of the Conference. The activities of the Holding Company have been included in the consolidated financial statements of the Conference.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, approximately 250 member churches agreed to the guidelines and conditions set forth by the Trustees of the Conference and to pay the required fees in order to disaffiliate from the Conference. This disaffiliation was approved at the Special Session of the Annual Conference on April 22, 2023. As part of the disaffiliation process, member churches were required to make a payment equal to 24 months of apportionments based on the 2019 budget and the member church's portion of the unfunded pension liability. These disaffiliation payments are shown on the consolidated statement of activities.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Although these estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and actions they may undertake in the future, actual results could differ from those estimates.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(continued)

December 31, 2023

Estimates are used when accounting for fair value of pledges, allowances for uncollectible receivables, depreciation, health insurance liabilities, allocation of expenses, and contingencies, among others.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and interest-bearing deposits. For purposes of the consolidated statement of cash flows, the Conference considers cash on deposit with financial institutions and all cash investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash and cash equivalents.

At December 31, 2023 cash and cash equivalents consisted of the following:

Cash	\$ 1,321,956
Investments: money market accounts	<u>266,344</u>
	<u>\$ 1,588,300</u>

DRAFTS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost or estimated cost if actual cost is not available. Donated property and equipment are recorded at the estimated fair value at the date of receipt. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which range from five to forty years. Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$113,276.

The Conference's policy is to capitalize all acquisitions of land, buildings and equipment costing \$2,500 or more.

As required by the United Methodist Church's policy, the Conference receives the church property when a church is closed or abandoned. The Conference holds the church property with the intention of selling it and using the funds for Conference operations. At the Conference's discretion, a portion of sale may also be returned to the district in which the property was located. When the property is received, the Conference records the fair market value of the property as a contribution. Fair market value is estimated based on recent market transaction on similar assets that are observable or that can be corroborated by observable market data (Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy). During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Conference received several properties with fair market values totaling \$746,000.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

December 31, 2023

At December 31, 2023 property and equipment consisted of the following:

Land	\$ 589,753
Buildings	3,809,184
Property held for sale	3,406,000
Equipment	<u>90,743</u>
	7,895,680
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,556,182)</u>
	<u>\$ 6,339,497</u>

Support and Revenue

Appportionment revenue is a principal source of revenue for support, as well as amounts paid by member churches to fund Conference initiatives and operating expenses. The Conference records revenue during the year based on actual funds received. Final revenue and receivables for the current year are recorded at year-end, based on subsequent receipts collected in January that relate to the prior year. Accordingly, there is no need to consider or record an allowance for uncollectible appportionments. Receivables are never considered delinquent and no interest is charged on receivables. Appportionment revenue does not include amounts collected from member churches to be passed on to the general United Methodist Church.

Contributions are recorded as support when cash or other assets are received. Contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Gifts of cash and other assets that are designated for future periods or restricted by the donor for specific purposes are reported as support with donor restrictions. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the consolidated statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Restricted grants and contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period as they are received are reported as unrestricted. Revenue from services is recognized when the service is rendered.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

December 31, 2023

Accounts receivable includes billings to each member church of the Conference with a full-time minister for health insurance and pension costs. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is provided based upon historical trends. The allowance for uncollectible accounts at December 31, 2023 was \$445,000. Pension and insurance payments for ministers and lay employees are billed monthly and are recorded as revenue when billed.

Contributions of property and equipment and other long-lived assets with explicit restrictions that specify how the assets are to be used, including cash contributed to acquire such assets, are recorded as restricted support. Absent explicit donor stipulations about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, the expiration of donor restrictions is reported when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service.

Notes Receivable

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Notes receivable represent funds advanced to churches within the Conference. Notes receivable also includes amounts due from the sale of abandoned churches. Notes receivable are stated at unpaid principal balance. Interest on notes receivable is recognized over the term of the loan. Notes receivable are secured by deeds of trust for property with a fair market value in excess of the respective loan amount. The Conference's relationship with its borrowers is unlike that of a typical commercial lender. The Conference may make loans to borrowers which would be unable to secure financing from commercial sources. The ability of each borrower to pay the Conference may depend on the contributions the congregation receives from its members. Therefore, payments to the Conference may depend on the continued growth in membership of the borrower, and on the maintenance of adequate contributions by individual members, as well as prudent management of the borrowers of their finances. The Conference may also accommodate partial, deferred, or late payments more readily than commercial lenders. Such loan practices may result in lower collections than a commercial lender and a higher loan delinquency rate.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

December 31, 2023

NOTE C - INVESTMENTS

Investments at December 31, 2023 consisted of the following:

Money market accounts		\$ 266,344
Pooled mutual funds		20,373,306
Notes receivable:		
Current	\$ 21,743	
Long-term	<u>384,275</u>	<u>406,018</u>
		<u>\$ 21,045,668</u>

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standards Codification 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, are described as follows:

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Conference has the ability to access.

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

December 31, 2023

Investments in equity securities, debt securities and pooled mutual funds are reported in the accompanying consolidated financial statements at fair value. Of the total investments, \$10,163,736 was held at the Holston Conference Foundation and \$2,741,380 was held at Wespath. Money market accounts held with the Holston Conference Foundation are valued using quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1). Fair value for pooled mutual funds have been calculated based on the net assets of the underlying pool of securities (Level 2). Fair value for notes receivable have been calculated based on the unpaid principal balance (Level 3). For further information regarding the fair value measurement and types of investments held by Wespath see the annual report of Wespath. For further information regarding the fair value measurement and types of investments held by the Holston Conference Foundation see the annual report of the Holston Conference Foundation.

Fair Value Measurements Using				
		Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Inputs Other than Quoted Prices that are Observable for the Asset or Liability (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	<u>Fair Value</u>			
Money market accounts	\$ 266,344	\$ 266,344	\$ 0	\$ 0
Pooled mutual funds	20,373,306	0	20,373,306	0
Notes receivable	<u>406,018</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>406,018</u>
	<u>\$ 21,045,668</u>	<u>\$ 266,344</u>	<u>\$ 20,373,306</u>	<u>\$ 406,018</u>

Changes in Level 3 values during the year ended December 31, 2023 were as follows:

Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 420,024
Payments received	<u>14,006</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 406,018</u>

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

December 31, 2023

Realized and unrealized gains and losses are determined on the basis of specific identification. Investment income for the year ended December 31, 2023 consisted of the following:

Interest and dividends	\$ 190,435
Realized (loss)	(70,567)
Unrealized gain	<u>2,235,447</u>
	<u><u>\$ 2,355,315</u></u>

NOTE D - LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Conference had the following financial assets available at December 31, 2023:

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Cash	\$ 1,321,956
Investments	21,045,668
Notes receivable	135,198
Apportionments receivable	<u>692,196</u>
	<u><u>\$ 23,195,018</u></u>
Financial assets at December 31, 2023	\$ 23,195,018
Less net assets unavailable for general expenditures within one year, due to restrictions from donors for time or purpose restrictions	(6,459,620)
Less net assets designated by members of the Board of Trustees	<u>(7,726,283)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u><u>\$ 9,009,115</u></u>

As part of their liquidity management, the Conference structures its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations come due.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

December 31, 2023

NOTE E - INCOME TAX STATUS

The Conference is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, except on unrelated business income. The Conference believes that it has appropriate support for any tax positions taken, and as such, does not have any uncertain tax positions that are material to the consolidated financial statements.

NOTE F - LONG-TERM DEBT

Note payable to a bank, due in monthly installments of	
\$8,763, including interest of 5.02% per annum,	
through February 2031, secured by real property	\$ 632,031
Less current maturities	<u>(74,744)</u>
	<u>\$ 557,287</u>

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Future maturities of long-term debt are as follows:

Year Ending	
<u>December 31:</u>	
2024	\$ 74,744
2025	78,724
2026	82,821
2027	87,132
2028	91,625
Thereafter	<u>216,986</u>
	<u>\$ 632,031</u>

Interest paid during the year was \$34,478.

CONFERENCE TREASURER OF
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
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NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

December 31, 2023

NOTE G - CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Conference to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable. Cash and cash equivalents are maintained in demand deposit accounts which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Conference has not experienced any losses and does not believe it is exposed to any significant credit risk on such accounts. By their nature, all such financial instruments involve risk, including the credit risk of nonperformance by counterparties. Exposure to credit risk is managed through various monitoring procedures. At December 31, 2023 the Conference had no major concentrations of credit risk except for uninsured bank deposits and notes receivable, including its investments at Wespath and the Holston Conference Foundation.

NOTE H - CONTINGENCIES
DRAFTS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

The Conference is primarily self-insured, up to certain limits for health claims. The plan includes all participating Conference employees as well as affiliated congregation clergy. The Conference has purchased stop-loss insurance, which will reimburse the Conference for individual claims that generally exceed \$200,000 annually. Claims are expensed as incurred. The total claims expense under the program was approximately \$5,000,000 for the year ended December 31, 2023 with approximately \$150,000 in claims payable at December 31, 2023.

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(continued)

December 31, 2023

NOTE I - NET ASSETS

Net assets with donor restrictions at December 31, 2023 consisted of the following:

Superannuate endowment (clergy retirement supplement)	\$ 107,710
Builders Club	2,095,144
College scholarship	1,475,277
Porter scholarship endowment	32,344
Annual Conference offering - Sudan	308,530
Gatlinburg wildfires	25,921
Episcopal office	99,875
Ministerial education fund	664,912
Matte K. Bowman pension endowment	219,024
AIDS scholarship fund	39,801
Ishe Anesu Project for Underprivileged Children	93,724
Appalachian Trail outreach ministries	25,284
Disaster relief	195,054
Camp Lookout endowment	18,529
Holston Conference CEF	4,708
Church Builders spend account	126,540
Church Builders grant funds	718,462
Phil and Georgia Millet endowment	48,041
Maynard scholarship endowment	37,435
Camping endowment	<u>123,304</u>
	<u>\$ 6,459,622</u>

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

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December 31, 2023

Net assets without donor restrictions are designated by the Conference for the following purposes:

Pension endowment	\$ 4,750,775
Camping endowment	707,583
New church real estate endowment	629,833
Trustee endowment	796,797
Superannuate endowment	342,763
Camp Lookout endowment	18,529
Justice with Peace	6,294
Change for Children	101,103
Strength for the Journey	30,325
Jubilation	27,759
Annual conference	40,210
Abolishing poverty conference	41,473
Trustee local church sales	156,713
Discipleship	1,130
Older adult ministries	331
Lead Kids	10,131
Communications	51,410
Nurture	5,993
Other projects	7,131
	<u>7,726,283</u>
Undesignated	<u>12,937,124</u>
	<u>\$ 20,663,407</u>

DRAFTS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

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NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(continued)

December 31, 2023

NOTE J - NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the following restricted purposes:

Builders Club	\$ 119,850
Episcopal office	72,205
Ministerial education fund	633,051
Appalachian Trail outreach ministries	9,395
Ishe Anesu Project for Underprivileged Children	18,904
Matte K. Bowman pension endowment	7,850
Annual Conference offering - Sudan	211,557
College Scholarship	42,900
Camping	<u>5,883</u>
DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY	
	<u>\$ 1,121,596</u>

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(continued)

December 31, 2023

NOTE K - PENSION PLANS

The Conference and its local churches participate in three separate multiemployer pension plans covering substantially all clergy and eligible lay employees in the Conference. Conference clergy entering service prior to December 31, 1981 participate in a defined benefit multiemployer pension plan (Pre-82). Conference clergy that have creditable service between January 1, 1982 and December 31, 2006 participate in a multiemployer defined contribution plan (MPP). Contributions to the MPP plan are no longer made; however, the MPP plan could have unamortized liabilities based upon the annuity rates that have been granted to retirees. Clergy that have served from January 1, 2007 through the present are currently receiving pensionable wages as a part of the Clergy Security Retirement Program (CRSP) which is a multiemployer defined benefit and multiemployer defined contribution plan. Each of these three plans is administered by Wespath Benefits and Investments and are rated and required to be funded on an actuarial basis each year. A participant may be enrolled in all three pension plans based upon their years of service. As of the reporting date, the Conference is not a participant in any of the pension plans. The pension plans are multiemployer plans, any unfunded liability is not a legal obligation of the Conference, but is an obligation of the United Methodist Church. While the unfunded liability is computed for each conference, the multiemployer plans do not require any individual conference to fund its liability and they do not provide recourse against any individual conference that fails to fund its liability. However, each individual conference is required to complete an annual financial plan that determines the funding sources available to retire any deficits and meet current year obligations.

The risks of participating in multiemployer defined benefit pension plan are different from a single-employer plan in the following respects:

- Assets contributed to the multiemployer plan by one employer may be used to provide benefits to employees of other participating employers.
- If a participating employer stops contributing to the plan, the unfunded obligations of the multiemployer plan may be required to be borne by the remaining participating employers.
- If an employer chooses to stop participating in one of the multiemployer plans, it may be required to pay a withdrawal liability to the multiemployer plan.

Contributions to the various multiemployer plans during the year ended December 31, 2023 were as follows:

CRSP - Defined Benefit	\$ 1,698,289
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(continued)

December 31, 2023

As church plans, all pension plans the Conference participates in are exempt from Titles I and IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and, therefore, not subject to Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation requirements. The multiemployer plans may be terminated by the sponsor at any time. Upon termination of the multiemployer plans, the sponsor has the authority to distribute the plan assets in accordance with the terms of the respective plan documents.

Following is funding information related to the three plans based on the actuarial valuations performed as of January 1, 2018 to establish contribution rates for the year ending December 31, 2023. Because the Conference controls some aspects that affect funding levels of the Pre-82 plan, an actuarial valuation to determine Conference-specific contributions and the information presented below represents only the Conference's portion of the Pre-82 plan's assets, liability and funded status. The MPP and CRSP plan information is not obtained on a conference specific basis and the amounts reported below cover the entire multiemployer plan and all participating conferences.

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

	<u>Pre-82</u>	<u>MPP</u>	<u>CRSP – DB</u>
Actuarial value of assets	\$ 1,987,198,636	\$ 4,758,759,842	\$ 2,829,122,591
Funding liability	<u>(1,654,956,622)</u>	<u>(3,665,135,772)</u>	<u>(2,285,443,615)</u>
Funded status	\$ 332,242,014	\$ 1,093,624,070	\$ 543,678,976
Funded ratio	120%	130%	124%

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NOTE L - EPISCOPAL OFFICE FUNDS

Effective January 1, 2006, the Conference administered the financial affairs for the Episcopal Office of the Holston Conference. Prior to that date, revenue and expenses were accounted for by the Episcopal Office of the Holston Conference and reported independently of the Conference. The following is a summary of activity for the Episcopal Office of the Holston Conference for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Net assets at the beginning of the year	\$ 108,213	\$ 95,660
Received from General Council	63,868	85,470
Expenses:		
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 60,413	\$ 57,237
Occupancy	0	6,413
Staff travel	1,390	2,411
Professional entertainment	374	404
Office expenses	1,973	3,010
Business expense	<u>8,056</u>	<u>3,442</u>
	<u>72,205</u>	<u>72,917</u>
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>\$ 99,875</u>	<u>\$ 108,213</u>

DRAFTS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

NOTE M - ENDOWMENT

The Conference maintains twelve individual funds that have been established for the benefit of various ministries of the Conference. Its endowment includes both donor-restricted funds and funds designated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) to function as endowments. Net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the CCFA to function as endowments, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor imposed restrictions.

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(continued)

December 31, 2023

Spending Policy

CCFA has a policy of appropriating for distribution each year 0% to 5% of its endowment fund's average fair value of the prior 3 years through the calendar year-end preceding the fiscal year in which the distribution is planned. In establishing this policy, CCFA considered the long-term expected return on its investment assets, the nature and duration of the individual endowment funds, many of which must be maintained in perpetuity because of donor restrictions, and the possible effects of inflation. CCFA expects the current spending policy to allow its endowment funds to grow at a nominal average rate of 3% annually, which is consistent with CCFA's objective to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets as well as to provide additional real growth through investment return.

Investment Return Objective, Risk Parameters and Strategies

The Conference has adopted investment and spending policies proposed by CCFA, for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment funds while also maintaining the purchasing power of those endowment assets over the long-term. Accordingly, the investment process seeks to achieve an after-cost total real rate of return, including investment income as well as capital appreciation, which exceeds the annual distribution with acceptable levels of risk. Endowment assets are invested in a well-diversified asset mix, which includes equity and debt securities that are intended to result in a consistent inflation-protected rate of return that has sufficient liquidity to make an annual distribution of 0% to 5% of a three-year market value average, while growing the funds if possible. Investment risk is measured in terms of the total endowment fund; investment assets and allocation between asset classes and strategies are managed to not expose the fund to unacceptable levels of risk.

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(continued)

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Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives

To satisfy its long-term rate-of-return objectives, the Conference relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Conference targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investments to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

Spending Policy and How the Investment Objectives Relate to Spending Policy

The Conference has a policy of appropriating for distribution each year 0% to 5% of its average endowment fund's average fair value of the prior 3 years through the calendar year-end proceeding the fiscal year in which the distribution is planned. In establishing this policy, the Conference considered the long-term expected rate of return, the inflation rate, and the inflation rate of the individual endowment funds, (many of which must be maintained in perpetuity because of donor restrictions), and the possible effects of inflation. The Conference expects the current spending policy to allow its endowment funds to grow at an average rate of 3% annually, which is consistent with the Conference's objective to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets as well as to provide additional real growth through investment return.

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(continued)

December 31, 2023

Changes in endowment net assets for the year ended December 31, 2023 were as follows:

	<u>Donor Restricted Endowments</u>	<u>Board- Designated Endowments</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Endowment net assets at the beginning of the year	\$ 1,844,060	\$ 2,247,321	\$ 4,091,381
Contributions	26,784	0	26,784
Investment return:			
Investment income	26,930	33,103	60,033
Net realized and unrealized gain	193,017	699,310	892,327
Other changes: DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY			
Transfers in	0	4,346,609	4,346,609
Transfers out	<u>(56,633)</u>	<u>(80,063)</u>	<u>(136,696)</u>
Endowment net assets at the end of the year	<u>\$ 2,034,158</u>	<u>\$ 7,246,281</u>	<u>\$ 9,280,438</u>

Endowment net assets are presented in the accompanying consolidated financial statements as investments.

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(continued)

December 31, 2023

NOTE N - RESTATEMENT

Net assets at December 31, 2022 was restated to record a properties held for resale which were not previously recorded. The effect of this restatement is as follows:

Net assets at December 31, 2022, as originally reported	\$ 15,783.875
Record properties held for resale	<u>2,385,000</u>
Net assets at December 31, 2022, as restated	<u>\$ 18,168.875</u>

NOTE O - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

DRAFTS- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

The Conference has evaluated subsequent events through October 2024, the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued, and determined that no other subsequent events have occurred that require adjustment to or disclosure in the consolidated financial statements.

X ADMINISTRATION

X.a BOARD OF PENSIONS

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is pleased to issue its report to the Holston Annual Conference and will address the following:

RETIREMENT AND OTHER WELFARE PLANS:

- **Pre-82 Pension Plan** (Pre-82): Defined Benefit Plan for Clergy Service Prior to 1982
- **Ministerial Pension Plan** (MPP): Modified Defined Contribution Plan for Clergy Service from January 1, 1982 through December 31, 2006
- **Clergy Retirement Security Program** (CRSP): Combination Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Plan for Clergy Service on or after January 1, 2007
- **Compass Retirement Plan** (effective 1/1/2026)
- **United Methodist Personal Investment Plan** (UMPIP): Qualified IRC§403(b) voluntary deferred compensation plan for clergy and Conference lay employees
- **Comprehensive Protection Plan** (CPP): Provides disability for active clergy and death benefit for active and retired clergy and qualified covered dependents
- **Retiree Moving Expense Reimbursement**

HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS:

- **Holston Self-Insured Health Plan** (Administered by Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Tennessee and Epiphany RX)
- **Retiree Health Plan** (Medigap Supplement with optional Dental, optional Vision, and optional Part D Drug Plan Administered by Amwins)

COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

RETIREMENT AND OTHER WELFARE PLANS

The **Pre-82 Pension Plan** provides for a lifetime pension benefit for all eligible clergy and 70% of that benefit for surviving spouses during their lifetime.

The benefit is based on the years of service prior to January 1, 1982, and a dollar amount referred to as the “Past Service Rate” for each service year. The Board has voted to raise the PSR from \$648 to \$665 for calendar year 2026.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) was funded by direct Conference contribution to individual participant accounts based on the respective clergy compensation base and functioned as a defined contribution plan during active plan years. Effective January 1, 2014, retiring participants are required to convert 65% of their plan balance to a lifetime annuity with optional survivor benefits available with reduced immediate benefits. The balance of the retiree’s account is available for immediate distribution or “Roll-Over” to UMPIP or other qualified outside accounts.

The Clergy Retirement Security Program, our current plan, provides both a “Defined Benefit” and a “Defined Contribution” component.

The Defined Benefit is calculated using the following criteria:

- For each service year from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2013, eligible participants are credited with 1 ¼% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).
- For each service year after December 31, 2013, the percentage credited has been reduced to 1% of the DAC.
- Clergy appointed at less than 100% but at least 50% are credited with a pro-rata percentage benefit. Clergy appointed less than 100% can waive participation in CRSP with a notarized waiver.
- At retirement, participants will receive a lifetime annuity based on their accrued plan benefit, with optional survivor benefits available with reduced immediate benefits.

Under the Defined Contribution benefit portion of CRSP, the Conference:

- Contributed 3% of the participants' plan compensation into an investment account similar to UMPIP and with the same fund investment options.
- Effective January 1, 2014, this percentage was reduced to 2% of the participants' plan compensation.
- After January 1, 2014, if the participant voluntarily contributes at least 1% of their plan compensation into the UMPIP plan, an additional 1% will be contributed to the participants' CRSP Defined Contribution account.
- This action was taken in order to encourage participation in the UMPIP plan.
- At retirement the balance in the participants' Defined Contribution account is available for immediate distribution or "Roll-Over" to UMPIP or other qualified outside accounts.

The Compass Retirement Plan will be effective January 1, 2026, and it will replace the current Clergy Retirement Security Program. Compass retains the same eligibility rules of the CRSP.

Compass is an account-based plan, with both the Church and clergy making contributions. Clergy are encouraged to contribute at least 4% of pensionable pay to receive the full matching contribution from the Church. The Church contributions include a monthly flat dollar amount, 3% of the clergy's pensionable pay, and a \$1 for \$1 match on up to 4% of pensionable pay. The flat dollar contribution is \$150 per month and will increase by 2% each year (in \$5 increments).

Compass will utilize Wespath's automatic features, including Automatic Enrollment and Automatic Escalation. This means that eligible clergy will automatically be enrolled for 4% in personal contributions, which qualifies for the full match. The percentage of personal contributions will automatically increase at increments of 1% up to 10% each January 1 beginning January 1, 2027.

Compass also increases the value of a parsonage from the current rate of 25% to 35%. Compass also provides matching contributions on qualified student loan payments made by clergy. In essence, the plan treats clergy's student loan payments as if they are clergy contributions and then provides an appropriate match as if such payments had been clergy contributions to the plan. To receive this match, clergy must certify annually how much they made in student loan payments for that year.

Extensive training will take place for clergy and church personnel during August 2025 to prepare for the shift to Compass.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

The Conference sponsors UMPIP for both clergy and Conference laity employees. Lay elections and changes are made by submitting a request to payroll@holston.org.

Conference laity staff members are eligible to participate in UMPIP. After one year of full-time employment, the Conference will contribute 6% of eligible compensation provided the employee elects to contribute at least 3% personally.

UMPIP provides a variety of self-directed investment options available through Wespath.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

The CPP covers full-time appointed clergy only and provides for long-term disability integrated with Social Security disability benefits awarded to claimants. Clergy requesting "Medical Leave" status and approved by the Joint Committee on Medical Leave are eligible to apply for disability benefits with approvals coordinated by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and Wespath if the disability is expected to last for a minimum of six months. Applicants are granted a stipend of the lesser of 70% of their compensation base or \$3,000 per month not to exceed three months, or for a lesser period if approval takes place before the end of that three-month period. The Conference is reimbursed through retro-active benefits awarded the claimant. If not approved, the funds advanced are deemed to be a grant and no repayment is required.

During the time clergy are on disability, provided the claimant is enrolled in the Conference Health Plan, the Conference assumes the church portion of Health Plan Premiums with the claimant responsible for their personal portion.

In accordance with ¶ 357, The Book of Discipline 2020/2024, the Conference Board recommends the following active ministers and local pastors be continued subject to the renewal of their eligibility for disability benefits under CPP:

- Edwin Blair
- Sherrell Boles
- John Brewster
- Elizabeth Hamilton
- Susan Lankford
- Jeff Moncier
- Ronald Ramsey (retiring June 30, 2025)
- Donald Watkins
- Lyle White
- John Wilson

Retiree Moving Expense Reimbursement

The Conference will continue to provide new retirees with a one-time moving expense allowance not to exceed \$1,500 upon submission of valid receipts to the Conference Treasurer. The Conference cost for 2026 is projected to be \$45,000 to be funded by Tithe/Askings.

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HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS

In accordance with ¶ 638.24, The Book of Discipline 2020/2024, the Conference sponsors a group health care plan. The Holston Self-Insured Health Plan covers all eligible Conference clergy, staff, and laity staff employed by participating local churches and other qualifying organizations. Clergy are deemed eligible if their cash compensation is equal to or greater than 75% of the minimum compensation of the individual's Conference status (refer to the Committee on Equitable Compensation Report for those levels). Premiums are established each year by the Board and a blended premium amount set as the church's responsibility for eligible appointed clergy. This church-portion of the premium is billed to the church even though an eligible clergy appointee is covered under an alternative health plan, including retired clergy appointed at a compensation level that would otherwise qualify for eligibility.

Participating clergy elect their level of coverage (Individual, Family, or Employee + one), Plan type, (CoPay or High Deductible Health Plan with HSA) and Network preference (Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Tennessee Network "S" or Network "P"). Participant premiums are set accordingly plus any added amounts for optional vision coverage and elected participation in a "Flexible Spending Account."

Full-Time (30 Hours per week average), non-clergy Conference employees, and laity staff of participating local churches and other qualifying organizations are eligible to participate in the Conference Health Plan. Premiums for these individuals are established by the Board based on the same option available to clergy and billed to participating organizations as one total amount. The amount of employer-shared responsibility is at the discretion of the participating organizations as long as the election is applied consistently to all participants and complies with ACA guidelines.

For all covered individuals, plan types, coverage options, network preferences, and optional coverages may be modified during the open enrollment period (November 1 – November 15 of each calendar year) or during the plan year if a qualifying event occurs (marriage, divorce, new eligible dependent, or loss of other coverage).

Flexible Medical Spending and Dependent Care Account participation must be renewed each year during the open enrollment period and a new enrollment form must be completed and submitted in order to participate the following calendar year. Maximum FSA annual contribution amounts will be communicated during Open Enrollment and may differ from the IRS maximum contribution limit.

While total costs are contingent on actual claims experience, the Conference obtains "Reinsurance" to limit the impact of claims in excess of \$200,000 and maintains adequate Health Plan reserves to cover total costs in excess of premiums collected.

The 2026 Health Insurance Rates will be set by September 1, 2025 and will be communicated via mail, email and the Conference website. Online, paperless, open enrollment will once again be available through Employee Navigator. Employee Navigator allows employees the opportunity to access plan information, make changes to contact information, request Qualifying Life Event changes, and select their next year's options and sign electronically.

The Conference will begin offering an Employee Assistance Program through Ulliance on July 1, 2025. Eligible participants' dependents (spouse and dependents through age 26) are also eligible for the EAP. Eligible participants include all clergy, all retirees, all permanent, full-time and part-time Conference lay staff (including camps, districts, Wesley Foundations, The Holston Foundation, and the Center for Well-Being), and individual churches' lay employees who are on the Holston Health Insurance Plan. The EAP provides flexible counseling services provided by state licensed professionals, a 24-hour crisis line, life transition coaching, as well as limited financial counseling, legal consultation and credit/ID theft protection

Retiree Medical Plan

In accordance with ¶ 638.23, The Book of Discipline 2020/2024, the Conference provides Conference clergy persons, who have retired in accordance with ¶357.1, ¶357.2b, ¶357.2c, or ¶ 357.2d other than as applied to ¶ 357.2a of The Book of Discipline who are eligible for Medicare, and their spouses, access to a Medicare supplement through Amwins, a leading global specialty insurance distributor.

HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS ELIGIBILITY AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICIES DEFINITIONS

Under Episcopal appointment within this

Conference: For purposes of the HIP, "Under Episcopal appointment within this Conference" means clergy appointed by the Bishop of this Conference.

Members of the Annual Conference taking honorable location or terminating their Conference relationship for any reason shall not be eligible to continue in the Conference insurance program.

Change in status: It is the responsibility of the plan participant to notify the Conference immediately if an event occurs that has an impact on the continued participation of a spouse, retiree, person on incapacity, or dependent child. Failure to notify the Conference of a change will result in additional costs or the loss of future benefit opportunities. This would include a divorce, qualification for Medicare, or reduction of hours.

Blended premium rate: This is the rate developed by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits that generates the premium revenue to fund the existing program for active qualified retired clergy members. This rate does not distinguish between a pastor being enrolled in the employee only, employee plus one or family program. This rate shall be developed annually based upon the number of participants in each group and will be utilized for directly invoicing the church.

Health Insurance Plan Eligibility Policies

The following individuals are eligible to participate in the HIP. See the section below for Financial Responsibility.

To qualify for the receipt of health insurance benefits, a participant must be considered permanent, full-time based upon the number of hours or his/her salary in accordance with the minimum salary associated with their classification as adopted by the Annual Conference each year. For lay employees, it requires 30 hours per week. For active clergy, it must be at 75% of the minimum salary for their classification as denoted on the Pastor Support Worksheet/online Clergy Comp Form on file at the Holston Conference.

1. Active Clergy Eligibility

- a. **Clergy** – Every active clergy member under Episcopal appointment within this Conference, including full, probationary, associate, local pastors and members of another denomination or conference, must be enrolled in the active clergy HIP, except where equivalent coverage is available under Medicare or a spouse's group plan and proof of other creditable group coverage is provided.
- i. **Medical Leave** - Clergy appointed to Medical leave are eligible and may participate in the HIP if equivalent coverage is ended.

- ii. **Family Leave, Leave of Absence, Sabbatical Leave, Appointed to School** - Clergy appointed to any of these categories are eligible and may participate in the HIP.
 - b. **Clergy Spouse and Dependent Children** – If the active clergy member is enrolled in the HIP, the clergy’s spouse and children under the age of 26 or disabled dependent, providing such disabled person(s) are not eligible for Medicare or other government sponsored healthcare programs, are eligible to participate in the HIP.
 - c. **Surviving Spouse and Dependent Children** – If an active clergy covered under the HIP dies, the surviving spouse and dependent children of that clergy person are eligible and may choose to participate in the HIP. If the surviving spouse remarries, the surviving spouse and the dependent children are no longer eligible for health insurance benefits through the HIP.
 - d. **Divorced Spouse** – The divorced spouse will be allowed to participate in the HIP under the terms of COBRA as outlined within this policy document and in compliance with all regulations that apply to COBRA coverage. The rate schedule will be in accordance with the schedule for lay participants.
- 2. Retired Clergy Eligibility**
- If a clergy member is appointed to a local church within the Holston Conference and meets the qualifications, then he/she would be on the active health insurance program. When a clergy member retires, he/she can no longer participate in the active plan unless qualifying for the early retiree plans (prior to age 65). A retired clergy who is Medicare eligible cannot participate in the active employee plan, but may participate in the retiree Medigap supplement program offered through Amwins at their own expense.
- a. **Clergy** - A clergy member who retires under the rules of the Discipline while under Episcopal appointment within this Conference shall be eligible to participate in the HIP.
 - i. **Medicare Eligible** - All Medicare eligible retirees must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible for the Retiree Medigap Plan offered through Amwins.
 - ii. **Not Medicare Eligible** - Retirees who are not Medicare eligible may participate in the active clergy HIP as “Early Retirees” but may pay more for premiums than under a Medicare eligible plan.
 - b. **Spouse** - The spouse of an eligible clergy must have been married to the retired clergy at the date of retirement to be eligible to participate in the HIP.
 - i. **Medicare Eligible** - All Medicare eligible spouses must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible for the Retiree Medigap Plan offered through Amwins.
 - ii. **Not Medicare Eligible** - Spouses who are not Medicare eligible may participate in the active clergy HIP as “Early Retirees” but may pay more for premiums than under a Medicare eligible plan.
 - c. **Surviving Spouse** - At the time that the participant became a surviving spouse, the participant must have been enrolled in the HIP.
 - i. **Medicare Eligible** - All Medicare eligible surviving spouses must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible for the Retiree Medigap Plan offered through Amwins.
 - ii. **Not Medicare Eligible** - Surviving spouses who are not Medicare eligible may participate in the active clergy HIP, but may pay more for premiums than under a Medicare eligible plan.
 - iii. **Surviving Spouse Remarries** - If a surviving spouse remarries, the surviving spouse is no longer eligible to participate in either the Retiree Medigap Plan nor the active employee Health Insurance Plan.
 - d. **Divorced Spouse** - The divorced spouse of a retired clergy may participate in the HIP under the terms of COBRA coverage under the schedule for lay participants, if not Medicare eligible. Coverage under the Conference sponsored Medicare supplement is not available.

- e. **Dependent Children** - If the retired clergy member is a participant in the active clergy program and is enrolled in the HIP, the clergy's spouse and children under the age of 26 or disabled dependent, providing such disabled person(s) are not eligible for Medicare or other government sponsored healthcare programs, are eligible to participate in the HIP.
- f. **Early retirement** - To qualify for early retiree rates and participation, a clergy participant must be able to immediately draw retirement benefits from Wespath (formerly the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits). If a clergy participant is unable to begin drawing benefits upon retirement status, continuation coverage and the associated rates will be implemented if coverage is desired.

Continuation Coverage

Holston Conference's continuation coverage is administered by Benefits Assist. Active clergy participants in the HIP who have their hours reduced at the request of the Cabinet can continue to have access to the plan. The participants will pay 100% of the cost of health insurance at the lay rates, plus a 2% administrative fee. If any other individual enrolled in the HIP (including lay employees, their spouses and dependent children) loses HIP coverage due to a loss in eligibility resulting from a termination of employment or clergy appointment, reduction in hours of employment, death, divorce or legal separation, Medicare entitlement, or a child's loss of dependent eligibility, such individual may continue to participate in the HIP for the period of time and under the conditions set forth in the Consolidated Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). Although the HIP is not subject to COBRA, it is the intent of the Conference to allow eligible individuals to continue participation in the HIP under COBRA-like coverage. An individual who elects to continue coverage pursuant to this paragraph will be responsible for timely payment of the full cost of the HIP premiums at Lay Plan Rates, plus a 2% administrative fee, on the first day of each month. If payment is not received within 30 days of the due date, coverage will be terminated retroactive to the due date of the missed payment (i.e., the first of the month for which the payment was due).

Financial Responsibility for Health Insurance Policies

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is responsible for annually reviewing the HIP premiums and establishing the financial obligations of the parties. Effective January 1, 2011, the Board of Pensions shall annually determine the premium rates for all participants in the various health insurance plans. The rates for the 2026 health insurance plans will be determined by September 1, 2025. These rates will be made available on the Conference website, sent to all participants in the health insurance plans via email and USPS mail, and available on Employee Navigator.

1. **Active Clergy Members:** The local church or salary paying unit is responsible for payment of the blended premium rate for all appointed clergy and the remaining costs of the selected program will be invoiced to the local church or local salary paying unit and include the pastor's portion of the health insurance premium.
2. **Active Lay Employees:** The local church or salary paying unit is responsible for submitting the entire amount (100%) of the premium to the Holston Conference. Any type of employee cost sharing plan as may be necessary to manage their local benefit costs may be established, so long as it is offered to each eligible employee in a consistent manner that does not discriminate on the basis of job title, hours worked, or classification and complies with ACA guidelines. Lay employees are not eligible for HIP benefits after retirement or termination of employment with a Holston Conference related agency or institution, except as provided for "COBRA like" coverage.
3. **Medical Leave:** If participating in the Conference HIP, premiums for clergy appointed to medical leave will be the responsibility of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and will be split between the Conference and the participant. The Conference will pay the blended rate normally charged to the appointment and the clergy member will be responsible for the remaining portion of the clergy published rate.

4. Family Leave, Leave of Absence, Sabbatical Leave, Appointed to School: Clergy appointed to any of these categories may participate in the HIP. The premium is at the participant's sole cost, under the provisions established for continuation coverage.

5. Clergy Retirees: The retiree is responsible for paying the health insurance premiums of the Medicare Supplement HIP in accordance with the premium schedule directly to Amwins. Early retirees (under age 65) who opt to remain covered under the active at COBRA rates will be responsible for the monthly premium based on the premium schedule.

Lay participants are not eligible to participate in the retiree health insurance program.

6. Extension Ministries: Participants appointed to extension ministries who remain on the Conference payroll will be responsible for payment of the premium amount after deducting the blended rate normally charged to the appointment which the Conference is responsible. Participants appointed to extension ministries who do not remain on the Conference payroll will be responsible for 100% of the premium amount. In this non-Conference, extension ministry case the participant is typically responsible for payment of 40% of the premium amount and the employer is responsible for the remaining 60%, so long as the Conference receives 100% of the adopted premium amount.

7. Surviving Dependents: Surviving dependents will be responsible for paying 40% of the total premium amount until such time as they qualify for Medicare.

Delinquencies:

Billings for health insurance are processed within the first ten days of each month for the month of coverage. The bills for both the pastor's portion and the monthly amount directly invoiced to the salary paying unit shall become due and payable immediately, upon receipt. Unpaid balances that are still due after 30 days shall be subjected to a late fee of 1.5% of the outstanding balance due. Billings that are more than 60 days past due can result in termination of the health insurance coverage provided as a part of the HIP. If the premiums (including the amount directly invoiced)

are not paid within 45 calendar days of the due date, a reminder will be sent to the participant with a copy to the District Superintendent (in the case of a clergy participant) noting the amount due. After a total of 60 calendar days past due, a letter will be sent indicating coverage will be terminated the first day of the next month unless the premiums are paid in full.

Local Church, Related Agency, and Institution Participation Guidelines:

All local churches, related agencies, and institutions of the Annual Conference will be considered subgroups of the Conference for insurance purposes. The following requirements will apply:

- A. Participants and/or dependents must follow the current guidelines for eligibility and participation.
- B. New enrollments, terminations, and changes in coverage must be entered into Employee Navigator or sent to the Conference within 30 calendar days for processing. Changes received after the current month's billing will be effective on the first day of the following month.
- C. Local churches, related agencies, and institutions must have 75% of their eligible Employees enrolled in the HIP. If they fall below 75%, there will be a grace period of one year for them to find other insurance coverage or reach the 75% enrollment.

Employees covered under any creditable group insurance plan will be considered part of the 75% enrollment.

- D. Local churches, related agencies, and institutions are responsible for offering COBRA- like Continuation Coverage, similar to Article III, to all employees leaving employment with them.
- E. Local churches, related agencies, and institutions are required to sign a sub-group contract form with the Conference.

Changes and Amendments to the HIP

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, as fiduciary of the Conference Program, is required to authorize changes to the above as it deems reasonable, fair, and within the best interests of the Conference. In order to adequately share information, any changes in the guidelines shall be published in the Book of Reports or mailed to each participant group prior to enactment of any changes in policies or guidelines. The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits will comply with all of the rules and requirements associated with the policies of our program administrator. This includes a requirement that all changes to coverage will be completed in writing on appropriate forms.

COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

In compliance with ¶1506 of The Book of Discipline 2020/2024, The Holston Annual Conference has developed, adopted, and implemented a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all its benefits obligations. The funding plan for 2026 will be submitted to “Wespath” (formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) for review, and we expect a favorable written opinion. Their opinion and the “Benefit Obligations Summary” and the complete Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan document, together with the Wespath written opinion, will be posted on the Conference website.

The information in this report was prepared in good faith with the information available to the board prior to the upcoming General Conference.

The following pages include:

- Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retires or Disabled Clergypersons

Brent Clark, Chair

Knox Wimberly, Vice Chair

Julie Graham, Benefits Administrator

**Resolution Relating to
RENTAL HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR
RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGYPERSONS**

The Holston Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions during the 2012 session of Annual Conference taking place June 10-June 13, 2012, relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the years 2012 and all subsequent years until it is rescinded for each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Clearing the Clouds: Clergy Housing Allowance

Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) recognizes the unique and often complex nature of clergy taxes. The following information is designed to help clear some of the gray when thinking about a housing allowance. It pertains to active clergy living in an owned or rented home, active clergy living in a parsonage and retired clergy.

What does the housing allowance permit?

The housing allowance permits duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergy in the exercise of their ministry• to exclude a portion of their compensation when reporting gross income for federal income tax purposes. The amount excluded must be used to provide housing.

Additionally, there are limits on what can be claimed as housing expense. For more details including the current tax law and the Clarification Act of 2002, go to The Warren Case: Clergy Housing and You on our website.

Is the Housing Allowance a deduction or exclusion?

The housing allowance is an exclusion from income, not a deduction. This means that the amount claimed is never reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as part of your annual income. A housing allowance can be taken only if the amount to be excluded is officially designated as a housing allowance by your congregation or church organization through a resolution, meeting minutes or a budget before compensation is paid for the tax year to which it applies. If you are a retired clergy person, your annual conference is the church entity that designates the housing allowance for your pension payments. However, you are not necessarily entitled to exclude from your income the entire amount designated as a housing allowance. You may exclude from your income only the smallest of the following amounts:

- the amount designated in advance of your expenditures as your housing allowance for the current tax year;
- the amount spent for your primary residence (mortgage principal and interest, utilities, taxes, insurance, furnishings, maintenance, etc.); or
- the current fair rental value of your home, including furnishings, plus the current year cost of your utilities (no matter whether your home is owned or rented).

If you are a pastor living in a parsonage provided by the church, you may exclude the annual fair rental value of the parsonage from your gross compensation for federal income tax purposes. (In the absence of Internal Revenue Code section 107(1), you would owe income tax on the fair rental value of the parsonage, even though you do not pay rent to live there.) In addition to the free use of the parsonage, your church may grant you a parsonage or housing allowance to pay for things such as furniture or utilities. Make sure you meet with your church prior to the current tax year to designate your parsonage or housing allowance. You may not exclude from income any expenses incurred before the allowance is designated for a given tax year, so get it documented before January 1 each year to maximize your eligible expenses.

If you are a retired pastor receiving annuity payments (or taking one or more lump sum distributions) from a Wespath retirement program, you may qualify for a clergy housing allowance exclusion. The exclusion applies to distributions of contributions made while you were serving under call, including their accumulated earnings. The same rules for determining the excludable amount for active clergy also apply to you, with one twist. While the local church generally designates a housing allowance for active clergy, your annual conference designates this amount for retirees. You may exclude from taxable income the smallest of the following three amounts:

- the amount designated during the prior tax year by your annual conference as the housing allowance for the current tax year (generally conferences designate up to 100% of your pension payments from Wespath);
- the amount spent for your home (mortgage principal and interest, utilities, taxes, insurance, furnishings, maintenance, etc.); or
- the current fair rental value of your home, including furnishings, plus the cost of utilities (whether you own or rent your home).

Note: Distributions rolled out of a Wespath retirement plan to an Individual Retirement Account or non-church related program may not be eligible for a housing allowance exclusion. If you used your distribution from a Wespath plan to purchase a commercial annuity, however, payments from that annuity generally qualify for a housing allowance exclusion (consult your annual conference's housing allowance designation for retirees). Your clergy housing allowance exclusion ends at your death. IRS rules do not allow your surviving spouse or beneficiaries to claim it.

Navigating through the complexity of clergy taxes and housing allowance rules can indeed feel like you are traveling through a fog with no direction. Certainly there are many other aspects of taxes to consider when determining the housing allowance exclusion such as its impact on housing equity, social security tax and taxes on retirement distributions. To further shine the light on your situation, consult a qualified tax adviser knowledgeable about the unique tax situations for clergy.

¹ A clergyperson must be recognized as a minister of the gospel under Internal Revenue Code section 107, which may exclude certain deacons, especially those in extension ministries.

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

2025 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

Holston Conference (781)
2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the plan sponsor's obligations and funding of the benefits provided to clergy and laity, as noted below.

It is understood by the signees that defined benefit plan liabilities [Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB) and other sponsored defined benefit plans] continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the plan sponsor still has a liability (obligation) and potential future contribution due to the plan.

Benefit Obligations Summary**Plan Contributions for 2025**

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DB	\$1,573,278
Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DC	\$545,700
Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)	\$0
Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)	\$423,356
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay	\$93,264
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy	\$0
Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations	\$45,947
Other Defined Benefit (DB) Obligations	\$0
Health—Active Participants	\$5,700,000
Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage	\$171,781
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$0
Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)	\$537,540

Ongoing Funding Contributions

Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)	\$306,267
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$0

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)	Julie Graham	11/25/2024
Conference Treasurer	Mark Mangum	12/10/2024
Conference Board of Pension Chair	Brent Clark	12/04/2024
Council on Finance and Administration Chair		



Opinion on Holston Conference 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

Wespath Benefits and Investments

Wespath Benefits and Investments
1901 W Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Accounts

Wespath Accounts		Market Value as of 12/31/2022	Market Value as of 12/31/2023	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		\$6,776	\$17,489	
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term	
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity	3.88%
			Fixed	2.09%
			Short-term	94.03%
<hr/>				
HEALTH INSURANCE RESERVE		\$2,282,782	\$2,596,062	
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term	
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity	64.99%
			Fixed	35.01%
			Short-term	0.00%
<hr/>				
HOLSTON SUPERANNUATE		\$288,399	\$342,763	
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term	
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity	65.00%
			Fixed	35.00%
			Short-term	0.00%
<hr/>				
U M C PENSION AND ENDOWMENT		\$55,713	\$63,359	
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term	
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity	65.00%
			Fixed	35.00%
			Short-term	0.00%
<hr/>				
UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITY		\$0	\$4,687,416	
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term	
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity	65.00%
			Fixed	35.00%
			Short-term	0.00%

Holston Conference (781)
2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Non-Wespath Accounts		Market Value as of 12/31/2022	Market Value as of 12/31/2023
Foundation		\$528,244	\$611,627
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
Holston Operating Accounts		\$5,456,246	\$4,439,150
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 0.00%
			Fixed 0.00%
			Short-term 100.00%

\$ A portion of this account has been designated as plan assets. The allocated amounts will be shown separately on the Allocation screen and will not be included in the Market Value for this account.

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Incoming Money

Primary Sources

Estimated amount for 2025

Apportionments	\$6,782,541
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Annual Apportionment	\$6,782,541
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x Expected Collection Percentage	100.00%
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Direct Billing

Other Sources

Health Plan Direct Billing

Pension Direct Billing

Refer to the following "Allocate Funding Sources" pages for actual amounts allocated from the above funding sources.

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Deposit Account	Health Insurance Reserve	Holston Superannuate	U M C Pension And Endowment	Unfunded Pension Liability
Available Balance		\$17,489	\$2,596,062	\$342,763	\$63,359	\$4,687,418
Total Allocated		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$306,267
Remaining Balance		\$17,489	\$2,596,062	\$342,763	\$63,359	\$4,381,149
Plan Contributions for 2025						
CRSP DB	\$1,573,278					
CRSP DC	\$545,700					
MPP						
Pre-82	\$423,356					
UMPIP Lay	\$93,264					
UMPIP Clergy						
Retiree Moving Expenses	\$45,947					
Health Active	\$5,700,000					
Health Additional	\$171,781					
Post-Retirement Medical						
CPP	\$537,540					
Ongoing Funding Contributions						
Pre-82	\$306,267					\$306,267
Post-Retirement Medical						

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Foundation	Holston Operating Account	Apportionments	Direct Billing	Health Plan Direct Billing
Available Balance		\$611,627	\$4,439,150	\$6,782,541		
Total Allocated		\$0	\$0	\$139,211		\$5,871,781
Remaining Balance		\$611,627	\$4,439,150	\$6,643,330		
Plan Contributions for 2025						
CRSP DB	\$1,573,278					
CRSP DC	\$545,700					
MPP						
Pre-82	\$423,356					
UMPIP Lay	\$93,264			\$93,264		
UMPIP Clergy						
Retiree Moving Expense s	\$45,947			\$45,947		
Health Active	\$5,700,000					\$5,700,000
Health Additional	\$171,781					\$171,781
Post-Retirement Medical						
CPP	\$537,540					
Ongoing Funding Contributions						
Pre-82	\$306,267					
Post-Retirement Medical						

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Pension Direct Billing	Prm In-Plan & Outside Assets
Available Balance			
Total Allocated		\$3,079,874	
Remaining Balance			
Plan Contributions for 2025			
CRSP DB	\$1,573,278	\$1,573,278	
CRSP DC	\$545,700	\$545,700	
MPP			
Pre-82	\$423,356	\$423,356	
UMPIP Lay	\$93,264		
UMPIP Clergy			
Retiree Moving Expense s	\$45,947		
Health Active	\$5,700,000		
Health Additional	\$171,781		
Post-Retirement Medical			
CPP	\$537,540	\$537,540	
Ongoing Funding Contributions			
Pre-82	\$306,267		
Post-Retirement Medical			

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Plan Contributions for 2025		Funding Needed
CRSP DB	\$1,573,278	\$0
CRSP DC	\$545,700	\$0
MPP		\$0
Pre-82	\$423,356	\$0
UMPIP Lay	\$93,264	\$0
UMPIP Clergy		\$0
Retiree Moving Expenses	\$45,947	\$0
Health Active	\$5,700,000	\$0
Health Additional	\$171,781	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical		\$0
CPP	\$537,540	\$0

Ongoing Funding Contribution for 2025		Funding Needed
Pre-82	\$306,267	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical		

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

Plan Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007.

CRSP consists of two components:

- A defined benefit (DB) plan—provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church
- A defined contribution (DC) plan—provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Eligibility requirement	50% +
Conference Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	299.75
CRSP Defined Benefit (DB)	
Required contribution for 2025	\$1,573,278
CRSP Defined Contribution (DC)	
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2025	\$545,700

CRSP DB Denominational Information as of 1/1/2023

Total plan liability	\$(2,419,203,927)
Total plan assets	\$2,956,861,167
Total plan funded status	\$537,657,240
Total plan funded ratio	122%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.1088%

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in CRSP DB Cost Calculations

Discount rate	7.00%
Future Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) increases	2.00%
COLA increases for actives	2.00%
Mortality	Pri-2012 TQ Adj, generational projection using MP2020

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2023.

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Required contributions for 2025	\$0

MPP Denominational Annuities Information as of 1/1/2023

Total MPP annuities liability	\$(3,694,564,244)
Total plan assets	\$4,797,636,095
Total plan funded status	\$1,103,071,851
Total plan funded ratio	130%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	1.7465%

Future MPP Denominational Annuitants Information as of 1/1/2023

Total participant account balances	\$2,289,954,084
Plan sponsor's participant account balances	\$51,455,338

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in MPP Annuities Cost Calculations

Discount rate	6.25%
Benefit increases	Based on increases selected by participant
Mortality	Pri-2012 TQ Adj, generational projection using MP202C

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2023.

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit—approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and The Book of Discipline.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate)—the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Past Service Rate (PSR)	648
Estimated PSR cost-of-living increase	1.50%
Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CA%)	70 %
Discount rate	5.5000%
Minimum contribution for 2025	\$0
Advanced funding contribution for 2025 payable in 2024	\$423,356

Rationale for each change

Our Annual Conference voted to increase the PSR to \$648 for 2025.

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Funding Plan Contribution

Funding plan liability as of 1/1/2023	\$(18,545,989)
Total of in-plan and outside assets	\$19,687,179
Funded status	\$1,141,190
Funded ratio	106%
Funded status projection as of 12/31/2024	\$(1,307,849)
Proposed ongoing funding contribution for 2025	\$306,267

Year	Proposed Ongoing Funding Contribution
12/31/2025	\$306,267
12/31/2026	\$306,267
12/31/2027	\$306,267
12/31/2028	\$306,267
12/31/2029	\$306,267
Present Value Total	\$1,307,847

Pre-82 Denominational information as of 1/1/2023

Total plan liability	\$(1,537,988,875)
Total plan assets	\$1,858,547,416
Total plan funded status	\$320,558,541
Total plan funded ratio	121%

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2023.

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Health—Active Participants

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Health plan offered to actives	Self-Funded - Non-HealthFlex
Actual annual plan benefit cost paid in 2023	\$5,725,281
Budgeted annual plan benefit cost for 2024	\$6,936,417
Projected annual plan benefit cost for 2025	\$5,700,000
Expected average future annual increases	8.50%

Rationale for each change

Costs will decrease as the number of participants decreases.

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage

Categories of participants who are provided health benefit coverage during periods of non-employment. Without plan sponsor-funded premiums, these participants would not be provided coverage or benefits.

<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)

Coverage Obligations

Covered Category	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2022	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2023
Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)	\$166,896	\$145,920
Total	\$166,896	\$145,920

Annual cost calculation

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Total estimated obligation as of 12/31/2023		\$145,920
Average number of years of remaining coverage	÷	1.0000
Estimated annual cost as of 12/31/2023	=	\$145,920
Expected average future annual increases	x	8.50%
Projected annual cost as of 12/31/2025	=	\$171,781

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Health—Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) Claims

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Projected annual program plan benefit cost as of 2025	\$5,700,000
Percentage of total claims assumed for IBNR* value	5.00%
IBNR Claims as of 2025	\$285,000

* IBNR Claims as of the funding plan year should be funded if the health plan benefit offered to active participants changes or terminates.

IBNR Claims represents the estimated ultimate cost of settling the claims pending as of the end of year. The estimate should be at net present value based on a % of total claims paid for the year. As a point of reference, an IBNR estimate could reasonably be expected to be in the 10% - 15% range of total claims.

For example, if your plan terminated on January 1, premiums would stop being collected from churches and/or clergy, but claims would continue to be paid to service providers for participants who began treatment prior to year end.

Holston Conference (781)
2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)

Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation was provided by USI Consulting Group as of 01/01/2022.
Per *The Book of Discipline*, your next PRM biennial actuarial valuation is required as of 01/01/2024.

PRM Actuarial Valuation as of 01/01/2022

Valuation report (in-plan) assets	\$0
EPBO net plan sponsor cost	\$0
APBO net plan sponsor cost	\$0
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	\$0
Annual plan benefit cost	\$0
Intention regarding PRM	Change plan benefit

Participant counts by category		Key actuarial assumptions	
Active participants	0	Census date	01/01/2022
Active dependents	0	Discount rate	0.00%
Retirees	0	Expected return on assets	0.00%
Surviving spouses	0	Valuation year medical trend or inflation rate	0.00%
Dependents of retired participants	0	Ultimate medical trend or inflation rate	0.00%
Total participants	0	Fiscal year for ultimate medical trend	2023

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Elections and Estimates

Description of Benefit

Effective 1/1/2023 this subsidy will no longer be provided.

	Final
Health plan benefit offered to retirees	Other
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Projected annual plan benefit cost as of 2025	\$0

Funding Plan Contribution

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Net PRM assets		\$0
APBO net plan sponsor cost	-	\$0
Funded status	=	\$0
Portion of funded status payable (\$0 if Funded status ≥ \$0)		\$0
Funding plan service cost (\$0 if Net PRM assets ≥ EPBO)	+	\$0
Ongoing funding contribution for 2025	=	\$0

**Holston Conference (781)
2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the HOLSTON contains its elections to cover or not to cover categories mentioned above.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated premium for 2025	\$537,540

Holston Conference (781) 2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2025	\$93,264

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Estimated contribution for 2025	\$0

Holston Conference (781)
2025 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

Name	Estimated annual contribution
Retiree Moving Expenses	\$45,947

Description
Retiree Moving Expenses

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	5.00%
Estimated contribution for 2025	\$45,947

2025 INSURANCE RATES (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025)

Online Open Enrollment is November 1 - November 15, 2024 by logging into your Employee Navigator account.
New Enrollee Form and More Information is available at <https://www.holston.org/health-plans>

CLERGY									
BCBST NETWORK "S"					<i>Tennessee Only</i> BCBST NETWORK "P"				
Clergy Copay Plan					Clergy Copay Plan				
	Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family			Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family	
Direct Invoice	1290	1290	1290		Direct Invoice	1290	1290	1290	
Participant	<u>291</u>	<u>622</u>	<u>994</u>		Participant	<u>322</u>	<u>683</u>	<u>1081</u>	
Total	1581	1912	2284		Total	1612	1973	2371	
Clergy High Deductible - HSA Plan					Clergy High Deductible - HSA Plan				
	Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family			Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family	
Direct Invoice	1290	1290	1290		Direct Invoice	1290	1290	1290	
Participant	<u>113</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>370</u>		Participant	<u>183</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>390</u>	
Total	1403	1487	1660		Total	1473	1510	1680	
Conference HSA Contribution	\$600/year	\$1200/year	\$1200/year		Conference HSA Contribution	\$600/year	\$1200/year	\$1200/year	

LAY EMPLOYEES									
BCBST NETWORK "S"					<i>Tennessee Only</i> BCBST NETWORK "P"				
Lay Copay Plan					Lay Copay Plan				
	Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family			Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family	
Employer*	775	1324	1801		Employer*	775	1324	1801	
Participant*	<u>340</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>859</u>		Participant*	<u>371</u>	<u>683</u>	<u>945</u>	
TOTAL	1115	1943	2660		TOTAL	1146	2007	2746	
Lay High Deductible - HSA Plan					Lay High Deductible - HSA Plan				
	Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family			Participant Only	Participant + 1	Family	
Employer*	775	1324	1801		Employer*	775	1324	1801	
Participant*	<u>113</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>256</u>		Participant*	<u>200</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>279</u>	
TOTAL	888	1542	2057		TOTAL	975	1566	2080	
Conference HSA Contribution	\$600/year	\$1200/year	\$1200/year		Conference HSA Contribution	\$600/year	\$1200/year	\$1200/year	

EARLY RETIREES									
BCBST NETWORK "S"					BCBST NETWORK "P"				
Copay Plan Early Retiree					Copay Plan Early Retiree				
	Participant	Participant + 1	Family			Participant	Participant + 1	Family	
Participant	<u>1137</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>2713</u>		Participant	<u>1169</u>	<u>2047</u>	<u>2801</u>	

VISION PLAN (Optional)**Participant: \$11****Participant + One: \$18****Family: \$27**

Flexible Spending Accounts and Dependent Care Accounts Offered Through PBS
Maximum Contribution: \$3,200 for FSA/\$5,000 per Household for DCAP

*The amount of employer participant shared responsibility is at the discretion of the participating organizations. This cost sharing must be applied consistently to all full-time lay participants within the organization and comply with ACA guidelines. The cost-sharing shown here is an example for information purposes only.

Only TN Providers differentiate between Network "S" and Network "P". If you use TN providers, assess each network to determine which best meets your needs.

Revised 09/12/2024

2026 INSURANCE RATES (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026)*Not available at time of publication***== == END OF REPORT == ==**

X.b BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees have been busy this year with a number of items mostly related to the repercussions from disaffiliation. Immediately after the 2024 Annual Conference work was done to honor the resolution passed in 2022 that the Trustees will seek a path for churches to leave the denomination if there was not a process provided by the General Conference. The Trustees, through the help of our Conference Chancellor, Mike Eastridge, created a Limited Church Closure process that remained true to the Book of Discipline while also allowing a church to exit with their property. Unfortunately, similar processes through other Annual Conferences were questioned and sent to the Judicial Council for a ruling. In Decision Number 1512 the Judicial Council said, “no body or entity in the Church has the power to reinstate or replicate ¶2553 or adopt legislation, policies, guidelines, rules, or regulations authorizing the departure of local churches. Any such action, plan, or attempt to do so intrudes upon the exclusive prerogative of the General Conference and is unconstitutional, null, and void.” Upon notification of the Judicial Council Decision, the trustees immediately terminated the Limited Church Closure Process.

The following properties have been sold since the 2024 Annual Conference:

- Groseclose UMC (\$66,160.41)
- Flintstone UMC (\$44,850.00)
- Telford UMC (\$325,000.00)

The following churches have closed since the 2024 Annual Conference:

- Bales Chapel, Greeneville (Mountain View)
- Flintstone, Georgia (Scenic South)
- Wesley, South Pittsburg (Scenic South)
- Rehobeth, Greeneville (Mountain View)
- Doe Valley, Mountain City (Three Rivers)
- Telford, Telford TN (Three Rivers)
- Mayes Chapel, New Tazewell (Mountain View)
- Bradburn Hill, Greeneville (Mountain View)
- Black Fox, Cleveland (Hiwassee)
- Carter Street, Radford (New River)
- Hunter, Elizabethton (Three Rivers)
- Watauga Point, Elizabethton (Three Rivers)
- Rye Cove (Appalachian)
- Sunbright (Tennessee Valley)

The Trustees of the Holston Annual Conference would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our former Chair, David McLain, for his years of service to the conference. David has led us well through unprecedented times and our conference would not be where we are today if not for him. Thank you David.

Grace & Peace,
Jason N. Gattis
Chair, Holston Conference Trustees

== == == END OF REPORT == == ==

X.c COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY (CAH)

As Holston Conference enters our 201st year, the Commission on Archives and History is hard at work preserving and celebrating Holston's history! Building on the events and activities of our bicentennial year, we are busy with plans for 2025 and 2026. These include:

- Bringing the "popup archives" back over for annual conference at Lake Junaluska.
- Sharing Holston history with visitors and researchers at the Holston Archives at Tennessee Wesleyan University.
- Helping to plan and host the 2026 meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society in Holston Conference, and showing attendees some of our awesome historic sites and heritage landmarks.
- Sharing the history of Holston through both print and social media.
- And meeting together as a commission this spring (in Athens) and this fall (in Virginia).

We continue to gratefully accept church records and Methodist materials of all kinds at your Holston archives. We are also grateful to all of you who help make this

work possible. We are grateful for our partners in this ministry, including our Bishop and conference staff, the Holston Conference trustees and President Forrest and the staff of Tennessee Wesleyan University. We are especially appreciative of our wonderful archivist, Robin Turner, who has made an incredible difference with the archives (and daily responds to research questions from around the country).

Holston Conference has been blessed with some noted historians over the years. Rev. Jim Douthat was one of our most knowledgeable and active Holston historians, as well as president of our conference Historical Society. His passing in 2024 leaves a big gap. He is deeply missed.

Thank you, Holston Conference, for supporting your Commission on Archives and History as we seek to share in this "ministry of memory."

Michael Feely
Chair, CAH

=== **END OF REPORT** ===

X.d COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (CEC)

One of the drivers of a vital congregation is “effective, equipped, and inspired clergy leadership.” The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) views its work as one way to help make this “driver” possible in our local churches. Our responsibility is to ensure that every pastor serving a full-time appointment receives a fair and just compensation for the pastor’s service. The CEC recommends conference standards of pastoral support in the form of minimum salary levels. This amount is what we determine to be the minimum salary necessary to support a pastoral family. **We do not determine or recommend pay increases for clergy above the minimum levels. That is the responsibility of the local church.**

The purpose of equitable compensation is to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference. This purpose will be accomplished by the following:

- a) Recommending conference standards for pastoral support;
- b) Recommending funds to be used in compensation supplementation;
- c) Providing counsel and advisory material on clergy support to district superintendents and committees on staff/pastor parish relations.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will accomplish these objectives by:

- a) Performing an annual review and recommendations of minimum salary levels;
- b) Submitting an annual budget request adequate to fund equitable salary needs;
- c) Providing direction and oversight in the disbursement of this fund;
- d) Providing counsel and advisory support to the Cabinet and Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR EQUITABLE COMPENSATION SUPPORT

To be eligible for Equitable Compensation support, a charge should comply with the guidelines regarding fiscal responsibility and other policies of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation.

These guidelines are as follows:

1. There shall be a Committee on Finance for the charge or for each congregation of the charge making application.
2. There shall be an educational program (approved by the District Superintendent) emphasizing specific stewardship goals of regular proportionate giving and tithing.
3. There shall be at least a simple income projection and spending plan for the congregation making application for a grant. A copy of that plan is to be attached to the application. No application will be considered complete until that plan is received.
4. The church/charge will have worked with the District Superintendent in reaching agreed-upon goals related to its district and conference giving.
5. Requests shall be for a specific length of time, not to exceed four years. A specific written plan for getting off Equitable Compensation Support shall be submitted as a part of the application. The plan should be reviewed and updated at least annually to determine that adequate progress toward the ultimate goal is being achieved and celebrated. The total amount that the charge can expect over the four-year period would be determined up front. (Example: Total amount = \$25,000; year one - \$10,000; year two - \$7,500; year three - \$5,000; year four - \$2,500; year five - \$0.) The charge must annually pick up the 25% decrease from the previous year plus any increase in the minimum salary for its pastor as set by the conference for the coming year.
6. There shall be an annual audit, and a copy of the most recent audit shall accompany the application. No application shall be considered complete without the most recent annual audit being provided.

7. If, due to unusual circumstances, a church requests to be granted funds under the “mission situation” classification, it must substantiate its request by clearly defining its distinctive mission ministry and convince the Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation that the situation is as deserving of mission support as are other critical mission needs.

APPLICATION AND DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

The district superintendent must submit an application for each pastor to receive funds. These forms are available from the Administrative Services Office. The application must be presented at the Charge Conference, approved, and signed by the charge conference secretary, the pastor, and the district superintendent. This requirement is waived on mid-year pastoral changes; however, the district superintendent must sign the application and process it accordingly.

Step 1: The district superintendent is responsible for the recommendation of pastors who are eligible for equitable compensation within his/her respective district. To determine eligibility, the following items must be reported on the application form:

- Total compensation from the charge, including salary, travel allowance, parsonage utilities, social security payment, and pastor’s share of medical insurance premiums (including salary reduction, if applicable).
- Contributions from all other sources at the national, conference, district, and local church levels.
- All other income from church sources.

Step 2: The district superintendent will submit applications to the cabinet representative to the Commission on Equitable Compensation for review by the entire cabinet. Once approved, the applications will be forwarded to the Conference Administrative Services Office for disbursement.

Step 3: The decision of eligibility for and distribution of equitable compensation funds is delegated to the cabinet, which will, insofar as possible, seek to follow the conference guidelines on equitable compensation. The Commission on Equitable Compensation and the Conference Conference Council on Finance and Administration encourage judicious stewardship in the allocation of these funds.

Step 4: The district superintendent shall diligently guide those charges and pastors who receive support in his/her district toward self-sufficiency.

MINIMUM SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FULL-TIME SERVICE BY CONFERENCE MEMBERS

We are aware that many churches are striving to become self-supporting and are on their way to accomplishing this goal. Also, there are churches that are struggling to keep their full-time pastors, and our desire is that they can succeed in this. We trust the cabinet in determining charge alignments and the appointment of clergy that assist those churches. We realize that in the past, many, if not most, churches used our recommendation for increases in minimum salary as the recommendation for all clergy. That is not our role, and churches that pay above minimum levels must determine cost-of-living increases and merit pay amounts appropriate for their clergy.

CATEGORIES TO BE FUNDED AND SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM SALARY LEVELS FOR 2026

For Full-Time Service by Conference Members:

- Full Member (M.Div.) or equivalent degree...\$50,750
- Provisional Member/Associate Member...\$47,000

For Service as Full-Time Local Pastors:

- Master of Divinity (M.Div.)/Completed Studies...\$43,750
- In Process of Completing Studies...\$40,750

Equitable Compensation will be based on the Pastor's Support Worksheet. The Administrative Services Office will send payments directly to the church treasurers rather than to the pastors. The treasurers are to include the funds in the pastor's paychecks and account for them on the pastor's W-2 forms. Equitable Compensation Supplements shall not be included in the pastor's compensation line item on end-of-year reports.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests a budget of \$360,000 for Cabinet use.

	2024 - revised	2025	2026
Salary Supplement	225,000	204,500	95,000
Supplements — Missional	35,000	35,000	25,000
Supplements — Cooperative	45,000	45,000	
Sustentation Pay	175,000	175,000	95,000
Meeting Expenses	0	0	0
Total	\$480,000	\$459,500	\$215,000

CHARGE CATEGORIES

Equitable Compensation Charge: A charge in which the proposed equitable salary schedule is not fully paid by the charge, but which possesses the potential to become self-sustaining. The amount of funding will be reduced by 25% per year, with the church becoming self-sufficient within four years. Funding beyond four years will be subject to a review by a joint committee of the Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

Mission Aid Ministry or Cooperative Parish:

Mission Aid Ministry: A ministry, rural or urban, where the minimum salary level cannot be paid for by the ministry, either in full or in part; and where there is no realistic expectation of financial independence. The district, the pastor serving the ministry, and a representative of the related charge conference are responsible for justifying the designation of such a ministry and why it qualifies for aid. The designation is to be reviewed annually.

Cooperative Parish: A cooperative parish is a group ministry made up of two or more charges for the purpose of enhancing ministry among churches in a specific geographical area. The expectation is that any request for equitable salary funds in a cooperative parish shall meet the approved guidelines and standards for equitable compensation.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

For a pastor to receive an Equitable Compensation Supplement, he or she must be under Episcopal appointment as an approved full-time pastor.

A seminary or college student may be appointed full or part-time as a local pastor to a charge and will receive at least the appropriate minimum salary of the Annual Conference in accordance with paragraph 318.3 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline. Students who qualify as full-time local pastors will receive at least the appropriate minimum salary of the Annual Conference.

A local pastor may be considered full-time when he or she is in pursuit of a college or seminary degree as long as the student is taking less than a full-time class load as defined by the school in which he/she is enrolled. He or she must reside within the geographical bounds of the charge.

Full-time pastors who are also students and receiving equitable compensation will be expected to do the following:

- Work at least 2-1/2 days per week on-site.
- Work full-time each week the student is not in school.
- Be absent from Sunday worship no more than three Sundays per year.

The charge/church receiving salary supplementation must pay at least 50% of the minimum salary, provide housing or a housing allowance for the pastor, and offer Sunday school and other local church programs in addition to weekly worship services.

A charge not meeting this standard is not eligible for salary supplementation, even if served by a student. Students serving a charge in this category will be classified as part-time local pastors and receive only the salary level paid by the charge.

Utility costs should be considered when making appointments. If the utilities are paid by the charge, this should be considered as part of the salary. The utilities should always be in the name of the charge/church and not the pastor. Each charge should provide for its pastor's travel expenses in its budget and provide reimbursement at the standard IRS-approved mileage rate for all properly documented travel expenses related to the performance of ministry within the charge.

STEPS IN BECOMING A SELF-SUPPORTING CHARGE/CHURCH

The Cabinet is responsible for the conserving of conference funds by ongoing efforts to move charges to a self-supporting status. Recommendation is that each charge receiving supplemental salary establish the goal of reducing the equitable compensation supplement by 25% per year over a four-year period. The district superintendent will work with the charge to develop a plan and to monitor the implementation of the plan so that the goal of reducing equitable compensation by 25% per year over a four-year period will be realized. The Annual Conference should recognize those charges that succeed and move to a self-supporting status for their achievement.

The District Superintendent will establish and maintain communication with the appropriate charge leaders (i.e., the pastor, the SPPR chairperson, the treasurer, the lay leader, etc.), reminding them of the charge's progress in reducing equitable compensation. This ongoing communication is intended to keep the goal before the charge and to help encourage and enable the charge to reach its goal.

In those situations where this is not possible, it is the responsibility of the Cabinet to consider regrouping of charges, mergers, or the matching of ministerial leadership to the category of salary paid by the charge to provide service at minimum expense to the Annual Conference.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE ARREARAGE POLICY

Any church that is unable to pay its pastor's salary and/or benefits when due must notify, both verbally (within 24 hours) and in writing (within 3 days), the pastor and district superintendent. Written notification can include email. Upon receipt of such notice, the district superintendent will notify the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation of the issue for its expeditious disposition.

The statute of limitations for filing a claim for funds from the annual conference (i.e., notification to the District Superintendent) for any salary arrearage is 90 days from the date of the initial arrearage. Once an appointment ends, the pastor no longer has claim on the local church for compensation funds (§342.4, Discipline).

Further, churches or charges with full-time clergy which are in arrears to the annual conference with respect to benefits payments (pension and insurance) will be reported in the annual conference Handbook and Journal as "churches receiving equitable compensation." These specific churches or charges will be reported based on the following methodology: If the total balance due as of December 31 of the current year is greater than the total balance due as of December 31 of the previous year, said church or charge will be reported as a church or charge having received Equitable Compensation Funds. The amount recorded in the report will equate to the total difference between this year's total balance due and last year's total balance due. Churches with benefits arrearage who pay their pastor(s) above minimum cash compensation have 18 months from January 1 to pay the previous year benefits in full or reduce base salary to the conference minimum cash compensation.

JUST COMPENSATION TASK FORCE

Finally, in addition to the other recommendations outlined in this report, the Holston Conference CEC recommends the establishment of a Just Compensation Task Force. Beyond recommending minimum salary levels, Holston has a need to ensure that the clergy of Holston are compensated justly, equitably, and at levels that support living costs in our region. If approved by the Annual Conference, this working group will study salary levels and living costs across our Conference and make recommendations to the CEC relative to any aspect of clergy compensation in the Holston Conference.

The Just Compensation Task Force will be selected from a pool established using nominations made by District Superintendents and self-nominations. The Task Force shall consist of a minimum of ten and a maximum of thirteen members. The Task Force shall consist of two to three members of the CEC together with another eight to ten diverse members, who may represent the Conference Commission on the Status and role of Women, the Conference Commission on Religion and Race, the multiple orders of clergy (Elder in Full Connection, Provisional Elder, Associate Member, and Local Pastor), and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. At the Bishop's discretion, the Bishop may appoint one person to ensure equity and diversity. Nominations will be received by July 31, 2025, and the established Task Force will begin work no later than September 30, 2025.

Respectfully submitted: ~ Rev. Clair Sauer, Chair

==== **END OF REPORT** =====

X.f COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (CON)

Names are listed in this report including the following information where available: (L/C) Name (District)(YYYY)

- Status: Lay (L) or Clergy (C)
- Name of individual serving
- Home District
- Year started on Leadership Group

A CABINET, TEAMS, BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, MINISTRY AREAS**I CABINET**

Chairperson Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
 Assistant to the Bishop Kimberly Goddard
 Executive Assistant to the Bishop Lori Sluder
 Dean of the Cabinet Angela Hardy Cross

Appointment Cabinet/District Superintendents:

- Appalachian / Three Rivers C. Scott Spence
- Clinch Mountain / New River Jane Taylor
- Hiwassee / Scenic South Nathan Malone
- Mountain View Angela Hardy Cross
- Smoky Mountain Angela Hardy Cross
- Tennessee Valley Ann Robins

Extended Cabinet (all of the above as well as):

- Conference Lay Leader Rebecca “Becky” Hall
- Conference Secretary/Director, Clergy Services Terry D. Goodman
- Conference Treasurer/Director, Administrative Services Fred Staley
- Director, Congregational Development and Revitalization & Connectional Ministries Susan Arnold
- Associate Director, Multicultural Ministries Leah Burns
- Director, Communications Timothy “Tim” W. Jones, Jr.
- President, Holston Foundation LeRae Edwards Collins
- Conference Chancellor Mike Eastridge

II COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson (L) Clayton Hensley
 Vice-Chairperson (L) Kelly Price-Rhea
 Secretary (L) Jessie Buttram

Members:

- (C) Leah Burns (TV)(2021)
- (C) William R Shelton II (TV)(2021)
- (L) Joanna Corvin (NR)(2023)
- (L) Katie Strangis (TV)(2023)
- (L) Clayton Hensley (SM)(2018)
- (L) Kelly Price-Rhea (MV)(2023)
- (C) Daniel Nettleton (NR)(2024)
- (L) Jessie Buttram (TV)(2024)
- (L) Reagan Kelly (HI)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Editor, The Call Annette Spence
- Digital Media Specialist Ben Smith
- Director of Communications / Staff Resource / Representative, Cabinet Timothy Jones

III COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson (C) Jim Goddard
Vice-Chairperson (C) Palmer Cantler
Secretary (C) Crystal Fallesen

Members:

- (C) Drew McCallie (TV)(2021)
- (C) Palmer Cantler (TV)(2021)
- (C) Karen Black (MV)(2021)
- (C) Will Lauderback (SS)(2021)
- (C) Jim Goddard (NR)(2023)
- (C) Leah Burns (TV)(2024)
- (L) Keenan Gerbach (SM)(2024)
- (C) Elizabeth Hernandez-Lopez (NR)(2024)
- (L) Ben Smith (TV)(2024)
- (C) Robert Kariuki Nyaga (CM)(2024)
- (C) Chris Black (HI)(2024)
- (C) Crystal Fallesen (SS)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Congregational Development Operational Team Member Nathan Dugger
- Staff Resource / Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold

IV BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Chairperson (C) Alex Thompson

Members:

- (C) Alex Thompson (HI)(2023)
- (L) Leanna Johnson (TR)(2024)
- (L) Tracy Gartmann (SS)(2024)
- (C) Randall Wright (SM)(2024)
- (L) Noe Agustin Martinez (CM)(2024)
- (L) Deidra Guyton (NR)(2024)
- (L) Kelly Price-Rhea (MV)(2024)
- (C) Amanda Dean (SS)(2024)
- (C) Justin Keating (MV)(2024)
- (L) Cooper Reaves (TR)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource Laura McLean
- Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold

V BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Chairperson Rebecca “Becky” Hall (SS)
 Vice-Chairperson To be named
 Secretary Amy Blumberg (MV)

District Lay Leaders:

- Appalachian Wesley Eastridge
- Clinch Mountain Sue Tilson
- Hiwassee Ginger Buchanan
- Mountain View Linda West Schumann
- New River Deborah Neal
- Scenic South Dobbin Callahan
- Smoky Mountain Glenda Eastridge
- Tennessee Valley Renni Morris
- Three Rivers Jennifer Mongold

Conference Presidents:

- United Women in Faith Donna Mosby
- United Methodist Youth Sarah Thomas (HI)

Members-at-Large:

- (C) Amy Blumberg (TR)(2022)
- (L) Cecil Flournoy Sr. (SS)(2022)
- (L) Thomas Fox (SM)(2024)
- (L) Johnnie Bridges (TV)(2024)
- (L) Mary Jeffries (NR)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Conference Director, Lay Servant Ministry Bobby Stair
- Staff Resource Lori Sluder
- Representative, Cabinet Rebecca “Becky” Hall

VI DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Chairperson.....(C) Randall Wright
 Secretary (L) Lori Sluder

Members:

- (C) Sharon Bowers (CM)(2022)
- (C) Steve Yeane (HI)(2023)
- (L) Theresa Taylor (CM)(2023)
- (C) Randall Wright (SM)(2017)
- (L) Mark Wilson (TV)(2024)
- (C) David Hall (SS)(2024)
- (C) Josh Kilbourne (NR)(2024)
- (L) Mary Jeffries (NR)(2024)
- (C) M. Stacey Morgan (MV)(2024)
- (L) Joanna Corvin (NR)(2024)
- (C) Christopher Dover (HI)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop..... Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Conference Lay Leader..... Rebecca “Becky” Hall
- Chair, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.....Alex Thompson
- Director of Connectional MinistriesMike Sluder

Chairpersons with vote:

- Missions Ministry TeamSamuel Dzobo
- Nurture Ministry Team Samuel Ward
- Outreach/Advocacy Ministry Team..... Lori Sluder
- Stewardship Ministry TeamPaul Seay
- Witness Ministry Team Teresa Atkins McClure

Representatives without vote (named by respective groups):

- Board of Ordained Ministry.....Sharon Bowers
- Communications Advisory Council.....Leah Burns
- Staff Resource Susan Groseclose
- Representative, CabinetSusan Arnold

VI.a MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson..... (C) Samuel Dzobo

Members:

- (L) Angela Love (SS)(2022)
- (C) Samuel Dzobo (TV)(2023)
- (C) V. Kaye Seay (CM)(2024)
- (C) Donald Shelor (NR)(2024)
- (L) Dedri Minutolo (TR)(2024)
- (L) Anna Kapoor (TR)(2024)
- (L) Deborah Neal (NR)(2024)
- (C) Ken Sauer (TV)(2024)
- (C) Melissa R Smith (HI)(2024)
- (L) Laura Smith (TV)(2024)
- (C) Fred Dearing (SS)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Chair, Advance..... Brooke Atchley
- Chair, Church and Community Worker Committee Leann Miller
- Coordinator of South Sudan Missions..... Danny Howe
- Representative, United Women in Faith..... Susan Daffron
- Volunteer in Mission Coordinator.....Chris Brown
- Conference Secretary of Global Ministries/Staff Resource.....Mike Sluder
- Director, Connectional Ministries / Representative, CabinetSusan Arnold

VI.b NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson(C) Samuel Ward

Members:

- (C) Kimberly Isley-Selby (AP)(2023)
- (L) Lisa Whitlock (HI)(2023)
- (C) Samuel Ward (SM)(2023)
- (L) Cheechie Wilson (SS)(2023)
- (C) Angela Akers (HI)(2024)
- (L) Cheryl Manis (HI)(2024)
- (C) Brooke Hartman (TV)(2024)
- (C) Austin Byerly (SM)(2024)
- (C) Emma Ward (TR)(2025)

Representatives with vote (named by respective groups):

- Camp and Retreat Ministries Board Mary Thompson
- Children's Ministries Team Susan Groseclose
- Young Adult Ministry Team Laura McLean
- Council on Youth Ministries Council to name
- Board of Lay Ministry Representative Rebecca "Becky" Hall
- Staff Resource Susan Groseclose
- Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold

VI.b.1 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson (L) Margaret Frazier

Vice-Chairperson(L) Josh Bass

Secretary (L) Rachel Dow

Members:

- (L) Margaret Frazier (AP)(2022)
- (L) Rachel Dow (SS)(2022)
- (L) Marybeth Hammett (SS)(2022)
- (L) Danaya Randolph (SM)(2023)
- (L) Josh Bass (CM)(2024)
- (L) Zenobia Dobson (TV)(2024)
- (L) Beth Spears (SS)(2024)
- (L) Betty Billingsley (NR)(2024)
- (C) Crystal Fallesen (SS)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource Susan Groseclose
- Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold

VI.b.2 CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

CCYM President(L) Sarah Thomas (HI)

Coordinator of District Coordinators(C) Pat Tipton (AP)

Coordinator of Youth Ministries Laura McLean

Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold

VI.b.3 YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson..... (L) Ben Smith

Members:

- (L) Taylor Hines (NR)(2021)
- (L) Kyle Smith (AP)(2021)
- (L) Molly Haymore (SM)(2023)
- (L) Ghadah Conner (NR)(2023)
- (L) Kennedy Moore (SS)(2024)
- (L) Abby Bryant (HI)(2024)
- (L) Matthew Gilbert (AP)(2024)
- (C) Magan Stubblefield (SM)(2024)
- (L) Ben Smith (TV)(2024)
- (C) G Keith Moore (SS)(2024)
- (C) Daniel Castillo (SM)(2024)
- (C) MacKenzie Henningsen (CM)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Campus Ministries William Skip White
- Staff Resource Laura McLean
- Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold

VI.b.4 CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY BOARD

Chairperson.....(C) Sarah Varnell

Secretary(C) Brandon Berg

Finance Chair(L) Sarah Clegg

Personnel Chair(L) Deanna Unger

Members:

- (C) Clayton Farmer (CM)(2021)
- (C) Brandon Berg (TV)(2016)
- (L) Sarah Clegg (SS)(2019)
- (C) Rusty Taylor (SM)(2021)
- (C) Sarah Varnell (MV)(2021)
- (L) Jacob Ducote (HI)(2021)
- (L) Anne Travis (SM)(2018)
- (C) David Payne (NR)(2022)
- (C) Amanda Dean (SS)(2018)
- (L) Les Fout (TV)(2023)
- (L) Jim Hayes (TV)(2023)
- (L) Deanna Unger (TV)(2023)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Director of Connectional Ministries Susan Arnold
- Representative, Cabinet Ann Robins
- Camp and Retreat Ministries Executive Director / Staff Resource Mary Thompson
- Site Directors: John Maynard, Rhea Thurman, Jeff Wadley, Donald Washburn, Whitney Winston
- Site Board Chairpersons: Ashley Cross, Mary Whitaker, Jim Goddard, Rebekah Ducote, Justin Hall

VI.b.5 OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson (C) Michelle Hunter

Members:

- (L) Cindy Mishtal (HI)(2023)
- (L) RoseAnne Bell (TV)(2023)
- (L) Joan De Tar (TV)(2023)
- (C) Michelle Hunter (SS)(2023)
- (C) Jennifer McIntyre (SM)(2023)
- (L) Gaye King (TV)(2023)
- (C) Sue Lynn Johnson (TV)(2024)
- (L) Johnnie Bridges (TV)(2024)
- (L) Ralph Skinner (TV)(2025)
- (C) Adam McKee (SS)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource / Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold
- Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship Susan Groseclose

VI.c OUTREACH / ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson (L) Lori Sluder

Vice Chairperson (L) Barbara Hodges

Members:

- (L) Barbara Hodges (MV)(2021)
- (L) Lori Sluder (SM)(2024)
- (C) J. Steve Patterson (CM)(2022)
- (C) Patricia Tipton (AP)(2024)
- (L) Karla Kurtz (NR)(2024)
- (C) Clair Sauer (TV)(2024)
- (C) Jeffrey L Tallent (CM)(2024)
- (C) Clay Holt (NR)(2024)
- (C) Walter Cross (TV)(2024)
- (L) Danny Tullier (SS)(2024)

Chairperson, Religion and Race Ministry Area (C) Donna Mosby

Chairperson, Status and Role of Women Ministry Area (C) Sarah Slack

Chairperson, Creation Care (L) Jan Berry

Chairperson, Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Relationships Ministry Area (L) Carolyn Lawhorn

Chairperson, Disability Concerns (L) Steve Richardson

Ex-Officio Members: (named by the Team):

- Representative, Alcohol and Related Issues C. Don Jones
- Coordinator, Peace with Justice Pat Bellingrath
- Chairperson, Strength for the Journey Team Carol Price-Guthrie
- Staff Resource Lori Sluder
- Representative, Cabinet Angela Hardy Cross

VI.c.1 RELIGION AND RACE MINISTRY AREA

Chairperson..... (C) Donna Mosby

Members:

- (C) Terryl James (SS)(2021)
- (C) Jodie Ihfe (TR)(2023)
- (C) Harry Grubb (NR)(2023)
- (C) Donna Mosby (TV)(2023)
- (L) Chris Duple (CM)(2023)
- (L) Mark Brown II (TV)(2024)
- (C) Carol Price-Guthrie (TV)(2024)
- (C) Brenda Bell-McAdams (MV)(2024)
- (C) Kimberly Isley-Selby (AP)(2024)
- (L) Theresa Taylor (CM)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Hispanic Ministry Team..... Felix Perez-Alvarez
- Representative, CabinetAngela Hardy Cross
- Staff Resource / Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural MinistriesLeah Burns

VI.c.2 CHURCH AND SOCIETY MINISTRY AREA

Chairperson..... (L) Mary Ellis Richardson

Vice Chairperson..... (L) Ben Smith

Members:

- (C) Walter Cross (TV)(2024)
- (L) Deidra Guyton (NR)(2024)
- (L) Mary Ellis Richardson (TV)(2024)
- (L) Zenobia Dobson (TV)(2024)
- (C) Joshua Felton (SS)(2024)
- (L) Ben Smith (TV)(2024)
- (L) Austin Wall (TV)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource / Representative, Cabinet / Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural MinistriesLeah Burns

VI.c.3 STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN MINISTRY AREA

Chairperson..... (C) Sarah Slack

Members:

- (L) Mia Foote (CM)(2024)
- (C) Ethan Johnson (CM)(2024)
- (L) Karla Kurtz (NR)(2024)
- (C) Vickie Moore (MV)(2024)
- (C) Sarah Slack (SM)(2024)
- (C) Mary Grace Ellis (AP)(2024)
- (C) Denna Hornby (TV)(2024)
- (C) Melissa Malcolm (AP)(2024)
- (L) Melanie Willetts (HI)(2024)
- (C) Charlotte Williams (SS)(2024)
- (L) Jennifer Hooper (MV)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource / Representative, Cabinet / Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural MinistriesLeah Burns

VI.c.4 CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS MINISTRY AREA

Chairperson..... (L) Carolyn Lawhorn

Vice Chairperson..... (C) T Chase Crickenberger

Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • (L) Carolyn Lawhorn (SS)(2024) | • (C) T Chase Crickenberger (AP)(2024) |
| • (C) Felix Perez-Alvarez (AP)(2024) | • (L) Michael Reynolds (SS)(2024) |
| • (L) Katie Sumner (HI)(2024) | • (C) Linda Rozar (TR)(2024) |

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource / Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries Leah Burns
- Representative, Cabinet Kim Goddard

VI.c.5 DISABILITY CONCERNS

Chairperson (L) Steve Richardson (TV)(2024)(1)

VI.c.6 STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY TEAM

Chairperson..... (C) Carol Price-Guthrie

Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • (L) Steve Reis (TR)(2021) | • (C) Peggy Meade (AP)(2024) |
| • (L) Carol Price-Guthrie (TV)(2023) | • (C) Wayne Cook (SS)(2024) |
| • (C) Mary Grace Ellis (AP)(2024) | • (L) Kathryn King (SM)(2024) |
| • (C) Valerie Ohle (SM)(2024) | • (L) Gaye King (SM)(2024) |
| • (C) Diana Brown Taylor (TV)(2024) | • (C) Jimmy Sherrod (TV)(2024) |

Ex-Officio Members:

- Founding Director..... Dot Avers
- Staff Resource..... Charlotte Riggins
- Representative, Cabinet Jane Taylor

VI.c.7c ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER OF OAK RIDGE

Name.....	Elected/.....	Term.....	Term	Year Non-elig
Appointed	1st 3 Year	2nd 3 Year	Re-Election Elig	
Bonnie Mihealsick	Elected	2021-2023	2024-2026	2027
Clinton Wolfley	Elected	2021-2023	2024-2026	2027-2028
Nicole Allen	Elected	2021-2023	2024-2026	2027-2028
Brian Cook	Elected	2021-2023	2024-2026	2027-2028
Derrick Hammond	Elected (Chairperson 2024-2026)	2021-2023	2023-2026	2027-2028
Gene Patterson	Elected	2024-2026		
Christine Michaels	Elected	2024-2026		
Diane Ward.....	Elected	2024-2026		
Shawn Smith	Appointed (Foundation Board Member)	2023-2025		
Dr. Milan Sheth.....	Appointed (Chief of Staff)	2023-2025		
Adam McKee, III	Appointed (District Sup-Holston)	2009		
Mr. Jeremy Biggs	Appointed (MMC Executive)			
Ms. Catherine Bunch	Appointed (MMC Executive)			
Ms. Jacque Alt.....	Appointed (MMC Executive)			
Mr. Jay Shepherd	Appointed (MMC Executive)			

VI.c.8 NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES TEAM

Chairperson..... (C) Kristie Banes

Members:

- (L) Myra Buffaloe (TV)(2021)(Vice Chairperson)
- (C) Kristie Banes (MV)(2022)
- (L) Bonnie Seiber (TV)(2022)
- (C) Randy Mutter (AP)(2023)
- (L) Jonnie Faye Ball (TV)(2024)
- (C) V. Richard Tallent (SM)(2024)
- (L) LeAnn Luttrell Trotter (SM)(2024)
- (C) Angela Sowers (NR)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold
- Staff Resource / Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries Leah Burns

VI.c.9 AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson..... (C) Peter Kenny

Members:

- (C) Peter Kenny (SM)(2023)
- (C) Robert Kariuki Nyaga (CM)(2024)
- (L) Karen High (TV)(2024)
- (L) James Guthrie Jr. (TV)(2024)
- (L) Keith Lindsey (TV)(2024)
- (C) Gerald “Jerry” Jones (HI)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Religion and Race Ministry Area..... Donna Mosby
- Director of Connectional Ministry..... Susan Arnold
- Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries..... Leah Burns

VI.d STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson (C) Paul Seay

Members:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • (C) Will Conner (TV)(2021) | • (L) Bobby Stair (TV)(2024) |
| • (C) Sabine Collins (TV)(2021) | • (L) Rachael Barnett (TR)(2024) |
| • (L) Austin Fesmire (HI)(2023) | • (C) Tim Robinson (AP)(2024) |
| • (L) Ron White (SS)(2023) | • (L) Robbie Hicks (CM)(2024) |
| • (C) Paul Seay (CM)(2024) | • (L) Samantha Johnson (TV)(2025) |
| • (C) Sarah Varnell (MV)(2024) | • (C) Katie Beth Bordwine (CM)(2025) |

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Cabinet / Director, Connectional Ministries Susan Arnold
- Staff Resource Richard Edwards
-

VI.e WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson (C) Teresa Atkins McClure

Members:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • (C) Dave Whaley (HI)(2021) | • (C) Jim Goddard (NR)(2024) |
| • (L) Dan Young (SS)(2021) | • (L) Anna Dirl (TV)(2024) |
| • (C) Brenda Bell-McAdams (MV)(2023) | • (C) William R Shelton II (TV)(2024) |
| • (C) Cindy Paxton (NR)(2023) | • (C) Joseph “Joey” Manis (HI)(2024) |
| • (C) Teresa Atkins McClure (TV)(2024) | • (L) Deidra Guyton (NR)(2024) |
| • (C) Annette Warren (CM)(2024) | |

Ex-Officio Members:

- Chairperson, Small Membership Congregation Team Victor Dingus
- Chairperson, Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team Felix Perez-Alvarez
- Director, Congregational Development and Revitalization Susan Arnold
- Staff Resource Susan Groseclose
- Representative, Cabinet Becky Hall

VI.e.1 SMALL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION TEAM

Chairperson..... (C) Vanessa Trice Wallace

Members:

- (C) Andrew Braxton Cotton (SS)(2020)
- (L) Sherrie Martin (TV)(2024)
- (C) Harry Grubb (NR)(2024)
- (C) Linda Rozar (TR)(2024)
- (L) Krystal Gourley (TV)(2024)
- (C) Terry James (SS)(2024)
- (C) Daniel Lee Garrett (CM)(2024)
- (C) Vanessa Trice Wallace (SS)(2024)
- (L) Donna Mosby (TV)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Special Advisor Bishop Richard C. Looney
- Staff Resource Susan Groseclose
- Representative, Cabinet Susan Arnold

VI.e.2 HISPANIC / LATINO LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chairperson..... (C) Felix Perez-Alvarez

Members:

- (L) Cristiana Jimenez Wright(TV)(2023)
- (C) Jennifer Spieth (TV)(2023)
- (L) Moises Martinez (CM)(2023)
- (C) Felix Perez-Alvarez (MV)(2023)
- (C) Jason Ratliff (NR)(2025)
- (L) Amanda Smith (NR)(2025)
- (C) Ron Fisher (SM)(2025)
- (L) Haden Scott (MV)(2025)
- (C) Laura Rasor (CM)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource / Associate Director, Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries..... Leah Burns
- Representative, Cabinet Angela Hardy Cross, Jane Taylor

VI.f COMMITTEE ON SEXUAL ETHICS AND BOUNDARIES

Chairperson.....(C) Carmel Day

Members:

- (L) Donita Denton (TR)(2021)
- (L) Judy Cole (TR)(2021)
- (L) Harold Bryson (SS)
- (C) Diana Brown Taylor (TV)(2023)
- (C) Carmel Day (MV)(2023)
- (C) Mary Grace Ellis (AP)(2024)
- (L) Karla Kurtz (NR)(2024)
- (L) Ben McDonald (HI)(2024)
- (C) Robert “Bob” Ruth (AP)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Board of Ordained Ministry Mary Jeffries
- Director, Center for Wellbeing..... Kathy Heustess
- Conference Secretary / Staff Resource Terry Goodman

VI.g INVITATION TEAM

Co-Chairperson.....(C) Kimberly Goddard
 Co-Chairperson..... (L) Becky Hall

Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| • (C) Ray Amos, Jr | • (L) J. Del Holley |
| • (C) Sarah Varnell | • (C) Jonathan Jonas |
| • (C) Kim Goddard | • (C) Micah Nicholas |
| • (C) Timothy Hale | • (C) Mickey Rainwater |
| • (L) Becky Hall | • (C) Scott Spence |
| • (C) Angela Hardy Cross | • (C) Bishop Wallace-Padgett |

VI.h MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

VI.I COMMITTEE ON DISMANTLING RACISM

Chairperson.....(C) Leah Burns

Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • (C) Sharon Bowers (CM)(2022) | • (C) Leah Burns (TV)(2021) |
| • (C) Laura Plaster (TR)(2021) | • (L) Jacqueline Westfield (HI)(2021) |
| • (C) Robert Nyaga (CM)(2021) | • (L) Carrie Hopper (TV)(2021) |
| • (C) Andrew Lay (HI)(2021) | • (L) Anthony Oliveira (NR)(2021) |
| • (C) Brenda Bell-McAdams (MV)(2021) | • (L) Brett Jonas (SM)(2021) |
| • (C) Don Hanshew (TV)(2021) | • (L) Steven Reis (TR)(2021) |
| • (C) Charlotte Williams (SS)(2021) | • (L) Betty Yeomans-Barton (TR)(2021) |
| • (C) Drew McCallie (SS)(2021) | • (L) Tyson Jones (SS)(2022) |
| • (C) Barbara Clark (TV)(2021) | • (C) Feliz Perez-Alvarez (SM)(2023) |
| • (C) Sarah Slack (SM)(2021) | • (C) Barbara Doyle (CM) |
| • (C) Jimmy Sherrod (TV)(2021) | |

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop..... Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Communications Committee Representative Ben Smith
- Representatives, Cabinet.....Angela Hardy Cross

VII. BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY (BOM)

Chairperson (C) Glenna Manning*
 Vice Chairperson..... (C) Micah Nicolaus*
 Secretary (C) Mary K Briggs*

Division: Chair, Division of Deacons Stephanie Parrott*
 Division: Chair, Division of Elders..... David Graybeal*
 Division: Co-Chair, Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members Susan Arnold* and Charles Starks*

Committee: Chair, Diversity, Equality, Inclusion, Belonging (DEIB) Sharon Bowers*
 Committee: Chair, Provisional Mentoring and Recruitment (RIM) Adam T. Love*
 Committee: Chair, Conference Relations (CRC) Annette Warren*
 Committee: Chair, Vocational Discernment (VDC) Bradley K. Hyde*
 Committee: Chair, Psychological Assessment (PAC)..... Kristen Burkhardt*
 Committee: Chair, Wesley Leadership Institute (WLI) Susan Groseclose*
 Liaison: District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) Sarah Slack*

Members: (Status) Clergy (District)

• (C) Raymond W. Amos (FE)(CM)	• (C) Susan L Groseclose (FD)(SM)	• (C) William Shelton (FE)(TV)
• (C) Susan N Arnold (FE)(TR)	• (C) Timothy Hale (FE)(NR)	• (C) Sarah Slack (FE)(SM)
• (C) Aaron Dana Atchley (FE)(TR)	• (C) Bradley K Hyde (FE)(TV)	• (C) Melissa R Smith (FE)(HI)
• (C) Teresa Atkins McClure (FE)(TV)	• (C) Robert Kariuki Nyaga (FE)(CM)	• (C) J Michael Stallings (FD)(TV)
• (C) James L Bennington (FE)(CM)	• (C) Justin Keating (FE)(MV)	• (C) Talmage Stanley (FE)(CM)
• (C) Timothy J Best (FE)(TV)	• (C) Elihugh Kilgore (FE)(HI)	• (C) Charles W Starks (FE)(SS)
• (C) Christopher E Black (FE)(HI)	• (C) Andrew Lay (FE)(SM)	• (C) Magan Stubblefield (FE)(SM)
• (C) Sharon Bowers (FE)(MV)	• (C) William L Lauderback (FE)(SS)	• (C) Elizabeth Sullivan (FE)(TR)
• (C) Mary K Briggs (FE)(TV)	• (C) Adam Love (FE)(AP)	• (C) Mary Beth Tipton (FD)(AP)
• (C) Kristen Burkhardt (FE)(MV)	• (C) Glenna B Manning (RD)(TV)	• (C) Vanessa Trice Wallace (FE)(SS)
• (C) William Joseph Conner (FE)(TV)	• (C) Misti McCreary (FE)(NR)	• (C) Annette Warren (AM)(CM)
• (C) Walter H Cross (RA)(TV)	• (C) Micah Nicolaus (FE)(HI)	• (C) Carol E Wilson (RE)(TR)
• (C) Barbara A Doyle (RE)(CM)	• (C) Amy Suzanne Nutt (FE)(SS)	• (C) Sharon Wiley Wright (FE)(CM)
• (C) Caleb Raymond Frazier (FE)(TR)	• (C) Stephanie Parrott (FD)(TV)	
• (C) David W Graybeal (FE)(SS)	• (C) Timothy Robinson (PE)(AP)	

Members: (Status) Laity (District)

• (L) Tina Carter (SS)	• (L) Moises Martinez (CM)	• (L) Mary Jeffries (NR)
• (L) Lauri Hale (TR)	• (L) Deborah Neal (NR)	
• (L) Bob Lockaby (HI)	• (L) Ralph Skinner (TV)	

Ex-Officio Members:

• Co-Chairs, Order of Elders Sharon Bowers*, Betsy Denton*
 • Chair, Order of Deacons Sue Lynn Johnson*
 • Co-Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors..... Denna Hornby (AM)* and J Eric Light (LP)*
 • Director, Clergy Services / BOM Administrative Registrar / Staff Resource..... Terry Goodman
 • Representative(s), Cabinet..... Jane Taylor, Angela Hardy Cross

VIII GROUPS RELATED TO THE CABINET AND ORDAINED MINISTRY

VIII.a ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chairperson..... (C) Nathan Malone

Members:

- (C) Brenda Carroll (2021)
- (C) Nathan Malone (2021)
- (C) Asa Majors (2024)

Alternate Member(s):

- (C) Paul Seay (2024)
- (C) Laura Rasor (2024)

VIII.b COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

Clergy Members:.....Adam McKee, Charles Maynard, Amanda Dean, Doug Fairbanks

Professing Members:Mary Baker, Mike Slimbarski, Julie Bennett

Alternate Clergy:.....Robert Nyaga, David Tabor, John Graham

Alternate Laity:Kelly Price-Rhea, Bob Martin, Bob Lilly

VIII.c.1 ORDER OF DEACONS

Chairperson.....(C) Sue Lynn Johnson

Ex-Officio Member(s):

- Director, Clergy Services / Staff ResourceTerry Goodman

VIII.c.2 ORDER OF ELDERS

Co-Chairpersons(C) Sharon Bowers and (C) Betsy Denton

Ex-Officio Member(s):

- Director, Clergy Services / Staff ResourceTerry Goodman

VIII.d CENTER FOR WELLBEING SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson (C) Brenda Carroll

Members:

- (L) Jim Lewis (SS)(2021)
- (C) Eric Bronkala (TV)(2021)
- (C) Steve Patterson (SM)(2021)
- (C) Brenda Carroll (TV)(2021)
- (C) Greta Smith (SM)(2024)
- (C) Joy Eastridge (AP)(2024)
- (C) Tim Smith (NR)(2024)
- (C) Carol Price-Guthrie (TV)(2024)

Representative, Board of Ordained Ministry Sharon Bowers

Representative, Partners in Crisis Nancy Ridenour

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Cabinet Ann Robins
- Director, Clergy Services / Staff Resource Terry Goodman

VIII.e CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

Chairperson (C) Bob Ruth

Members:

- (L) Victor Barr (TV)(n/a)
- (C) Leah Burns (TV)(n/a)
- (C) Brenda Carroll (TV)(n/a)
- (C) Joy Eastridge (AP)(n/a)
- (C) Bruce Galyon (TV)(n/a)
- (C) Carole Martin (AP)(n/a)
- (L) Donna Mosby (TV)(n/a)
- (L) Samantha Pitkin (TV)(n/a)
- (C) Laura Shearer (SS)(n/a)
- (C) Beth Tipton (AP)(n/a)
- (C) Clair Sauer (TV)(n/a)
- (C) Diana Brown Taylor (TV)(n/a)
- (C) David Graybeal (SS)(n/a)
- (C) Nathan Malone (SS)(n/a)

VIII.f MINISTERS' CONVOCATION DESIGN TEAM

Chairperson (C) Misti McCreary

Members:

- (C) Laura Plaster (TR)(2016)
- (C) Andrew Lay (SM)(2016)
- (C) Misti McCreary (NR)(2016)
- (C) Mary Grace Ellis (AP)(2023)
- (C) Terryl James (SS)(2023)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Chair, Order of Deacons Stephanie Parrott
- Co-Chairs, Order of Elders Sharon Bowers and Betsy Denton
- Co-Chairs, Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members Susan Arnold, Charles Starks
- Director, Clergy Services / Staff Resource Terry Goodman
- Director, Communications Tim Jones
- BOM Representative Misti McCreary
- Communications Ben Smith
- Administrative Assistant to Congregational Development and Revitalization Madasun Loy

IX CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Chairperson (C) Michael Vaughn (AP)

Members:

- (C) Jeremy McMillan (SS)(2021)
- (L) George Scott (MV)(2021)
- (L) Andy Nelson (TR)(2021)
- (C) Timothy Hale (NR)(2021)
- (L) Johnnie Bridges (TV)(2021)
- (L) Robert Denney (TR)(2021)
- (L) Carole Myers (SM)(2023)
- (L) Moises Martinez (CM)(2023)
- (C) Carol E Wilson (TR)(2023)
- (C) Michael Vaughn (AP)(2019)
- (L) Keith Lindsey (TV)(2024)
- (C) Daniel H Taylor (TV)(2024)
- (L) Heather Fugatt (CM)(2024)
- (C) Terryl James (SS)(2024)
- (L) Jan Legg (SM)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Conference Treasurer / Staff Resource Fred Staley
- Representative, Cabinet Scott Spence

X ADMINISTRATIONX.a BOARD OF PENSIONS

Chairperson (L) Brent Clark
 Vice Chairperson (C) L. Knox Wimberly
 Secretary (L) Linda Colvin
 Treasurer (L) Fred Staley

Panels:

2025

- (L) Linda Colvin (SM)
- (L) Rick Cooper (TV)
- (C) Jim Whedbee (TV)

2028

- (L) Brent Clark (TV)
- (L) Phyllis Herron (AP)
- (C) Palmer Cantler (TV)

2031

- (L) Charlotte McKee (SS)
- (L) Case Mosby (TV)
- (C) Peter Kenny (SM)

2026

- (L) T.J. Newby (SM)
- (L) Allen Gorrell (CM)
- (C) David Tabor (TV)

2029

- (L) Josh Anderson (TV)
- (L) Samantha Johnson (TV)
- (C) Brooke Atchley (TR)

2032

- (L) Carolyn Kidd (CM)
- (C) Jeremy McMillan (SS)
- (L) Bob Donaghy (HI)

2027

- (L) Lisa Atkins (TV)
- (C) Robert Burlingham (AP)
- (C) Caleb Pitkin (SS)

2030

- (C) L Knox Wimberly (NR)
- (L) Theresa Taylor (CM)
- (L) Jacqueline Brown (SS)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Staff Resource Fred Staley
- Chairperson, Joint Committee on Medical Leave (Incapacity) Brian Burch
- Benefits Officer / Staff Resource Julie Graham
- Consultant Trinity Advisors Chris Poynter / Drew Mann
- Representative, Cabinet Nathan Malone

X.b BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson.....(C) Jason Gattis
Vice Chairperson.....(L) Kate Spencer
Secretary / Treasurer(L) Angel Norman

Members:

- (C) Sandra Johnson (HI)(2021)
- (L) Angel Norman (SM)(2023)
- (L) Kate Spencer (TV)(2023)
- (L) Renni Morris (TV)(2019)
- (C) Dalton Richardson (CM)(2024)
- (C) Jason Gattis (SS)(2024)
- (L) Alpha Alexander (MV)(2024)
- (L) Claudia Stallings (TV)(2024)
- (L) Becky Fritz (SM)(2024)
- (C) Glenn Patterson (CM)(2024)
- (C) Elston McLain (NR)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Conference Treasurer / Staff Resource Fred Staley
- Representative, Conference Council on Finance and Administration Michael Vaughn
- Representative, Cabinet Nathan Malone

X.c COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Chairperson.....(L) Mike Feely

Members:

- (L) Vivian Eckerson (TR)(2023)
- (C) Natalie Justice (CM)(2023)
- (C) Timothy Paul (SM)(2024)
- (C) Joseph “Joey” Manis (HI)(2024)
- (L) Mike Feely (SS)(2023)
- (C) Jason Stubblefield (SM)(2024)
- (C) Dalton Richardson (CM)(2024)
- (C) Ed Blair (NR)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Conference Historian Robert Lee George
- Historical Society, President James Douthat
- Conference Secretary / Staff Terry Goodman
- Representative, Cabinet Kim Goddard
- Conference Archivist Robin Turner

X.d COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Chairperson (C) Clair Sauer

Members:

- (C) Jason Ratliff (NR)(2021)
- (C) Daniel Wright (HI)(2024)
- (C) Peter Kenny (MV)(2024)
- (C) Evelyn Harris (SS)(2024)
- (C) Clair Sauer (TV)(2024)
- (L) Karen Mathas (SM)(2024)
- (L) Robbie Hicks (CM)(2024)
- (C) Rachel Collins (TV)(2024)
- (C) David Jackson (CM)(2024)
- (L) Alpha Alexander (MV)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Conference Treasurer / Sustentation Funds / Staff Resource..... Fred Staley
- Executive Assistant to the Bishop..... Lori Sluder
- Director, Clergy Services / Conference Secretary Terry Goodman
- Representative, Cabinet Scott Spence

X.e COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

Chairperson (L) James Del Holley

Members:

- *(L) Rebecca “Becky” Hall (SS)(2021)
- (C) Liz Hamilton (SS)(2021)
- (C) Walter Cross (TV)(2021)
- (L) Joyce Moore (CM)(2021)
- (L) Oliver McBride (NR)(2021)
- (L) James Del Holley (SM)(2021)
- (L) Dawson Kitts (TV)(2024)
- (C) Sharon Bowers (CM)(2024)
- (L) Alan Eleazer (SM)(2024)
- (C) Jonathan Jonas (SM)(2024)
- (L) Mary Frances Tucker (TV)(2024)
- (L) Katie Sumner (HI)(2024)

Appointed by the Bishop:

- (L) Becky Jaquish (HI)(2021)
- (C) David Payne (NR)(2024)
- (L) Sam England (SM)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Representative, Cabinet Kim Goddard
- Members, Jurisdictional Committee (with vote) Anne Travis, Kim Goddard

X.f COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Chairperson	Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Conference Secretary	Terry Goodman
Assistant to the Bishop.....	Kimberly Goddard
Executive Assistant to the Bishop.....	Lori Sluder

District Superintendents:

• Appalachian	C. Scott Spence
• Clinch Mountain	Jane Taylor
• Hiwassee	Nathan Malone
• Mountain View	Angela Hardy Cross
• New River	Jane Taylor
• Scenic South	Nathan Malone
• Smoky Mountain	Angela Hardy Cross
• Tennessee Valley.....	Ann Robins
• Three Rivers	C. Scott Spence

Extended Cabinet (as well as those listed above):

• Conference Lay Leader.....	Rebecca “Becky” Hall
• Conference Secretary/Director, Clergy Services	Terry D. Goodman
• Conference Treasurer/Director, Administrative Services	Fred Staley
• Director, Congregational Development and Revitalization / Director, Connectional Ministries	Susan Arnold
• Associate Director, Multicultural Ministries	Leah Burns
• Director, Communications.....	Timothy “Tim” W. Jones, Jr.
• President, Holston Foundation.....	LeRae Edwards Collins
• Chair, Conference Strategy Team/Conference Chancellor	Mike Eastridge

Presidents:

• United Methodist Men	Vacant
• United Women in Faith.....	Mary Jeffries
• United Methodist Youth Rep	Sarah Thomas

Ex-Officio Members:

• Chairperson, Discipleship Team	Randall Wright
• Director, Lay Servant Ministry	Bobby Stair
• District Representatives:	
• Appalachian	Wesley Eastridge
• Clinch Mountain	Sue Tilson
• Hiwassee.....	Ginger Buchanan
• Mountain View	Linda West Schumann
• New River	Deborah Neal
• Scenic South	Dobbin Callahan
• Smoky Mountain	Glenda Eastridge
• Tennessee Valley.....	Renni Morris
• Three Rivers	Jennifer Mongold

X.g COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Chairperson (C) Wil Cantrell

Members:

- (C) James Bennington (CM)(2021)
- (L) Matthew Roberts (AP)(2021)
- (L) Danny Tullier (SS)(2021)
- (L) Stephanie Strutner (TV)(2021)
- (C) Wil Cantrell (TV)(2021)
- (L) Michael Eastridge (TR)(2024)
- (C) Barbara Doyle (CM)(2024)
- (C) Cynthia Thompson (MV)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- 2020 Delegate for General Conference (named by Delegation)..... Rebecca “Becky” Hall
- Conference Secretary / Staff Resource Terry Goodman
- Representative, Cabinet Kim Goddard

X.h COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORDER

Chairperson (C) Douglas Grove-DeJarnett

Members:

- (L) Ginger Buchanan (HI)(2021)
- (L) Donna Mosby (TV)(2021)
- (L) Johnnie Bridges (TV)(2023)
- (C) Douglas Grove-DeJarnett (TR)(2024)
- (C) Richard Hayes (AP)(2024)
- (C) Todd Adams (TV)(2024)
- (C) Jeremy McMillan (SS)(2024)
- (L) Brandy Williams (TV)(2025)
- (C) Clay Holt (NR)(2025)
- (C) Evelyn Harris (SS)(2025)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Executive Assistant to the Bishop Lori Sluder
- Conference Secretary / Staff Resource / Representative, Cabinet Terry Goodman
- Chancellor Mike Eastridge
- Parliamentarian Del Holley

X.i EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson or Representative, Committee on Episcopacy Del Holley
 Chairperson or Representative, Board of Trustees Jason Gattis
 Chairperson or Representative, Conf. Council on Finance and Administration Michael Vaughn
 Representative, Cabinet TBA

Ex-Officio Member:

- Executive Assistant to the Bishop Lori Sluder

X.j PERSONNEL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Chairperson.....(C) Terryl James

Members:

- (L) Gail Catron (NR)(2021)
- (C) Daniel Taylor Jr (TV)(2023)
- (C) Magan Stubblefield (SM)(2023)
- (C) Kimberly Dunn (SS)(2023)
- (L) Anne Travis (SM)(2023)
- (L) LeeAnn Foster (SM)(2024)
- (L) Christine M Lee (TV)(2024)
- (L) Kate Spencer (TV)(2024)
- (C) William Randy Frye (AP)(2024)
- (C) Melissa Smith (HI)(2024)
- (L) Phillip J Archer (MV)(2024)

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop..... Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Chairperson or Representative, Committee on Episcopacy..... Del Holley
- Staff Resource / Executive Assistant to the Bishop..... Lori Sluder
- Conference Chancellor Mike Eastridge
- Chairperson or Representative, Conference Council on Finance and Administration..... Terryl James
- Representative, Cabinet..... Fred Staley, Tim Jones

X.k PROGRAM COMMITTEE, ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Bishop..... Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

Conference Secretary..... Terry Goodman

Conference Lay Leader..... Rebecca Hall

President, United Women in Faith..... Donna Mosby

Chair, Discipleship Team..... Randall Wright

Director, Connectional Ministries..... Susan Arnold

Director, Communications..... Tim Jones

Chair, Religion and Race Ministry Area..... Donna Mosby

Chair, Status and Role of Women Ministry Area..... Sarah Slack

Parliamentarian..... James D Holley

Representative, Associate Member..... Annette Warren

Representative, Deacon..... Stephanie Parrott

XI SUPPORT GROUPSXI.a UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

All men of local churches or charges chartered or unchartered within the bounds of the Annual Conference. (2020/2024 BOD ¶648)

Honorary President..... Bishop Wallace-Padgett
 Northern Vice President Powell Kidd
 Secretary James Sink
 Treasurer..... Tom Mitoraj
 Scouting Coordinator Fred Staley
 Prayer Advocate Tom Mitoraj
 Staff Resource Fred Staley
 Representative, Cabinet..... Terry Goodman

District Presidents:
 Appalachian Powell Kidd
 Hiwassee Doug Greene
 Smoky Mountain Jack Vincent
 Tennessee Valley Ralph Skinner

XI.b UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

All members of local units within the bounds of the Conference. (2020/2024 BOD ¶647).

President..... Mary Jeffires
 Vice President Vacant
 Secretary Susan Daffron
 Treasurer Cecilia Henderson
 Communication Coordinator Kelly Price-Rhea
 Sec. of Program Resources Nannette Feeback
 Spiritual Growth..... Deaconess Margaret Fraizer
 Social Action Coordinator..... Donna Gardner
 Committee on Nominations Chair Donna M Mosby
 Mission u Dean Lori Sluder
 UWF National Program Advisory Group
 Representative..... Pat Bellingrath
 Representative, Cabinet Angela Hardy Cross
 Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

District Presidents:
 • Appalachian Mary Watterson
 • Clinch Mountain Beverly Hayden
 • Hiwassee Regina Warfel, Contact
 • Mountain View..... Gail Downs, Contact
 • New River Mitzi Sadler-Thorne
 • Scenic South Angela Love
 • Smoky Mountain..... Lori Sluder
 • Tennessee Valley Danielle Meyers
 • Three Rivers..... Joanne Peters

DISTRICT COMMITTEES ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)APPALACHIAN (AP) DISTRICT

(C) Christopher Brown (Member)
 (C) Lisa C. Bryant (Member)
 (L) James Downs (Member)
 (L) Wesley Eastridge (Member)
 (C) Pierce Edwards (Member)
 (C) Kimberly Isley-Selby (Member)
 (L) Matt Looney (Member)
 (C) Adam Love (Chair)
 (L) Alberta Mitchell (Member)
 (C) James Ray (Member)
 (C) Timothy Robinson (Member)
 (C) Mary Tipton (Member)
 (C) Michael Vaughn (Member)
 (L) Mary Lee Watterson (Member)
 (C) C Scott Spence (DS)

CLINCH MOUNTAIN (CM) DISTRICT

(C) Raymond W. Amos (Member)
 (C) James L. Bennington (Member)
 (C) Clayton R. Farmer (Member)
 (C) Danielle Goad (Member)
 (C) Donna Hester (Registrar)
 (L) Robert Hicks (Member)
 (C) David R. Jackson (Member)
 (L) Allen Johnsey (Member)
 (C) Robert Kariuki Nyaga (Member)
 (C) Paul Seay (Chair)
 (C) David T. St. Clair (Member)
 (C) Talmage Stanley (Member)
 (C) Jane Elizabeth Taylor (DS)
 (L) Theressa Taylor (Member)
 (C) Annette Warren (Member)
 (C) Sharon Wiley Wright (Member)

HIWASSEE (HI) DISTRICT

(L) Ginger Buchanan (Member)
 (L) Robert Donaghy (Member)
 (L) Kay A Freeman (Member)
 (L) Rebecca Jaquish (Member)
 (C) Elihugh Kilgore (Member)
 (C) Joseph W. Manis (Member)
 (C) Micah Nicolaus (Chair)
 (C) Mary L. Parson (Member)
 (C) Dennis Layne Pennington (Member)
 (C) Stella M. Roberts (Member)
 (C) Melissa R. Smith (Registrar)
 (C) Mary Thompson (Member)
 (C) Michael Travis (Member)
 (C) Jacqueline Westfield (Member)
 (C) Nathan A. Malone (DS)

MOUNTAIN VIEW (MV) DISTRICT

(L) John Allen (Member)
 (C) Thomas T. Ballard (Chair)
 (C) Brenda Bell-McAdams (Member)
 (C) Sharon Bowers (Member)
 (C) Kristen Burkhart (Member)
 (C) James Fain (Member)
 (C) Angela Hardy Cross (DS)
 (C) Dennie D. Humphreys (Registrar)
 (C) Justin R. Keating (Member)
 (L) Zerudia Rogers (Member)
 (C) Sarah Varnell (Member)
 (C) David S. Woody (Member)

NEW RIVER (NR) DISTRICT

(L) Phyllis C Ashworth (Member)
 (C) James E. Goddard (Member)
 (C) Timothy Hale (Registrar)
 (L) Monty Hester (Member)
 (L) Marva Hickman (Member)
 (C) Joshua D. Kilbourne (Member)
 (C) Darlene J. Marshall (Member)
 (C) Misti McCreary (Member)
 (C) Elston D. McLain (Chair)
 (L) Michael McMahon (Member)
 (C) Cynthia A. Paxton (Member)
 (C) David Payne (Member)
 (C) Jason L. Ratliff (Member)
 (C) William Donald Scott (Member)
 (C) Teresa Tolbert (Member)
 (C) Paige Wimberly (Member)
 (C) Jane Elizabeth Taylor (DS)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN (SM) DISTRICT

(C) Lisa Blackwood (Member)
 (L) Judy Clabough (Member)
 (L) Glenda Eastridge (Member)
 (C) Don E. Ferguson (Vice Chair)
 (C) Ronald Fisher (Summit Mentor)
 (L) Tamara Harrell (Member)
 (C) Tim Jones (Member)
 (C) Charles D. Ledger (Member)
 (C) Eugene Lovell (Member)
 (L) Karen Mathas (Member)
 (L) Laura McLean (Registrar)
 (L) Wayne McMahon (Member)
 (L) Pat Scruggs (Member)
 (C) Sarah Slack (Chair)
 (C) Magan Stubblefield (Member)
 (C) Donald Watkins (Member)
 (L) Jane Whitaker (Member)
 (C) Jeffrey W. Wright (Member)
 (C) Angela Hardy Cross (DS)

SCENIC SOUTH (SS) DISTRICT

(L) Dobbin Callahan (Member)
 (C) Gary W. Grogg (Member)
 (C) W. David Hall (Member)
 (C) Evelyn Boutz Harris (Registrar)
 (L) Ginger Housley (Member)
 (C) Nathan A. Malone (DS)
 (C) Adam McKee (Member)
 (C) Gregory Moore (Member)
 (C) Mickey W. Rainwater (Member)
 (C) Laura Anderson Shearer (Member)
 (C) Gregory S. Smart (Member)
 (C) Charles W. Starks (Member)
 (C) Vannessa Trice Wallace (Member)
 (C) Walter P. Weikel (Member)

TENNESSEE VALLEY (TV) DISTRICT

(C) Timothy J. Best (Registrar)
 (C) Mary K. Briggs (Member)
 (C) Barbara A. Clark (Member)
 (C) Walter H. Cross (Member)
 (C) Samuel Dzobo (Member)
 (C) Denna Marie Hornby (Member)
 (C) Bradley K. Hyde (Member)
 (C) Sue Lynn Johnson (Member)
 (C) Sherry E Livengood (Member)
 (C) Glenna B. Manning (Member)
 (L) Sherrie Martin (Member)
 (L) Renni Morris (Member)
 (C) Stephanie Parrott (Secretary)
 (C) Ann Robins (DS)
 (L) Mike Slimbarski (Member)
 (C) D. Scott Wilks (Chair)

THREE RIVERS (TR) DISTRICT

(C) William Collins (Member)
 (C) John W. Crabtree (Member)
 (L) Dan Cross (Member)
 (L) David Farmer (Member)
 (L) Darrell Fowler (Member)
 (C) Caleb Raymond Frazier (Member)
 (L) Wendell (Dell) Gates (Member)
 (L) Lauri Hale (Member)
 (C) Paul Gene Humphrey (Member)
 (C) Jodie Elizabeth Ihfe (Chair)
 (C) Alice Virginia Isom (Member)
 (L) Lynn Mason (Member)
 (L) Amanda Onks (Member)
 (C) Linda W. Rozar (Member)
 (C) Lon F. Tobin (Member)
 (C) Carol E. Wilson (Member)
 (C) C Scott Spence (DS)

DISTRICT BOARDS OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDINGAPPALACHIAN (AP) DISTRICT

(L) Dennis Ashley (Member)
 (C) Tyler Chase Crickenberger (Member)
 (C) Richard Davis (Member)
 (L) Wesley Eastridge (Member)
 (C) Pierce Edwards (Chair)
 (C) Mary Ellis (Member)
 (L) Ramona Fletcher (Member)
 (L) Dawn Gilbert (Member)
 (L) Lisa McConnell (Member)
 (L) Phil Rickman (Member)
 (L) Jason Tipton (Member)

CLINCH MOUNTAIN (CM) DISTRICT

(C) Donald Bailey (Member)
 (L) Tommy Cuddy (Member)
 (C) Daniel Lee Garrett (Member)
 (C) Harry W. Howe (Member)
 (L) Tom Mitoraj (Member)
 (L) Danny Ruble (Chair)
 (L) Patricia Sauve (Member)
 (C) E. Creighton Smith (Member)
 (C) Jane Elizabeth Taylor (DS)
 (L) John Taylor (Member)

HIWASSEE (HI) DISTRICT

(C) Angela Akers (Member)
 (L) Ginger Buchanan (Member)
 (L) John Conn (Member)
 (C) Brenda Gentry (Member)
 (C) Willa Jane Pettitt (Chair)
 (L) Cindi Richardson (Member)
 (L) Rufus Triplett (Member)
 (C) Loy Whaley (Member)

MOUNTAIN VIEW (MV) DISTRICT

(C) Dustin DeBord (Member)
 (L) William Grubb (Member)
 (C) Charles Lindy (Member)
 (C) William Morgan (Member)
 (L) Tom Rush (Chair)

NEW RIVER (NR) DISTRICT

(L) Gail Catron (Member)
 (L) Shelby M. Luper (Member)
 (C) Elston D. McLain (Member)
 (L) Nate Montgomery (Member)
 (L) Lee Snider (Member)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN (SM) DISTRICT

(L) Martin Brown (Member)
 (L) Andy Bush (Member)
 (L) James D. Holley (Member)
 (C) Brian D Inman (Member)
 (C) Jonathan Jonas (Member)
 (L) Doug Lynn (Member)
 (L) Karen Mathas (Member)
 (L) Jack Vincent (Member)
 (L) Mike Wall (Member)

SCENIC SOUTH (SS) DISTRICT

(L) Gary James (Member)

TENNESSEE VALLEY (TV) DISTRICT

(L) James L Cain (Member)
 (L) Jonathan Cooper (Member)
 (C) Samuel Dzobo (Member)
 (C) James D. Gass (Member)
 (L) Keith Lindsey (Member)
 (L) Tom McMahan (Member)
 (L) Lilly Rayson (Member)
 (C) Ann Robins (Member)
 (L) Kara Scheetz (Member)
 (L) David Smith (Member)
 (L) Stephen C. Walling (Chair)

THREE RIVERS (TR) DISTRICT

(C) William Collins (Member)
 (L) David Doan (Member)
 (L) Paul Frye (Member)
 (L) Olen Haynes (Member)
 (C) Linda W. Rozar (Member)
 (C) Lon F. Tobin (Member)

XII THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL TABLEXIII TASK FORCESXIV THE CONFERENCE STRATEGY TEAM

Members:

- Bishop Wallace-Padgett
- (L) Michael A. Eastridge (Chair)
- (L) Lori Sluder (Secretary)
- (C) Susan Anrold
- (L) Josh Bass
- (C) Susan Groseclose
- (L) Becky Hall
- (C) Don Hanshew
- (C) Tim Jones
- (C) Robert Kariuki Nyaga
- (C) Micah Nicolaus
- (C) Ann Robins
- (C) Jane Taylor

TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS OF CONFERENCE-RELATED INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES
HOLSTON FOUNDATION (2024)

President.....	LeRae Edwards Collins
Chair.....	Beth Peacock
Vice-Chair	Jon Leonard
Secretary	Rob Keener
Legal Counsel	Jackson Kramer
Chair, Grants Committee	Nancy Cogar
Chair, Investment Committee	David Goodson
Chair, Nominations Committee	Lee Iglehart

Members:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| • Kasey Abart | • Rob Keener |
| • Keith Burroughs | • Bill Kilday |
| • Brad Bower | • Monica Sheppard-Viator |
| • Anthony Grills | • Charles Stewart |
| • Laura Gac | • Susanne Stouffer |
| • Jason Gattis | • Jeff Wadley |
| • Jim Johnston | • Ken Webb |

Chair, Audit Committee.....Buck Gentry

Ex-Officio Members:

- Resident Bishop.....Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
- Conference Treasurer.....Fred Staley

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson.....	Anna Kapoor
Vice-Chairperson	Abraham McIntyre
Secretary	Rachael Barnett
Treasurer	Kay Farmer
Chair, Executive Committee	Adam Love
Chair, Trustees Committee.....	Butch Jones
Chair, Fundraising Committee	Lauri Hale
Chair, Scholarship/Residency Committee	Kathy Feagins

Elected Members:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| • Jeff Anderson | • Jodie Ihfe |
| • K.C. Obonnaya | • Jeff Wadley |
| • Susan Arnold | • Liz Hamilton |
| • Michael Vaughn | • Dell Gates |
| • Leah Adonalfi | • Trish Patterson |
| • Joyce Jones | • Beth Sullivan |
| • Carolyn Kerr | |

Ex-Officio Members:

- Campus Minister, ETSU Wesley Foundation.....Caleb Frazier
- District Superintendents.....Three Rivers, Mountain View
- Chair, Board of Higher Education.....Alexander Thompson
- Staff Resource.....Laura McLean

RADFORD UNIVERSITY - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President..... Alan Ashworth
 Vice-President..... McKenzie Hunt
 Secretary Jordan Walkup
 Treasurer Ashley Verburg

- Students..... Adam Stapleton, Andrew French Allison Haney, Jakob Genest
- Panel of 2025 Bob Boggess, David Coulson, Hali Thorne
- Panel of 2026 Robbie Hamby, McKenzie Hunt, Michael Hunt, Donna Moore, Jordan Walkup
- Panel of 2027 Billy Caldwell, Dina Deaton, Alan Ashworth

Ex-Officio Members:

- Campus Co-Directors, Wesley Center Cory and Ila Schepisi
- District Superintendent(s) Clinch Mountain, New River
- District Wesley Foundation Representative(s)..... June Totten (CM), Christi Wayne (NR)
- District Presidents of UMW Beverly Hayden (CM), Mitzi Sadler-Thorne (NR)
- District Lay Leaders Sue Tilson (CM), Mike Holcomb (NR), Deborah Neal (NR)
- Pastors, Radford Churches..... Betsy King (Carter St.) (New Mt. Olive), Jan Nicholson-Angle (Grove)
- Representative, Conference Staff..... Laura McLean
- Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Representative TBD

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, CHATTANOOGA - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson..... Dobbin Callahan

Elected Members:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Stuart French | • Bill Gotschall |
| • Halley Andrews | • Chris Dover |
| • Jeff Taylor | • Jacob Thompson |
| • Steve Barham | • Nathan Malone |
| • Deanna Prather | • Justin Keating |

Ex-Officio Members:

- Campus Director, Wesley Center G. Keith Moore
- District Superintendent(s) Hiwassee, Scenic South
- Representative, Conference Staff..... Laura McLean

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson.....Dennis Loy
Vice-ChairpersonAustin Byerly
SecretaryTo be named
Treasurer Crit Parrott

Elected Members:

- Harold Hicks
- Bill Heustess
- Dennis Loy
- Danielle Myers
- Caleb Pitkin
- Kathy LaFollette
- Garrett Hammonds
- Sheri Hagood
- Lindsey Clark
- Larry Dial
- Asa Majors
- Don Thomas

Ex-Officio Members:

- Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Executive Director..... Mary K. Briggs
- District Superintendents Tennessee Valley, Mountain View
- Conference Staff Representative..... Laura McLean
- Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Rep.....Alex Thompson
- Conference Secretary / Director Clergy Services..... Terry Goodman
- Student MembersHunter Hawthorne, Delilah Jones, Charlotte Nance

UNIVERSITY OF VA-WISE - WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson..... Chris Ray
Vice-Chairperson Evan Clark
Secretary Christy Smith
Treasurer Jewell Askins

Members:

- Jewell Askins
- Evan Clark
- Melaine Clark
- Richard Davis
- Nancy Hobbs
- Timothy Robinson
- Calli Shell
- Michael Shell
- David Shupe
- Christy Smith
- Chris Ray
- Linda Woodward

Ex-Officio Members:

- District Superintendents or representative of Appalachian and Clinch Mountain..... Richie Hayes(AP), Donna Hester (CM)
- District Lay Leader Wesley Eastridge (AP)
- Pastor Trinity, Wise UMC.....Phillip Bates

Ex-Officio Members: (without vote)

- Campus Minister..... TBD
- Conference Staff Liaison Laura McLean
- Student Representatives..... Jewel Raines

Panels:

- Panel of 2026..... Timothy Robinson, Nancy Hobbs, Evan Clark, Chris Ray
- Panel of 2027David Shupe, Calli Shell
- Panel of 2028.....Jewell Askins, Melanie Clark, Linda Woodward
- Panel of 2029.....Michael Shell, Christy Smith, Richard Davis

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

X.g COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (CPR)

The Holston Conference Committee on Petitions and Resolutions met on Wednesday March 12, 2025 to consider the following resolutions.

Submitted by, Wil Cantrell, Chairperson

RESOLUTION 01**A Resolution Calling the Church to Oppose Christian Nationalism**

Submitted by the following:

- Group: UMCNext Holston

Contact information:

- Danny Tullier
- 308 Crestway Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37411
- 423-785-6059
- tuyea121@yahoo.com

Whereas, we believe that every person is created in the image of God; and

Whereas, we believe no person or group of people is superior to another person or group; and

Whereas, we believe the life-giving love of God is offered to all people through Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, some forms of Christian Nationalism promote violent rhetoric and authoritarian approaches to civic life and public policy; and

Whereas, some forms of Christian Nationalism appropriate the name of Jesus Christ and the language of scripture to promote this ideology, in direct contradiction to the gospel Jesus preached, a liberating and loving gospel; and

Whereas, some forms of Christian Nationalism misrepresent our faith to our neighbors, thereby turning people away from the life-giving love of God, by identifying Christianity with hate, social hierarchy, fear

of the “other” and violence; and

Whereas, in our baptismal covenant, we vow to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church denounces these forms of Christian Nationalism as a distortion of the Christian faith, and commits to opposing it wherever it appears.

Be It Further Resolved that the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church commits to educating itself and its constituencies about the societal and spiritual dangers of these forms of Christian Nationalism, how to talk about it theologically and counter it in ecclesial and public life, for the sake of the gospel and the good of the human family.

Submitted by UMCNext Holston

COMMITTEE RESPONSE - CONCUR

The Committee recognizes confusion among Christians regarding the difference between patriotism (the virtuous love of country) and nationalism (the belief one’s country/culture is inherently superior to all others), the way in which Christian nationalism perverts Christian language to justify hatred, and the way in which Christian Nationalism confuses the role of church and state. For these reasons, the committee recommends concurrence.

=== **END OF RESOLUTION 01** ===

RESOLUTION 02**Resolution to Amend the Date and Location of the Annual Conference**

Submitted by the following:

- Group

Contact information:

- Sue Lynn Johnson
- 122 Shady Lane, Kingston, TN 37763
- 865-250-6494
- sue.lynn.12257@gmail.com

Whereas,

- the Holston Annual Conference (hereafter HAC) has a long history of ministry and mission in Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia, and is committed to fostering vibrant, effective ministries for all people within its boundaries; and,
- the HAC wants to move forward as one body in Christ and operate as, “members of one another” (Romans 12:5) working on building and renewing relationships; and,
- the HAC annual event serves as a gathering point for clergy and lay members to conduct the business of the Church, fostering connection, collaboration, and growth within the conference; and,
- the members of HAC represent a diversity of individuals and local churches; and,
- many members of HAC, particularly those from lower-income backgrounds, have experienced significant financial strain due to the increasing costs related to travel to the Annual Conference, limiting their ability to participate fully or at all in the work of the Church; and,
- the financial burden of long-distance travel to the current location of HAC, including food and lodging costs, disproportionately impacts communities of color, rural areas, and underrepresented groups, leading to lower levels of participation from diverse peoples in the life of the conference; and,
- the current location of HAC necessitates travel that involves significant distance and time which the recent natural disaster (Hurricane Helene) has exacerbated, and difficulties related to the travel routes are expected to persist for many years, particularly for individuals traveling from the southern end of the conference; and,
- the clergy who are retired and choose to attend do so without the aid of an expense account to help offset any conference-related costs; and
- the scheduling of HAC necessitates that working adults take time off, which can significantly impact their financial capacity to participate and reduces available time off for illness or rest/recreation. This is especially concerning given recent recommendations to focus on and improve clergy health, many of whom serve bi-vocationally; and,

- a significant number of lay members, particularly younger adults, and some clergy, especially bi-vocational pastors, face the difficult decision of prioritizing work commitments and leaving on Sunday evening, if they are able to attend at all; and,
- ¶602.8 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline indicates “It is the duty of every member and all provisional members and local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions...;” and,
- the United Methodist Church holds justice and equity as core values, and addressing the financial, social, and cultural barriers to participation in HAC is a matter of justice, as it promotes inclusion, empowerment, and a fair opportunity for all voices to be heard in the decision-make processes; and,
- ¶140 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline states the following: “Acknowledging that the church has been divided for too long on the basis of perceived differences, we commit ourselves to the removal of every barrier that separates one from another within the body of Christ;” and,
- the adjustment of the HAC meeting location to a more accessible and central location within the bounds of HAC would align with the Church’s mission to create a more inclusive, just, and compassionate space for ministry and service for all God’s people, regardless of their economic background, race, ethnicity, or location; and,
- relocating the HAC meeting would offer an opportunity for improved stewardship of Holston’s financial and human resources, as the current expenses for outsourcing child care and an audio-visual team are significant and funded at great cost by Holston; and,
- annual conferences are charged with having connectional ministries that both ensure “the alignment of the total resources of the annual conference to its mission,” (¶608.4), and work on “developing and strengthening ethnic ministries, including ethnic local churches and concerns,” (¶608.5); and,
- at the 2024 HAC, the body discussed the location of HAC and was told, “the planning team has heard and will certainly take into consideration all that has been said,” while expressing desire for referral to a committee and consideration for equipping and enabling new voices within Holston; and,
- the ongoing shift in how church-related meetings are conducted calls for adaptation in church governance to ensure accessibility while maintaining accountability and virtual presence can allow members to engage in HAC regardless of geographical location.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- that the location of future HAC gatherings be studied for opportunities within and outside the geographical boundaries of the HAC, effective upon the approval of this resolution and in accordance with the provisions outlined in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline; and,
- that the scheduling of HAC be adjusted to consider the needs of working adults, with efforts made to shift scheduled dates to include a weekend, thereby minimizing the need for time off from work; and,
- that the relevant bodies and leadership within the HAC be tasked with overseeing the logistical arrangements and ensuring clear communication to all members regarding the future location of HAC; and,
- that ¶603.4 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline is taken into consideration, which states the following: “The annual conference sessions shall be held in places that are accessible to people with disabilities and that, when possible, have sustainable practices for energy, waste, and consumption;” and,
- the HAC shall establish a committee, including

but not limited to the existing HAC planning team, ensuring the inclusion of minority voices, to address these issues and implement changes for future events; and,

- that options will be explored that include the possibility of a hybrid model to include persons of differing abilities; and,
- that the committee offer tangible alternatives that shall be presented in a report by the date of the 2026 HAC.

COMMITTEE RESPONSE - REFER

The committee recognizes the desire within the Holston Conference to structure the annual conference meetings to maximize participation and cost effectiveness. For these reasons, the committee recommends referring this resolution to the Holston Annual Conference Planning Committee which is tasked with setting the location and format for annual conference meetings and to Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett who sets the date for annual conference meetings.

===== END OF RESOLUTION 02 =====

===== END OF REPORT=====

X.h COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORDER (CRO)

The Annual Conference Committee on Rules of Order serves at the pleasure of the annual conference, responding to requests and needs of various bodies of the conference. The rules of the annual conference are adopted at the beginning of each session of the conference and provide guidance for the functioning of the annual conference session. Those rules remain in effect until changed at the next gathering of the annual conference. They are not meant to bind us, but to guide us for the most efficient way of doing the work of the conference.

It is the goal of the committee to provide a structure for a smooth conduct of business, a structure for organization, and a framework for the organization of the conference that will assist the conference to be effective in its work and ministry. The committee responds to various requests from within the conference.

With this understand, the committee makes the following motions:

1. ADDITIONS TO THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES: recommendation to add 2 representatives

from each Wesley Foundation: a) the chair of each Wesley Foundation Board or designated representative and b) the Foundation Director – 2 members from each Wesley Foundation; and A representative from each of the conference universities - 2 members total

2. ADDITION OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES TO THE LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. This motion is to keep us in line with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist* (2020/2024) ¶ 1608.6b.

There is no vote needed for this, but the committee also reaffirmed the use of The Consent Calendar during sessions of the annual conference, something that is already a part of our Rules of Order. Material that does not require a vote or has no actionable items will be added to the consent calendar and process as set forth in the Rules of Order will guide the process.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Grove-DeJarnett, Chair
Holston Conference Committee on Rules of Order

HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE BYLAWS

PREFACE

These Bylaws of the Holston Annual Conference are in keeping with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (§ 604.1, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024*, hereinafter referred to as the *2020/2024 BOD*) which states, “The Annual Conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church.” This Annual Conference is incorporated under the laws of the State of Tennessee as the Holston Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. All references to “Conference” or “Annual Conference” shall mean The Holston Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

ARTICLE I

ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. **Organization.**

The organization, composition, character, powers, duties, and business of the Annual Conference shall be in accordance with the current issue of the *2020/2024 BOD*.

B. **Rules of Order. ¶505**

The General Conference Rules of Order shall be used so far as they apply; otherwise, Robert’s Rules of Order (current edition) shall be used to address all matters not specifically covered by the current *2020/2024 BOD* and the following Conference Rules.

ARTICLE II

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

A. **Conference President. ¶ 603.6**

The Bishop assigned to the Holston Annual Conference is the President.

B. **Conference Secretary and Statistician. ¶ 603.7**

The Conference Secretary and a Conference Statistician shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee, in consultation with the Bishop, and elected at the first Annual Conference session following the General Conference and shall serve for the quadrennium. In the case of a vacancy in the interim of the session of Annual Conference, the bishop, after consultation with the District Superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the Annual Conference.

C. **Conference Treasurer. ¶ 619**

The Conference Treasurer shall be nominated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Bishop, and elected at the first Annual Conference following the General Conference, and shall serve for the quadrennium. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the council shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the Annual Conference.

D. **Conference Chancellor. ¶ 603.8**

The Conference Chancellor shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected at the first Annual Conference following the General Conference and shall serve for the quadrennium. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the bishop shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the Annual Conference. She/he shall serve as legal advisor to the Bishop and to the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference may designate one or more associate chancellors by the same nomination and election process to assist the conference chancellor.

E. **Lay Leader. ¶ 603.9 and ¶ 607**

E.a. The Conference Lay Leader shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected at the first Annual Conference following the General Conference and shall serve for the quadrennium. The Conference Lay Leader is eligible to serve two consecutive terms of office. When a term is complete or a vacancy occurs of the Conference Lay Leader, the Board of Lay Ministry may submit the names of one or more persons for consideration by the Committee on Nominations.

E.b. Associate lay leader(s), to work with the Conference Lay Leader, may be elected by the Conference in the same manner as the Conference Lay Leader. The District Lay Leaders shall be nominated by the District Committees on Nominations after consultation with the District Superintendent and elected at the District Conference.

F. **Vacancies.**

The extended cabinet shall be authorized to fill any vacancy in a Conference Office arising between Annual Conference sessions. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium in the position of Conference Treasurer, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the Annual Conference when an election can be held.

**ARTICLE III
STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

The Conference may adopt policies, procedures, committees and ministry descriptions for Conference Leadership Groups that shall be set forth in the Conference Rules of Order as from time to time amended.

RULES OF ORDER

1 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

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| <p>1.1 The Conference Committee on Nominations shall nominate all members of Conference boards, teams, councils, commissions, and committees including the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary, unless such nominations are otherwise provided for in the <i>2020/2024 BOD</i> or elsewhere in these Rules of Order.</p> <p>1.1.1 To embody diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, the nominations committee shall ensure that all conference leadership groups are comprised of greater representation of people of color serving on conference committees to 20% of the leadership group membership to increase equity by race, ethnicity and gender.</p> <p>1.2 Conference leadership groups shall be organized into the following descriptive categories and hereinafter the term conference leadership group(s) shall include one or more of these categories: advocacy groups, agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils, ministry areas, task forces and teams.</p> <p>1.3 No person shall serve as an elected member of two or more conference leadership groups within the same category; provided, however, that the limitation on joint membership shall not apply to agencies, committees, United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, the Religion and Race Ministry Area, the Board of Directors of the Holston Conference Foundation, Inc., The Board of Directors of Asbury, Inc., Wesley Foundation Board of Directors, and the Directors of the various Camp Boards.</p> <p>1.4 The Committee on Nominations, through the Conference Secretary shall develop an annual instrument on which laity and clergy may indicate an interest in election to membership of a Conference Leadership Group.</p> | <p>1.5 The Committee on Nominations shall also nominate the Conference Lay Leader for election to a four-year term of office. When a term is complete or a vacancy occurs of the Conference Lay Leader, the Board of Lay Ministry may submit the names of one or more persons for consideration by the Committee on Nominations. The Conference Lay Leader is eligible to serve two consecutive terms of office. All persons elected at the Annual Conference will begin serving at the close of the Annual Conference.</p> <p>1.6 Parliamentarians: The presiding officer may choose to appoint a parliamentarian and assistant parliamentarians to advise on matters of parliamentary procedure on an annual basis.</p> <p>1.7 Conference Chancellor: In accordance with ¶603.8 of the <i>2020/2024 BOD</i>, the Conference Chancellor and any Associate Chancellors shall be elected quadrennially at the session of the Annual Conference immediately preceding the regular session of the General Conference on nomination of the Resident Bishop.</p> <p>1.7.1 Vacancies shall be filled according to ¶603.8 of the <i>2020/2024 BOD</i>, and shall be filled at the next session of the Annual Conference for the remainder of the current quadrennium.</p> <p>1.8 The extended cabinet shall fill all mid-year vacancies which shall be confirmed at the next meeting of the Annual Conference.</p> <p>1.9 Election to Conference Leadership Groups shall be for a term that corresponds to the quadrennium following a regular session of General Conference and concluding in the calendar year of the succeeding regular session of General Conference.</p> <p>1.10 Except where the Discipline of the Church or action of the Annual Conference provides otherwise, members of quadrennial leadership groups may only server for two consecutive terms, provided that any length of service of more than two years shall constitute a full term..</p> <p>1.10.1 Members of the Board of Pensions are elected for a term of eight years and are arranged in panels: one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one- third clergy (<i>2020/2024 BOD</i> ¶ 638.2). Members of the Board of Pensions shall not serve consecutive terms.</p> |
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- 1.10.2 In the event a person is elected during a quadrennium as defined above, the person's election shall be for the balance of the pending quadrennium. A person who is ineligible for re-election to the same conference office because of the term-limit provisions of this Rule may be elected to serve in another conference office. A person who is ineligible for re-election to the same conference office because of the term-limit provisions of this Rule becomes eligible for election to that office again after the passage of a full quadrennium.
- 1.11 Members who fail to participate in the meetings and activities of a Conference Leadership Group may be removed and a successor named in the next report of the Committee on Nominations to the Annual Conference, unless the by-laws of the agency provide otherwise.
- 1.12 The chairperson, majority of members, or Resident Bishop may call a meeting of any Conference Leadership Group. The call of a meeting shall be coordinated with the Conference office and shall give the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Unless a meeting is called at the Annual Conference, in order to report to the Annual Conference, a three day or greater notice should be given to members.
- 1.13 No person in the employ of a Conference agency shall be a voting member of a Conference Leadership Group which supervises the work of the agency by which that member is employed.
- 1.14 The Resident Bishop may designate a person to represent the Bishop on any Conference Leadership Group or other position, or any occasion where the Bishop deems it necessary. The Resident Bishop or designated person may charge a Conference Leadership Group or other conference entity to study or consider an issue that he/she believes is necessary to carry out the mission of the Conference.
- 1.15 There shall be a Committee on Nominations within each district, composed of the District Superintendent (who shall serve as Chair), District Lay Leader, District President of United Women in Faith, District President of United Methodist Men, a representative of the District Youth Council, the Chairperson of the District Leadership Team or other structure, and the District Lay representative to the Conference Committee on Nominations. Additional representatives may be added by the District Leadership Team to ensure adequate representation. These district committees shall serve as a resource group throughout the year to supply appropriate names of clergy and lay persons to the Conference Committee on Nominations for service within the Annual Conference.
- 1.16 Members of the boards of directors of Asbury Centers, Inc., and Advisory Board of Directors of the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge shall be nominated and elected by the respective boards and confirmed by the Annual Conference.
- 1.17 Members of the Board of Trustees of Holston Conference Colleges (Emory & Henry College and Tennessee Wesleyan University) shall be nominated and elected by the respective Boards at their fall Board meetings and confirmed at the next session of Annual Conference.
- 1.18 The Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc. shall be governed by a board of not fewer than fifteen (15) directors elected by the Board of Directors and confirmed by the Holston Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. The Resident Bishop of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church and the Conference Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the board with full voice privileges and voting rights. All elected directors shall serve for terms of one, two, or three years as determined by said Board.
- 1.19 Nominations for Conference Leadership Groups, and other groups amenable to the Annual Conference, from the floor are in order following the presentation of the Nominations/Spiritual Leadership Report.
- 1.19.1 Nominations from the floor must be made in the form of a motion to amend the report and must maintain the composition and balance of the affected team as required by the 2020/2024 BOD and/or the Standing Rules of the Holston Conference.

- 1.20 Conference Leadership Group Guidelines
- 1.20.1 Unless otherwise required by The *2020/2024 BOD*, a Conference Leadership Group shall consist of at least three persons and no more than 12 persons. If a group feels that more than twelve persons are needed, that group shall request that the Nominations Team evaluate the request and the Nominations Team may add more persons if it believes that the request is appropriate.
- 1.20.2 A Conference Leadership Group shall have a Chair(President), Vice-Chair(Vice-President) and a Secretary. These persons shall be assigned by the Nominations Team. The Nominations Team is open to suggestions from the Conference Leadership Group as to the appropriate persons to fill these roles. In some instances, the Nominations Team may instruct the Leadership Group to elect their own Vice-Chair (Vice-President) and secretary.
- 1.20.3 If, in an attempt to fulfill The *Book of Discipline* requirements for certain conference leadership groups, it is determined that such a group cannot be formed, then a person may be assigned as the Chair of that cause and shall be an Ex-Officio member of the Conference Leadership Team that most closely correlates to the intention of The *Book of Discipline* group.
- 1.20.4 Ex-Officio Members of Conference Leadership Groups
- 1.20.4.1 Ex-Officio shall generally be construed to mean that a person, via membership of a group (i.e. Group A) or election to a particular conference office, serves on another Leadership Group (i.e. Group B) by virtue of that membership or election.
- 1.20.4.2 For our Rules of Order, an Ex-Officio member shall be a member of the team to which they have been appointed via their Ex-Officio status. That person shall have the right to voice and vote on the Conference Leadership Group to which they are appointed in an Ex-Officio status.
- 1.20.4.3 An Ex-Officio member is eligible to serve as the Chair (President), Vice-Chair (Vice-President), secretary or other officer/leader of the Leadership Group to which they are an Ex Officio member.
- 1.20.4.4 A Conference Leadership Group shall have assigned to it any person within Holston Conference that sits on a General Conference agency that relates to the Conference Leadership Group.
- 1.20.4.5 A Conference Leadership Group shall have assigned to it Directors and Associate Directors that relate to the duties and ministry area of that Group.
- 1.20.4.6 A Conference Leadership Group may have assigned to it members of the Appointive or Extended Cabinet as determined by the resident Bishop.
- 2 MEMBERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
- 2.1 The lay members of the Annual Conference shall be elected for four-year terms or until their successors are elected to provide continuity. Lay members shall serve at the meeting of the next Annual Conference following election.
- 2.2 In the case of a vacancy, the charge shall elect a replacement who shall serve for the remainder of the term.
- 2.3 The District Leadership Team in consultation with the District Youth Ministries Team shall elect youth members of the Holston Annual Conference. The young persons elected shall meet the requirements for election of all lay members as stated in *2020/2024 BOD*, ¶33, which is one person from age 12 to 17 and one person from age 18 to 30. The names and addresses of the elected members shall be sent to the Holston Conference Secretary by January 15. If any elected youth is unable to attend the Annual Conference, the District Leadership Team may select a replacement member to attend by sending the name of the youth to the Conference Secretary. A per diem for these youth members shall be paid by the Annual Conference.
- 2.4 Each year there shall be elected an equal number of lay and clergy members to the Holston Annual Conference. Professing lay members representing each local charge are to be elected at the Charge Conference. Lay persons holding the following positions shall automatically be a member of the annual conference and do not need to be elected at the charge level or as a District Member at Large.

- 2.4.1 Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses and home missionaries under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the Holston Conference, Conference President of United Methodist Men, Conference President of United Women in Faith, the Conference Treasurer, the Annual Conference Parliamentarian,
- 2.4.2 The Director of Connectional Ministries and Associate Director(s), Director of Communications, Conference Chancellor, Chair of the Committee on Rules of Order, Chair of the Discipleship Team, Chair of the Personnel Resources Committee.
- 2.4.3 Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, **Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees, Chair of the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits**, the Executive Director of the Holston Conference Foundation, the Conference Lay Leader, and other members of the Conference Board of Lay Ministry not otherwise elected as members of the Annual Conference shall be members of the Annual Conference.
- 2.4.4 The conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), and the remaining lay members that will be needed to achieve equalization are to be apportioned to the Districts on the basis of district lay membership, provided that the total number of lay members shall include youth delegates required by the Discipline, District lay leaders, District presidents of United Women in Faith and United Methodist Men, and Lay delegates and alternates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences for the Quadrennium.
- 2.4.5 The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. (2020/2024 BOD ¶602, ¶33 Article I)
- 2.5. The Conference Secretary shall notify each District Superintendent of the number of lay members to be elected as a District Member at Large not later than sixty days following Annual Conference.
- 2.5.1 The additional persons apportioned to the Districts as District Lay Members at Large to the Holston Annual Conference shall be elected at each of the District Conferences upon nomination from the local churches and District Committee on Nominations. Where there is no District Conference, District Lay Members at Large shall be elected in a manner determined by the District Leadership Team.
- 2.5.2 A ballot of these nominees will be available for the election. Nominations may be received from the floor of the District Conference. A per diem for these members shall be paid by the Annual Conference upon requisition, where they are not paid by the local Church, the District, or some other source.
- 2.5.3 The District Superintendents will be responsible for seeing that the District Lay Members at Large are elected and that their names and addresses are sent to the Holston Conference Secretary by January 15th of each year.

3 PROGRAM AND REPORTS

- 3.1 The Conference Secretary shall be responsible for preparing a memorial booklet. A memorial service for clergy members and spouses of clergy members, deceased during the year shall be held at each Annual Conference.
- 3.2 Proposed programs from Conference Leadership Groups that require Conference action shall be compiled and published and/or made available in electronic/digital format under the direction of the Office of the Secretary of the Annual Conference and distributed to all lay and clergy members of the Conference at least thirty (30) days before the opening session of the Annual Conference.
- 3.3 Reports not requiring conference action, from various committees, boards, teams, commissions, a agencies and groups recognized by the General Church that are to be included in the *Book of Reports* are due at the office of the Conference Secretary by 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time on March 15.

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| <p>3.4 Consent Agenda</p> <p>3.4.1 Agenda items and reports not requiring action by the Annual Conference, but presented for publication in the Journal, may be placed on a Consent Agenda. For any item or report to be eligible for placement on the Consent Agenda, it must have been distributed in the pre-Conference materials.</p> <p>3.4.2 Determination of items to be placed on the Consent Agenda shall be made annually by a committee composed of the Conference Secretary, the Chair of the Committee on Rules of Order, and the Director of Connectional Ministries.</p> <p>3.4.3 An individual item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a written request signed by twelve clergy and/or lay members of the Annual Conference and presented to the Conference Secretary prior to the first business session of the Annual Conference. When an individual item has been removed from the Consent Agenda, it shall be placed on the regular agenda at an appropriate time as determined by the Conference Secretary and or the presiding officer.</p> <p>3.5 The Statistical Report (Table No. 1, Table No. 2, and Table No. 3) for each local church shall be due and submitted by the pastor at an announced place and date set by each District Superintendent, in consultation with the conference statistician and extended cabinet, said date to be no earlier than the close of conference books.</p> <p>3.6 The Program of the Annual Conference shall be arranged by a Program Committee composed of the Resident Bishop, Conference Secretary, Conference Lay Leader, President of the Conference United Women in Faith, President of the Conference United Methodist Men, Chair of the Discipleship Team, Director of Connectional Ministries, Chair of Religion and Race, Chair of COSROW and a District Superintendent. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall convene this meeting and may, in consultation with the Resident Bishop, appoint additional members to serve on the Program Committee as needed. The Conference may make any change in the schedule necessary to facilitate its work.</p> | <p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.4.1</p> <p>4.4.2</p> <p>4.4.3</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>4.5.1</p> | <p>MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL PROCEDURES</p> <p>In those districts scheduling a district conference, the membership shall include the local church lay leader; chair of the administrative council or administrative board and council on ministries; presidents of United Methodist Youth, United Women in Faith, and United Methodist Men; the District lay leader; Diaconal ministers and pastors serving within the district; and such other persons as may be determined by the District Leadership Team.</p> <p>No clergy member of the Annual Conference shall leave the seat of the Conference without notifying that member's District Superintendent, who will, in turn, report the absence to the Conference Secretary.</p> <p>The effective date for all clergy members of the Holston Annual Conference entering into voluntary retirement shall be July 1 after the close of the Annual Conference at which their retirement is approved. No retirements may be voted for a projected date during the ensuing appointive year except by the joint recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Pensions in response to extraordinary and compelling circumstances.</p> <p>Conference Board of Trustees</p> <p>There shall be a Conference Board of Trustees. Any request for the sale, mortgage, transfer, or disposal of real estate or other assets owned by the Conference shall first be considered by the Conference Board of Trustees.</p> <p>The Board shall present its recommendations in the Book of Reports but can include additional property or assets or change its recommendation at the Annual Conference.</p> <p>Any other items not considered by the Conference Board of Trustees must be referred to the Conference Board of Trustees by a majority vote of the Annual Conference before action. After receiving a recommendation from the Conference Board of Trustees, the Annual Conference may consider the item. (§640, ¶2512.1-8)</p> <p>Rules of Order of the Annual Conference</p> <p>The Committee on Rules of Order shall present the proposed Rules of Order, printed in the pre-conference Book of Reports each year for approval by the annual conference at the opening business session of the annual conference.</p> |
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- 4.5.2 Any motion to amend the Rules of Order, as presented, must be in writing, lay over one day, and be reviewed by the Committee on Rules of Order before a vote is taken, and such motion must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference.
- 4.5.3 Changes adopted by the Annual Conference to the Rules of Order shall be effective immediately.
- 4.5.4 The Rules of Order of the Conference shall be printed in each edition of the Conference Journal and available on the Annual Conference website.
- 4.6 Committee on Petitions and Resolutions
- 4.6.1 There shall be a Conference Committee on Petitions and Resolutions consisting of nine persons elected for the quadrennium by the Annual Conference after nomination by the Committee on Nominations and one person who shall be a member of the current Holston delegation to General Conference (who shall be selected and appointed by the delegation). There shall be a Cabinet Representative appointed to the Committee (without vote). The Chair shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
- 4.6.2 All proposed resolutions for the Annual Conference or petitions to General Conference, to be considered by the Annual Conference, shall first be presented to the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions by 11:59:59 pm (EST) on March 1. The Committee shall evaluate each proposed resolution for Annual Conference or petition to General Conference and recommend concurrence, non-concurrence or appropriate referral.
- 4.6.3 Their recommendations and all materials must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary for the *Book of Reports* by March 15.
- 4.6.4 Any resolution to Annual Conference, including new business, or petition to General Conference proposed at the Annual Conference from the floor, that was not first considered by the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions, shall be referred, to the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions for a recommendation. Once a recommendation has been made, then the item shall be brought back to the annual conference at a time to be determined by the presiding officer.
- 4.6.5 All petitions to General Conference submitted for consideration by the Annual Conference must adhere to the specific requirements published each quadrennium by the Petitions Secretary of the General Conference.
- 4.7 Petitions, Resolutions and New Business
- 4.7.1 Definitions
- 4.7.1.1 A petition is a document directed towards the General Conference wherein it is stated that the Holston Annual Conference makes a specific recommendation/request for the General Conference to consider.
- 4.7.1.2 A resolution is a document directed towards the Holston Annual Conference wherein the annual conference is asked to take a public stance on an item or to engage in a specific behavior/action.
- 4.7.1.3 New business is an item directed towards a standing committee, group, task force or entity of the Holston Annual Conference asking that entity to consider an item or idea related to the area for which that entity has oversight.
- 4.7.2 Appropriate time, as decided by the Annual Conference Program Committee, will be allotted on the annual conference schedule for the discussion of petitions and resolutions. Any petition or resolution properly included in the *Book of Reports* that is not discussed during the Annual Conference session shall be automatically referred to the entity or entities, as determined by the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions, to which the petition or resolution would relate for the consideration by that entity. A report from the respective entities will be included in *Book of Reports* for the subsequent annual conference. The Committee on Petitions and Resolutions shall notify the author(s) of said resolutions in writing within 30 days of the close of the Annual Conference Session which entity or entities they are sending the resolution for consideration, and that entity or entities has until December 31 of the year in which the resolution is properly included in the Book of Reports, but not discussed, to notify the authors of their decision and any action taken, or planned action to be taken.

- 4.7.3 If the allotted time for Petitions and Resolutions has expired and there are still petitions or resolutions that have not been presented, a member of the annual conference may move for an extension of time with a majority of the annual conference in agreement with the motion.
- 4.7.4 Submission of Items of New Business
- 4.7.4.1 Items of new business shall be submitted in written form to the Secretary of the Annual Conference by May 15.
- 4.7.4.2 The Committee on Petitions and Resolutions will examine each item of new business and determine the conference entity or entities to which the item relates.
- 4.7.4.3 The Committee on Petitions and Resolutions will present a report of its deliberations to the Secretary of the Annual Conference.
- 4.7.4.4 During the time for new business, the Secretary of the Annual Conference will publicly acknowledge each item of new business with a brief descriptor and inform the annual conference of the Conference Leadership Group or (entities) to which the item will be submitted for review and consideration.
- 4.7.4.5 The Conference Leadership Group or entities which receive items of new business will take up such items for discussion at an upcoming meeting and shall include in their next report to the annual conference a full description of their response to the suggested item of new business.
- 4.7.4.6 All items of new business will be printed in full in the Book of Reports for the subsequent annual conference.
- 4.7.4.7 Persons or groups are limited to the submission of no more than 2 (two) Petitions and/or Resolutions and/or items of New Business.
- 4.7.4.8 The submission of items of New Business, Petitions, and Resolutions shall be limited to the following entities.
- 4.7.4.8.1 Clergy and/or Lay members of the annual conference
- 4.7.4.8.2 Local churches, through their governing structure.
- 4.7.4.8.3 Local church groups: (Sunday School, UWF, UMM, UMYF etc.)
- 4.7.4.8.4 Conference related institutions: (Wesley Foundations, Camping and Leisure Ministries, Conference Colleges, etc.)
- 4.7.4.8.5 Groups identified in the conference Rules of Order and by-laws.
- 4.7.4.9 Should a non-conference related entity seek to submit a petition, resolution, or item of new business, it must do so via sponsorship by one of the above-named entities with clear indication that the submission is coming from a non-related entity and is being sponsored by an appropriate entity.
- 4.8 **Omnibus Rule:** Because of the vital need of the Annual Conference to carry out its mission in a timely manner, if any conference leadership group duly elected by the Annual Conference determines an action is needed to properly carry out the mission of the Conference, especially when business of the Annual Conference was unavoidably overlooked during the conference session, or an issue is deemed vital and time is of the essence, such action is authorized to be taken by the elected leadership group after due consultation and/or necessary action of the extended cabinet acting on behalf of the conference and the Resident Bishop. Any action so taken will be recorded in the minutes of the cabinet and in the subsequent Journal, reported in an expeditious manner to the members of the Annual Conference, and further reported to the next Annual Conference session.

5 GUIDELINES FOR VIRTUAL SESSIONS

- 5.1 The Bishop and extended cabinet are authorized to direct the Annual Conference to conduct its business virtually and/or remotely.
- 5.1.1 Should the annual meeting of the Holston Annual Conference be held virtually, it will be conducted using a virtual meeting technology chosen by the Director of Communications. The meeting will begin promptly at the hour announced and order must be maintained at all times. This virtual meeting shall be considered the same as an in-person annual meeting.

- 5.2 Member Responsibility for Technology.
- 5.2.1 Members are responsible for ensuring that all necessary technology for their participation is sufficient and functional according to guidelines provided by the Director of Communications. This includes ensuring that necessary software such as the Zoom app is installed and functional on the device(s) which the member will use to participate in the session.
- 5.2.2 The validity of actions taken by the Annual Conference shall not be altered due to technical disruptions for individual members including, but not limited to, hardware or software failure, power failure, internet connectivity failure, and other similar disruptions.
- 5.2.3 The chair may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The chair's decision to do so, which is not subject to appeal, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.
- 5.3 Use of Webinar Platform.
- 5.3.1 Screen name. Before or immediately upon signing into Zoom voting members need to ensure that their name appears as "First Name Last Name" (i.e., Jane Smith) so they can be clearly identified by the Chair.
- 5.3.2 Signing In and Out. Members shall identify themselves as required to sign into the Internet meeting service and shall maintain Internet and audio access throughout the meeting whenever present but shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment. Prior to adjournment, members shall be able to re-enter the meeting after signing out.
- 6 CONFERENCE FINANCES**
- 6.1 There shall be a Conference Council of Finance and Administration. The Council of Finance and Administration shall submit its proposed budget and recommendations in the *Book of Reports* to the members of the Annual Conference for its consideration. Budget amendments and other recommendations made by the Council of Finance and Administration, but not included in the *Book of Reports*, may be considered at the Annual Conference.
- 6.2 All requests for Conference funds or monetary obligations by any Conference Leadership Group, or other body shall first be submitted to the Council of Finance and Administration for consideration in the budget. Requests for funds must be submitted to the Council of Finance and Administration or Conference Treasurer by March 1.
- 6.3 All requests for funds properly made in time, but not recommended in the budget by the Council of Finance and Administration, may be considered by the Annual Conference by amendment to the budget.
- 6.4 Other requests for funds or obligations shall not be considered by the Annual Conference unless first referred by the majority vote of the Annual Conference to the Council of Finance and Administration for a recommendation. After receiving a recommendation, the Annual Conference may consider a proposed budget amendment. (2020/2024 BOD ¶611-619)
- 6.5 The fiscal year of the Conference shall be from January 1st through December 31st of each year. The final day to receive payment on Conference apportionments shall be by the close of the business day of January 9th or the Monday following when the 9th falls on a Saturday or a Sunday.
- 6.6 The Treasurer of the Conference shall make a final settlement and shall disburse all funds as designated after the adjournment of the Annual Conference. During the fiscal year, the Conference Treasurer shall make disbursements to various Conference Agencies at times and in manners approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and upon requisition of the proper officials of the Boards and Agencies. (2020/2024 BOD ¶619)
- 6.7 The District Superintendents shall receive equal salaries, plus allowances for travel and other expenses beyond the District served and for which no other financial arrangement has been made on requisition, from the fund designated for this purpose.

- 6.8 Capital funds campaigns initiated by Conference agencies and institutions that involve the churches of Holston Conference must have the approval of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and the Annual Conference. Other fundraising campaigns which extend beyond district boundaries must have the approval of and be coordinated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and the Annual Conference. In those instances where financial goals are to be assigned to the congregations, said goals, along with the proposed strategies for meeting those goals, shall be clearly identified prior to approval. Appeals arising within the Conference between Annual Conference sessions may be conducted only on approval of the Council on Finance and Administration. Approval of such appeals shall be communicated to local churches of the Conference.
- 6.9 The Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall be required to give thirty (30) days' notice to all Conference Leadership Groups prior to the annual meeting for budgetary review for consideration of the annual budget of the Conference.
- 7 JOURNAL OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
- 7.1 The Committee on Rules of Order and the Conference Secretary and Staff shall establish the policy for the publication of the Journal. Publication may include both print and digital publishing. The Journal shall be published under the direction of the Conference Secretary, who shall serve as editor. The Conference Secretary shall, with the approval of the Council on Finance and Administration, enter into a contract to publish the Journal. All materials to be published shall be in the hands of the Editor within fifteen (15) days after the adjournment of the Conference.
- 7.2 The Conference Secretary shall be responsible for the distribution of the Journal. The District Superintendents may obtain the orders for the Journals from the pastoral charges, through pre-paid orders. Retirees may receive, upon request and without charge, a copy of the Journal for the year of their retirement. A clergy person, whose spouse has died, and Surviving Spouses may receive, upon request and without charge, a copy of the Journal that contains the memorial.
- 7.3 The material formerly found in the Conference Directory is now found in the Conference Journal. A pdf version of the journal will be made freely available each year, or persons may order, at their own expense, a printed copy of the journal from our Amazon print site. A link to this site will be distributed when the journal is completed.
- 7.4 Receipts of Journal sales shall be held in a carry-over account at the end of the fiscal year.
- 8 MOTIONS**
- 8.1 All motions presented to the Conference and amendments to any paper or motion on the floor shall be in writing on a triplicate form approved by the Secretary. Copies of the form will be available at the desk of the Head Usher/Teller.
- 8.2 One copy will be maintained by the presenter of the motion, one copy shall be given to the Secretary of the annual conference, and one copy shall be presented to the presiding officer of the annual conference.
- 9 ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR DELEGATES TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES**
- 9.1 The Orders of Elder and Deacon shall make available to clergy members an option to withdraw their names from consideration to serve as delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences, so long as the eligibility of all members in full connection is not limited in any way. Any such request to limit consideration of eligibility shall be in a printed form and submitted to the Conference Secretary prior to stated deadlines for the *Book of Reports* and Programs.
- 9.2 To ensure that qualified lay persons are identified for consideration as delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conference, persons may be nominated by local churches, District Boards of Laity, or the Annual Conference Board of Lay Ministry on a form to be developed by the Conference Board of Lay Ministry. The form shall ask the potential nominee to respond to the following items:
- 9.2.1 I agree to be a nominee for General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

- 9.2.2 I wish to be a nominee for the Jurisdictional Conference only.
- 9.3 Names of all nominees from local churches shall be in the hands of the District Board of Laity by February 15th of the year in which delegates are to be elected. The District Board of Laity shall review the nominations and determine their eligibility. The Board may add names of persons it deems to be candidates and shall deliver the list to the Conference Board of Lay Ministry by March 1st. The Conference Board of Lay Ministry shall complete the lists, add any persons it deems to be candidates, and provide the list by March 15th, along with biographical information, to the Conference Secretary for printing and distribution in the *Book of Reports*.
- 9.4 The form for nominations shall include the name, address, occupation, local church and district, indication if individual is of ethnic constituency, current photograph, and a biographical sketch of no more than fifty (50) words provided by the nominee. In addition to this process, nominations may be made at the Orientation Session for Laity at the seat of the Annual Conference for presentation to the Conference.
- 9.5 Following the election of the lay delegates to General Conference and two lay delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, the chair shall then explain to the lay members that an additional list of names is now available indicating persons who have asked to be considered for election to the Jurisdictional Conference only, and they may now vote for these persons as well as any unelected person.
- 9.6 Clergy and lay delegates elected to the previous General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.
- 9.7 Expenses of two alternate ministerial and two alternate lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, in order of their election, shall be borne by the Annual Conference at a rate not to exceed the per diem of delegates.
- 9.8 Each member shall be required to vote for no more than the number of delegates for that particular ballot, but ballots with less than the required number will be considered valid.
- 9.9 The names of all eligible clergy persons in the conference shall be printed in alphabetical order in the *Book of Reports*. A voting number shall be assigned for each eligible clergy person. Clergy members shall vote by ballot until the required number of delegates are elected by a majority vote of the ballots cast. The number of votes a clergy member can cast on a ballot cannot exceed the number of delegates left to be elected. On the ballot that elects the last delegate, if one or more clergy receives a majority vote that exceeds the needed number to be elected, the highest vote total(s) will be used to determine the election. The other clergy person(s) with majority vote will be elected as alternate(s). Another ballot will be taken to elect alternate delegates.
- 9.10 After that ballot, if not enough alternates have been elected, a floor vote of a majority of clergy present and voting may elect alternates in the manner specified in the motion.
- 10 IN-PERSON ANNUAL CONFERENCE: RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE**
- 10.1 Except as described in this section, the Annual Conference session will be governed:
- 10.1.1 First, by the laws of the State of Tennessee, including any Executive Orders in effect at the time of the conference session;
- 10.1.2 Second, by the *Book of Discipline* in effect at the time of the Annual Conference;
- 10.1.3 Third, by the Rules of Order of the Conference;
- 10.1.4 Fourth, by the Rules of Order of the General Conference adopted by the most recent General Conference;
- 10.1.5 Finally, any situation not covered by the above shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.
- 10.2 Annual Conference Rules of Order
- 10.2.1 These rules of order shall apply to all motions, legislations, resolutions, and other similar items which are properly brought before the Conference.

- 10.2.2 Debate shall be limited to three (3) two-minute speeches for the motion, legislation or report and three (3) two-minute speeches against.
- 10.2.3 A Call for the question may not occur until there have been three speeches in favor and three opposed, unless there is no one desiring to speak further on the motion.
- 10.2.4 During the entire Annual Conference, to allow for multiple voices to be heard, no individual member may speak more than two (2) times, provided that this limitation may be extended or removed by majority vote. Preference will be given to those who have not had an opportunity to speak. The number of times a member has risen to speak will be taken into consideration with regard to others who may wish to be heard. This rule shall be observed in both an in-person as well as a virtual annual conference setting.
- 10.2.5 A timer may be used to measure debate at the discretion of the Chair. At the expiration of the timer, the speaker's microphone may be automatically disabled.
- 10.2.6 Except for petitions and resolutions, the presentation of the motion, legislation or report by a Conference Agency shall not be considered a speech in favor.
- 10.2.7 All motions made during the annual conference business session shall be recorded and read by the Conference Secretary or Chair before any action or vote can be taken by the members of the conference. The chair shall attempt to clearly state what is being voted upon prior to any vote being taken so that all voting members may understand the effect of their vote before casting it. Motions shall be submitted in writing as directed by the Chair.
- 10.2.8 Members who wish to make a motion, raise a point of order or ask a question, or otherwise be acknowledged must first be recognized by the Chair. Upon recognition the member's microphone will be enabled to allow for him or her to address the conference.
- 10.2.9 When rising to speak to a matter currently under consideration, the member must clearly state whether the speech is in favor or in opposition to the motion under consideration.
- 10.2.10 Voting members once recognized may do any one of the following: make or second a motion, speak in debate, or ask a question. No speech may be followed by a motion.
- 10.2.11 Points of Order may be raised by any member of the annual conference, who must first cite the Standing Rule, The *Book of Discipline*, or Robert's Rules of Order they feel is being violated or questioned and then state the point as briefly and concisely as possible. The point, including the rule the member believes is being violated, must be included in the member's request to be recognized in the webinar platform and in an in-person session.
- 10.2.12 Members who wish to appeal a decision of the Chair must request to be recognized as directed by the Chair.
- 10.2.12.1 When requesting to be recognized in the webinar platform, it is the responsibility of the member raising the request for appeal to succinctly state the decision they are requesting to be appealed and how it violates our adopted rules or procedure of order or the current *Book of Discipline*.
- 11 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE: RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE**
- 11.1 In the event that the Bishop and Cabinet determine that the annual conference must be held in a virtual manner, the following items will be observed.
- 11.2 In addition to these virtual session rules, a virtual session shall also be governed by the rules found in Section 10: Annual Conference Rules of Order and Procedure.
- 11.3 Annual Conference Membership.
- 11.3.1 The clergy and lay members, including alternate lay members, with the right to voice and vote shall not be changed solely as the result of the change to a remote meeting format. The list of those clergy and lay members eligible to vote shall be made available at least five days prior to the session.
- 11.4 Presiding Officer: The Bishop will act as chair of the Annual Conference session, except in such circumstances when the Bishop relinquishes the chair to the parliamentarian or other individual which (s)he may designate.

- 11.5 Roll Call and Quorum: The call of the roll of the membership of the Annual Conference as required by ¶605.1 of the *2020/2024 BOD* and confirmation of a quorum shall be accomplished using the participant logon report within Zoom and email reports by satellite location facilitators. Members who log in electronically or participate in a satellite location shall be considered present and voting. Those counted as present and voting under this provision shall constitute a quorum.
- 11.6 Voting.
- 11.6.1 Voting members will be provided a meeting invitation and password approximately twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting which will allow them to enter the virtual meeting room. No voting member may share his/her login with anyone else and each voting member must sign in on a separate computer, Tablet, or smartphone in order to vote.
- 11.6.2 All votes shall be conducted according to the *2020/2024 BOD* of The United Methodist Church and the Rules of Order of the Holston Annual Conference except where the Rules of Order are suspended by these Session Rules.
- 11.6.3 Logs will be maintained for all votes and said logs will be kept confidential except as legally required.
- 11.6.4 The Chair shall have the discretion to determine the manner of vote.
- 11.7 Participation Concurrent with Proceedings: The meeting will be conducted in a manner that allows for members to communicate and to read or hear the proceedings of the meeting substantially concurrently with the proceedings.
- 11.8 Limitation of Agenda Items: Only items which appear on the agenda as listed in these Session Rules will be considered.
- 11.9 Right of Members to Speak.
- 11.9.1 All members will have the right to speak and address those in attendance.
- 11.9.2 In specific regard to the virtual session, a member must have entered the queue and been recognized by the chair in order to speak.
- 11.9.3 Members who wish to speak must include whether they wish to speak for or against a motion in their request to be recognized in the webinar platform.
- 11.9.4 Discussion, including questions and answers, must be directed to the Chair or through the Chair when these are in order.
- 11.10 Open Meeting: Proceedings of the Annual Conference session will be livestreamed and recorded for playback by members of the public in order to maintain an open meeting.
- 12 STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
- Conference Policies & Procedures. Policies, procedures, and ministry descriptions for Conference officers, committees, and positions shall be published each year in the Conference Journal and labeled “Structure and Organization of the Annual Conference.”
- “The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.” (*2020/2024 BOD* ¶601).
- Composition and Character is defined by (*2020/2024 BOD* ¶¶602)
- Organization is defined by (*2020/2024 BOD* ¶603)
Function is defined by the (*2020/2024 BOD* ¶604-606)
- I. CABINET**
- I.a APPOINTMENT CABINET**
Resident Bishop; District Superintendents; Executive Assistant to the Bishop (*2020/2024 BOD* ¶417-425).
- I.b EXTENDED CABINET**
Appointment Cabinet; Conference Secretary/ Director of Clergy Services; Director of Connectional Ministries; Conference Treasurer/ Director of Administrative Services; Director of Congregational Development; Director of Communications; Executive Director, Holston Conference Foundation, and Chair of the Conference Strategy Team. The Conference Lay Leader shall be invited to attend meetings of the extended cabinet.

- II. **COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL**
A service agency of the entire Conference. Elected members, Cabinet Representative, Director of Communications, Digital Media Specialist, Editor of The Call (2020/2024 BOD ¶¶609, 646). Related to Conference Council on Finance and Administration and Annual Conference.
- III. **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Elected members, Staff Resource, and two Cabinet Representatives.
- IV. **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY**
Elected members, 1 from the Young Adult Ministry, Cabinet Representative (2020/2024 BOD ¶633). Related to the Discipleship Team, Council on Finance and Administration, 1. Wesley Foundations, and 2. Conference Colleges.
- V. **BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY**
(Related directly to Annual Conference)
The Conference Lay Leader is the elected leader of conference laity (2020/2024 BOD ¶607.3). District Lay Leaders; presidents of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth; Resident Bishop, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries; 2 cabinet representatives; 5 members-at-large; Conference Lay Leader. The Board may elect up to three associate Conference Lay Leaders from its membership, who may represent the Lay Leader with full voting rights in any group of which the Lay Leader is a member. (2020/2024 BOD ¶630)
- The Conference Lay Leader shall be the chairperson of the conference Board of Lay Ministry (2020/2024 BOD ¶607.3).
- VI. **DISCIPLESHIP TEAM**
Elected members, Resident Bishop, Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry Chairperson, Conference Lay Leader, Director of Connectional Ministries, 5 Chairpersons of Ministry Teams with vote: Missions, Nurture, Outreach, Stewardship, Witness, 3 Representatives without vote: Appointment Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, Communications Advisory Council. (2020/2024 BOD ¶629)
- VI.a **MISSIONS TEAM**
Elected members, Ex-Officio: Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Cabinet Representative (2020/2024 BOD ¶632). Sub-groups to be determined by Missions Team in consultation with Discipleship Team.
- VI.b **NURTURE TEAM**
Elected members, Representatives of the 4 Ministry Teams/Board with vote (Children's, Council on Youth, Young Adult, Camp and Retreat), Board of Lay Ministry Representative, Cabinet Representative. Other representatives to be determined and named by Nurture Team in consultation with Discipleship Team.
- VI.b.1 **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM**
Elected members, 2 Ex-Officio: Cabinet Representative, Staff Resource Person.
- VI.b.2 **CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES**
2 youth per District, 1 adult per District, Coordinator of District Coordinators, Cabinet Representative, Staff-Coordinator of Youth Ministries (2020/2024 BOD ¶649).
- VI.b.3 **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM**
Elected members, 75% or 9 of which are age 18 to 35, representing a cross-section of the Annual Conference, Cabinet Representative, Staff Resource (2020/2024 BOD ¶650).
- VI.b.4 **CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY BOARD**
Elected members, Ex-Officio: Resident Bishop, Cabinet Representative, Director of Connectional Ministries, Camp and Retreat Ministry Executive Director, 5 Site Directors, Chairpersons of 5 Site Boards
- VI.b.5 **OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM**
Elected members, two staff-cabinet representative, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship.
- VI.c **OUTREACH / ADVOCACY TEAM**
Elected members plus the five ministry area chairpersons required by Discipline: Religion and Race, Church and Society, Status and Role of Women, and Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns, Disability Concerns/ Relationships Ministry Area, and chairpersons or representatives of other groups related to Outreach/ Advocacy. Cabinet Representative (2020/2024 BOD ¶628), Staff Resource.
- VI.c.1 **RELIGION AND RACE MINISTRY AREA**
Elected members, Cabinet Representative (2020/2024 BOD ¶643) Staff Resource, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries, Sub-Groups related to and determined by Religion and Race Ministry Area.
- VI.c.2 **CHURCH AND SOCIETY MINISTRY AREA**
(Chair) (2020/2024 BOD ¶628).

VI.c.3 STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN MINISTRY AREA (Chair) (2020/2024 BOD ¶644).	VI.f COMMITTEE ON SEXUAL ETHICS AND BOUNDARIES Elected members, Ex-Officio: Representative – Board of Ordained Ministry, Director-Center for Wellbeing (with vote), Director- Office of Clergy Services / Staff Resource and Cabinet Representative.
VI.c.4 CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS MINISTRY AREA (Chair) (2020/2024 BOD ¶642).	
VI.c.5 DISABILITY CONCERNS (Chair) (2020/2024 BOD ¶653).	VI.g INVITATION TEAM Elected members [nominated by the Resident Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference].
VI.c.6 STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY TEAM Elected members, Ex-Officio Cabinet Representative, staff, Founding Director.	VI.h MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES
VI.c.7a NOT USED	VI.i COMMITTEE ON DISMANTLING RACISM
VI.c.7b ASBURY CENTERS, INC.	VII BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY Elected members [nominated by the Resident Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference]; The Board may adopt a policy to pull in others to use as interviewers as needed. Members may serve up to three consecutive four-year terms (2020/2024 BOD ¶634.1.a). Director of Clergy Services/Administrative Registrar; Chair, Order of Deacons; Chair, Order of Elders [nominated by the Board of Ordained Ministry and elected by Clergy Session]; Co-Chairs, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; 2 District Superintendents appointed by Resident Bishop. The Board shall select its own officers. (2020/2024 BOD ¶634, ¶306-309)
VI.c.7c ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER OF OAK RIDGE	VIII GROUPS RELATED TO THE CABINET AND ORDAINED MINISTRY
VI.c.8 NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES TEAM Elected members, Cabinet Representative (2020/2024 BOD ¶654). With the goal of at least one person from each district and preference given to persons with Native American ancestry.	VIII.a ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE 3 elected clergy in full connection and two alternate clergy in full connection, nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Clergy Session. (2016 BOD ¶635)
VI.c.9 AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRY TEAM Elected members, Ex-Officio: Representative, Religion and Race, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries, and Director of Connectional Ministries.	VIII.b COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION 4 clergy members in Full Connection, 3 Professing Members, 3 alternate Clergy Members, 6 alternate Lay Members. Nominated by the Resident Bishop in consultation with the Board of Ordained Ministry (clergy) and the Board of Laity (professing members). Elected quadrennially by the Annual Conference (2020/2024 BOD ¶2703.2).
VI.c.10 BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL	VIII.c ORDER OF DEACONS, ORDER OF ELDERS (2020/2024 BOD ¶306-309).
VI.c.11 STRENGTHENING THE BLACK CHURCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY	VIII.d CENTER FOR WELLBEING SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE Elected members, Representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry, three (3) District Superintendents (none of whom shall be from any district where Counselors hold their Charge Conference), Director of Clergy Services. Related to Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, and sub-groups related to and determined by the Center for Wellbeing Supervisory Committee.
VI.c.12 PEACE WITH JUSTICE	
VI.d STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM Elected members, Cabinet Representative, Staff Resource, Director of Connectional Ministries	
VI.e WITNESS TEAM Elected members, Chairpersons of Committee on Small Membership Congregation Team and Hispanic/Latino Ministry Leadership Team, Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization, Director of Connectional Ministries, and Cabinet Representative	
VI.e.1 SMALL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION TEAM Elected members, Cabinet Representative	
VI.e.2 HISPANIC/LATINO LEADERSHIP TEAM Elected members, Cabinet Representative, and Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries	

- VIII.e CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM
- VIII.f MINISTERS CONVOCATION DESIGN TEAM
Elected members chosen by the Convocation Design Team, Chair-Order of Deacons, Chair-Order of Elders, Chair(s)-Local Pastors and Associate Members, Director of Clergy Services, Administrative Assistant to Director of Clergy Services.
- IX. Conference Council on Finance and Administration
Elected members and 4 persons without vote: Resident Bishop, Conference Treasurer, District Superintendent chosen by the Cabinet, and Director of Connectional Ministries. The Council shall elect its own officers, except the treasurer who shall be the Conference Treasurer. (2020/2024 BOD ¶¶611, 612)
- X. ADMINISTRATION
- X.a. BOARD OF PENSIONS
Elected members each from Clergy, Laymen, Laywomen, Pensions Director, Chair of Joint Committee on Medical Leave, Cabinet Representative. (2020/2024 BOD ¶638)
- X.b. BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Elected members, Cabinet Representative; Ex-Officio, non-voting CFA representative, Resident Bishop and non-voting Staff-Conference Treasurer. The Board shall elect its own officers. (2020/2024 BOD ¶¶640, 2512-2550)
- X.c. COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
Elected members, Cabinet Representative, Historical Society Representative, Conference Archivist, Conference Historian and Staff-Conference Secretary. (2020/2024 BOD ¶641).
- X.d. COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION
Elected members [an equal number of lay and clergy members], Executive Assistant to the Bishop, one District Superintendent- (Sustentation Funds), Staff-Conference Treasurer, Staff-Director of Clergy Services/Conference Secretary. (2020/2024 BOD ¶624).
- X.e. COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY
Elected (4 clergy, 4 laymen, 4 laywomen), 1 clergy, 1 layman and 1 laywoman appointed by the Resident Bishop, Ex-Officio Members are the lay and clergy members of Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. The Conference Lay Leader shall be one of the lay elected persons. (2020/2024 BOD ¶636)
- X.f. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
There shall be a Conference Committee on Nominations composed of the Resident Bishop, who shall serve as Chairperson, members of the extended cabinet, Conference Lay Leader, President of the Conference United Methodist Women, President of the Conference United Methodist Men, Chairperson of the Discipleship Team, Conference Secretary, a representative of United Methodist Youth, one layperson from each district chosen by the District Committee on Nominations, a member of the Order of Deacons, and additional lay and clergy persons for equalization of lay and clergy membership.
- X.g. COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
Elected members, Ex-Officio a member of the current Holston delegation to General Conference, the Secretary of the Annual Conference and a Cabinet Representative.
- X.h. COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORDER
Elected members (50% Lay and 50% Clergy) nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference, 6 Ex-Officio members with vote: Resident Bishop, Conference Chancellor, Conference Secretary, Cabinet Representative, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and Parliamentarian.
- X.i. EPIISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE
Chairs or Representatives of the Committee on Episcopacy, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the Board of Trustees, plus A Cabinet Representative and the Executive Assistant to the Bishop (Ex-Officio). (2020/2024 BOD ¶637)
- X.j. PERSONNEL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Elected members, Conference Chancellor, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Chairperson of Committee on Episcopacy, Chairperson of Personnel Team of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration or designee, abinet Representative, Resident Bishop (Ex-Officio).
- X.k. PROGRAM COMMITTEE, ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resident Bishop, Conference Secretary, Conference Lay Leader, President of United Methodist Men, President of United Women in Faith, Chairperson of Discipleship Team, Director of Connectional Ministries, Chair of Religion and Race, Chair of COSROW, and a District Superintendent, chosen by the Cabinet, and additional members appointed by Resident Bishop as necessary.
- XI. SUPPORT GROUPS
- XI.a. UNITED METHODIST MEN
All men of local churches or charges chartered or unchartered within the bounds of the Annual Conference. (2020/2024 BOD ¶648).

XI.b UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All members of local units within the bounds of the Conference. (2020/2024 BOD ¶647)

XII. THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL TABLE

The membership shall include those staff persons, clergy, lay officials, and other persons deemed needed by the Resident Bishop to carry out the missions of the conference. Different connectional tables may be held for various missions. Purpose: to assist in identifying Conference priorities and coordinating Conference ministries and emphasis.

XIII. TASK FORCES

Task forces must be formed with the approval of the extended cabinet and may exist for up to a period of four years to complete their work. At the end of four years, any task force must reapply, if needed, for an extension not to exceed four more years. If at the end of the first four years, it becomes apparent that the task force needs to become a standing Leadership Group of the conference, the Task Force shall ask the extended cabinet to approve the need. If approved, the Task Force would submit a request to the annual conference as a part of its report to the annual conference. At that point, the conference will vote on whether or not to establish the Task Force as a standing Leadership Group of the conference. If funding is required, task forces must apply to the appropriate body.

XIV. THE CONFERENCE STRATEGY TEAM

Named by the Resident Bishop-Shall consist of between 9 and 15 members, set up in three rotating panels. No more than three (3) team members can serve consecutive terms on the Conference Strategy Team.

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

X.j PERSONNEL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (PRC)

The Personnel Resources Committee continues to thank the Conference staff for the work they do to keep the Conference running smoothly and running well. We acknowledged and celebrated retirements and years of service in the Finance Department, updated the Personnel Handbook to reflect changes in the payroll schedule, worked with the General Conference Council on Finance and Administration – Human Resources (GCFA-HR) to establish standardization of new hires, and participated in the hiring process of Camp and Retreat Ministries and Higher Education for the selection of Directors and the Treasurer for Finance.

We acknowledged the decades of service from Rick Cherry, Valerie Gallant, and Angela Lee to the Conference in the Finance department. We thanked them for dedicated service and wished them well in this new chapter of their lives.

The Personnel Resources Committee continues to use the services of GCFA-HR in staff training, phone and in-person interviews, and the revision and implementation of policies and procedures to assure compliance with Federal and State Employment Laws and to ensure consistent transfer and hiring practices within Holston Conference.

All applicants receive the same employment information and are asked the same questions when interviewed. Consistency in the interview process is critical in the employment process. The new hire process was standardized so all new hires receive the pay schedule, available benefits, employment forms, and how information is disseminated on their first day of work. Members of PRC were on the interview teams in the selection of Directors for the Wesley Foundation and Camp and Retreat Ministries.

A revision to the Personnel Policy on Conference Pay Schedule was made to reflect the change in the pay schedule from the first and fifteenth to bi-weekly, and a second policy change was made to the Handbook to clarify when benefits begin after hiring.

We solicit your prayers as we work to provide budgets that reflect the mission, values, and goals of Holston Conference: to make passionate, spiritual disciples for Jesus Christ.

Submitted by: Terryl James, Chair

== == == END OF REPORT == == ==

XI SUPPORT GROUPS

XI.b UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

To the lay members and clergy of Holston Annual Conference, I bring you greetings on behalf of the women of Holston Conference United Women in Faith. As the newly elected president, I offer this report for your consideration..

Currently Holston Conference has a United Women in Faith presence in 247 local churches across the nine districts of the conference. Each group is empowered to structure itself in ways that fulfill the PURPOSE, best use the gifts of its members, and meet the needs of its community in the world. Every level of the organization is connected in mission with Global Ministries.

The PURPOSE. United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The Mission Initiatives. United Methodist Women focuses on mission which includes providing opportunities to grow spiritually; equipping women & girls to be leaders; providing transformative educational experiences; organizing for growth & flexibility; and working for justice through service & advocacy.

Focus on Women, Children & Youth. United Methodist Women have focused on ministries with women, children, and youth for over 150 years. Women have been empowered by leadership education opportunities, mission education, the Reading Program, tools for advocacy and more. These opportunities allow United Methodist Women to act and empower women in the United States and abroad.

The work of United Methodist Women is done through mission pledges and donations from individual members and local member organizations who have a heart for mission. Through the generosity of Holston Conference United Women in Faith, these funds transform the lives of women, youth, and children in the United States and around the world.

I am happy to report that the Holston Conference United Women in Faith was recognized for reaching 106% of their goal in Mission Giving for 2024!

We have accomplished much and yet much more needs to be accomplished. The world is still aching. So we boldly press forward so that others can thrive. We carry forward as God-loving women.

Faithfully submitted,
Mary Jeffries, Conference President

= = = = END OF REPORT = = = =

XIV TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS OF CONFERENCE - RELATED INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES

XIV CONFERENCE STRATEGY TEAM

John Wesley challenges us to “go on to perfection.” As we consider District Realignment, our generation has been here before. We can do this again, and we are learning how to do it better.

For context, we need to remember that for about 50 years our District lines shifted little within the bounds of Holston. Prior to that, boundaries shifted more regularly, driven by missional opportunities and evolving community needs. It was never the size or number of districts that mattered most, but how ministries were structured, organized, and supported. In the 1980s, Holston Conference comprised 12 districts, each overseeing more churches than we project today, yet the connection remained robust despite fewer administrative supports. Our historical experience affirms that the strength of our connection lies not solely in numerical or structural configurations but in intentional ministry practices and collaborative efforts.

Building upon this historical wisdom, and the work of our 2017 transition from 12 Districts to 9, the Holston Conference Strategy Team recommends a district realignment from 9 to 6 districts. This administrative shift is foundational, prudent, and financially responsible. It allows us to steward resources effectively and firm our foundation so that we can channel more energy and focus into the local church to do the holy work of scouting for, growing, and leading Passionate Spiritual Disciples and Passionate Spiritual Leaders.

As a reminder, since 2017, our strategic vision encompasses 7 key drivers guiding the Holston Conference:

1. **Reconnecting the Connection:** Strengthening meaningful connections between churches and districts.
2. **Supporting Clergy and Churches:** Providing comprehensive spiritual, emotional, and practical support to our leaders.
3. **Right-Sizing Districts:** Structuring districts strategically to optimize missional effectiveness and good stewardship.

4. **Revitalizing Conference Life:** Renewing leadership, collaboration, and innovation across all ministry levels.
5. **Exercising Financial Stewardship:** Allocating resources responsibly to prioritize mission and ministry.
6. **Staffing for Mission and Ministry:** Positioning personnel strategically to maximize impact and connectivity.
7. **Enhancing Communication:** Employing innovative communication strategies to promote unity and clarity of mission.

This recommendation of 6 districts is not a perfect model, but we recognize the need for stability and familiarity during this season. This realignment maintains agility and allows more resources of spiritual giftedness and finances on the District level.

Over the next year, the Holston Conference Strategy Team will intently explore looking beyond traditional metrics like attendance and giving and conventional ideas of creating District bounds focusing on geographical proximity, all while staying within the guidelines of the Book of Discipline. Research suggests, and your personal experience proves, that a thriving church is rooted in authentic relationships, transformative discipleship, and meaningful community engagement. Thriving churches are deeply relational, embrace diverse family structures, practice genuine hospitality, thoughtfully engage in social justice, utilize technology strategically, and pursue vitality through intentional, impactful ministry efforts. Seeing a church with growing attendance, baptisms, and budgets is the sum of doing the other parts well. The Strategy Team is committed to exploring ways we can encourage and equip the local church to do these essential lead-practices well, so that the sum of the results is fruitfulness in a new era.

Our Annual Conference theme is “Together in New Beginnings.” Strategic realignment isn’t about contraction but about realigning resources and energies for missional impact. This structure provides a stable foundation for responsive and District-level innovation to fuel inspired ministry.

Some questions for you to consider:

- If passed, in what ways can your local church proactively lead and provide resources during this district restructuring? (Hint: If it's about money, we are starting in the wrong place.)
- What are the true, tangible measures of fruitfulness and success in your local church? Why? What would happen if you intentionally put resources into the top two you determine are most essential?
- Passionate Spiritual Disciples and Leaders

have always been the gas for the local church. How will your congregation lean into the mission of cultivating PSD/L in this time of strategic change?

Together, let's courageously embrace our call to transformational ministry, ensuring the vibrant future of our connectional witness in the Holston Conference.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Don Hanshew

Chair, Holston Conference Strategy Team

=== **END OF REPORT** ===

XIV HOLSTON FOUNDATION

Mission and Impact

The Holston Foundation continues to fulfill its mission of promoting generosity, educating stakeholders, and demonstrating faithful stewardship to support churches and ministries. In 2024, this mission was exemplified through strong investment performance, record-breaking assets under management, and impactful grants.

This significant milestone underscores the trust and confidence placed in the Foundation by churches, ministries, and generous individuals. This achievement not only reflects our financial strength but also represents the collective generosity of people of faith.

Investment Performance

2024 proved to be a strong year for the market, benefiting churches and ministries invested with the Holston Foundation:

- Balanced Growth Fund (most popular): 13.5% growth
- Short-Term Income Fund: 4.19% growth
- Intermediate Income Fund: 1.94%
- 100% Equity Fund: 20.54% growth
- New Money Market: 4.28%

Grants to Those on the Margins

The Holston Foundation granted \$220,000 in support for those living on the margins in the Holston Conference and beyond. The selected organizations and ministries are in ministry to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" to the poor, the addicted, and the vulnerable:

- Hurricane Helene Relief
- Camp in the Community funding for a new van to provide reliable transportation for their ministry
- Daybreak Dementia Respite, a ministry of First Maryville UMC, making new use of the former Sycamore Tree UMC building
- Bishop Mission Initiative, Alexander Memorial UMC
- Recovery at Powell, Powell UMC
- Grace, Grit, and Gratitude: The Program, First UMC Hillsville, VA
- Map to Recovery: From Incarceration to Opportunity and Faith in Action, Main Street UMC, Tazewell, VA
- UMC Ministries in Romania

Partnering with the Holston Foundation for investments not only grows resources for ministry but also supports the ministry of the Foundation and its shared Wesleyan values with churches and ministries. Since 1990, churches and ministries investing in the Balanced Growth Fund have enjoyed average returns of 7.5%

In 2024, the Holston Foundation also gave \$244,750 in grants to over 60 churches and ministries in the Holston Conference and beyond.

Record-Breaking Assets Under Management

In October 2024, the Holston Foundation achieved a historic milestone by reaching \$179 million in funds under management, which marks the highest level in its 40+ year history

Local students seeking higher education and seminary degrees received nearly \$180,000 in scholarships from generous donors who established scholarships with the Foundation.

Connect with the Holston Foundation

The Holston Foundation's staff offers a range of services to support churches and individuals:

- Speaking engagements with your finance or leadership committees
- Free Provide and Protect workshops
- Sermons on generosity
- Support and establishment of planned giving ministries

- Consultation for above and beyond and strategic giving options for churches and individuals
- Stewardship resources
- Endowment resources
- Strategic and legacy planning with generous individuals

To connect with Holston Foundation staff, contact info@holstonfoundation.org or call 865-690-8124.



== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

XV OTHERS

XV AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Greetings and thanks to you, the members of the Holston Annual Conference, for your love of Africa University! Your love, lived out in the local church, and across every level of The United Methodist Church worldwide, is a source of hope and transformation.

Africa University's students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni are deeply thankful to local congregations of the Holston Conference for investing 43.66 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2024.

As the 2025-2028 quadrennium unfolds, Africa University is urging Holston Conference congregations to:

- Maintain their support for the Africa University Fund (AUF) at the 2016 budget level and continue striving to return their conference to 100% investment to the AUF each year.
- Explore becoming a "Keystone Congregation" for Africa University by journeying alongside an undergraduate student with prayer and encouragement and making a multiyear commitment of \$7,000 a year to provide a scholarship for that student.

Through their prayers and gifts in support of the ministry of Africa University, Holston United Methodists nurture servant leaders with ethics, empathy, and an audacious, can-do mindset. Currently, Africa University has more than 2,490 students from 24 African countries pursuing professional and leadership training in four colleges and one school. More than 12,000 graduates are at work in 32 African countries, serving in pivotal roles within and beyond The United Methodist Church. Among them are three recently-elected bishops of The United Methodist Church in Africa—chosen to help build a vibrant future where our love of God embraces, heals and draws new people into lives of fruitful discipleship.

Having experienced God's grace through your love in action, Africa University students grow in faith and spiritual maturity, embrace new, shared possibilities, and become more effective in their witness. Your support equips solution-finders and world-changers. Here are 2024 highlights of the impact of Africa University students, faculty, and administrators:

- Africa University start-up, Reagan Technologies, earned a [semi-final finish in the Hult Prize Global Accelerator competition](#). Known as the ‘Nobel prize contest for students’, the Hult Prize judges were impressed by the three-student AU team’s innovative concept for generating electricity from footsteps. The team’s climate-smart pavement tiles stood out against the competition from more than 60 universities.
- Another AU trio is transforming education by bridging the digital divide in Africa. Three students majoring in computer science won the [top prize at the UbuntuNet Alliance Women’s Hackathon](#) with FUNDISA. It’s a chatbot that delivers instant, curriculum-aligned explanations to students who lack internet access, but have phones with SMS functionality. The chatbot enables students to simply send a text to a short code to receive educational support.
- Africa University’s Doctor of Ministry program, a first for the continent of Africa, was accredited by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education, with options for specialization in Mission and Evangelism, Liturgical Theology, Church

Administration, Church and Society, and Chaplaincy Ministry. A pioneer group of 10 senior officers in the military, prisons and policing from Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have completed the program, thanks to a collaboration between Africa University and Wesley Theological Seminary. Their doctoral research projects generated new knowledge that addresses deployment trauma, reducing drug abuse among officers, and the use of Psalms of lament for facilitating healing in families of inmates.

This is the transformation story that United Methodists of the Holston Conference are faithfully shaping as they partner in mission and ministry with Africa University. Thank you for showing up, Holston Conference, so that promise, calling, and a just and peaceful future can be fully realized. Let us push forward, together, to finish the work. Thank you.

James H. Salley, President/CEO of Africa University (Tennessee) Inc. and Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Africa University.

=== **END OF REPORT** ===

XV BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY (BUSTH)

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as BUSTH seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2024, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

- **Students:** Our academic year 2024-25 entering class was among our most diverse, with 109 new students enrolling, 33% of whom are international students.
- **Faculty:** In July, Shively T. J. Smith was promoted to Associate Professor of New Testament, and in September we welcomed new faculty member emilie m. townes, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Religion and Black Studies. In January we welcomed new Assistant Professor of Religion and Society Luther Young, Jr.
- **Expanding Online/Hybrid Programming:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—continues to expand since launching in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage challenges of public life: bu.edu/sth/marpl. An online Master of Divinity program is planned for Fall 2026.
- **Faculty Research:** Associate Dean Cristian De La Rosa received a second Lilly Endowment Parenting Grant for \$1.25 million. Faculty published more than 130 books, scholarly articles,
- op-eds, presentations, and book reviews during 2024. Many were interviewed by media publications or featured on podcasts for their scholarship in topics such as social justice activism, historical Methodist leaders, responding to trauma, and the use of AI to predict religious extremism. Selected stories are found at bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include Rev. James M. Smith ('51) Fund for Latinx

Lay Education and Rev. Tom Sears ('59) Chaplaincy Operating Fund. We have increased an endowed fund for students specializing in Hebrew Bible.

- **Accreditation and Curriculum:** BUSTH concluded a thorough curriculum revision for the MDiv and MTS programs which launched in fall 2024.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include “A Womanist Ethic of Care.” To learn more, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Raíces Latinas Program in Theology, Leadership, & Research and meeting a \$250K match in support of the Religion & Conflict Transformation Program.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

BUSTH's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as “Spiritual Leadership in Divided Times: Trauma and Thurman,” and \$500 DEI scholarships are offered to students with financial need to participate in our travel seminars.

Our Fall 2024 Lowell Lecture premiered “Simulating Religious Violence,” which captured the work of computer scientists and religious scholars to seek to address conflicts rooted in religious violence.

Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in our 2030 Strategic Plan. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

With faith and gratitude,
G. Sujin Pak, dean



Boston University School of Theology

== == == END OF REPORT == == ==

XV DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Drew University Theological School
Rev. Edwin David Aponte, PhD, ThD (honorary)
Dean and Professor of Religion & Culture
January 10, 2025

Drew University Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry cohort in South Korea and a pilot in-person Master of Divinity cohort in Liberia. Regular chapel worship originates on campus in Seminary Hall, but also is live-streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate. Drew Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church.

In Fall 2024 Drew Theological School welcomed 94

new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2024 semester being 388. Enrollment of international students at Drew increased from 120 students in Fall 2021 to 157 students in Fall 2024. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across all aspects of the teaching, learning, and the formation of students: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School has an increase in United Methodist students, additionally, Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of The United Methodist Church in the annual conferences of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

XV DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

In the fall of 2024, Duke Divinity School celebrated its 98th Opening Convocation with these words from Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric: “There are potential pulpits across this university and throughout this land. ... If you are here studying how to become a pastor or a chaplain, you are a Pentecost preacher. If you are here studying to be a theologically formed social worker or health care provider, you are a Pentecost preacher. If you are here as an aspiring scholar or merely as a Christian, you are a Pentecost preacher.”

Through God’s sustaining grace and faithfulness, we continue to welcome students from across the nation and around the world to be trained for ministries ranging from rural church pastorates to hospital and prison chaplains to community service leaders to theological educators. In 2024, we were joined by 224 students from 41 U.S. states and the District of Columbia as well as new students who hold either primary or secondary citizenship in 11 other countries. The Master of Divinity program gained 108 new students, including 62 residential students (up from 54 the year before) and 46 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled eight new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 39 (up from 22 last year); Master of Theology, 10; Master of Theological Studies, 27; the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential students to campus and 21 to the hybrid program.

We are grateful that God continues to bring people with a diversity of backgrounds and gifts to Duke Divinity School. Of the new residential M.Div. students, 42 percent reported one or more non-white racial/ethnic identities, and female students make up 50 percent of incoming residential M.Div. students. For new hybrid M.Div. students, 33 percent reported one or more non-white racial/ethnic; and female students make up 63 percent of incoming hybrid M.Div. students.

This has been a year of centennial celebrations for Duke University and The Duke Endowment. The Divinity School was honored to participate in a Founders’ Weekend chapel service, held in Duke Chapel, in which both United Methodist Church bishops in North Carolina (Bishop Connie Shelton and Bishop Ken Carter) participated in leading the service, along with Dean Colón-Emeric. Divinity students and alumni contributed prayers and music, and of particular note were three women in our Master of

Theology program who offered prayers in Mandarin, Hindi, and Korean. It is a joy to share these gifts from our global community with the university campus.

Duke Divinity School continues to invest in ways to support Methodist leadership and pastoral formation. Our D.Min. program welcomed two new cohorts, one in Traditional Leadership and one in Missional Leadership, with support from the Parish Ministry Fund and The Duke Endowment. These 39 students are strengthening their capacity for leadership, establishing new faith communities, and meeting the challenges confronting churches and communities.

Master of Divinity students in the UMC had the opportunity in the spring 2024 semester to enroll in a course designed to prepare them to be observers at the UMC General Conference, held in Charlotte, N.C. So many students were interested that the enrollment cap had to be raised. Students met weekly with Duke Divinity faculty who are ordained elders in the UMC as well as with nearly half a dozen bishops and denominational leaders. As one student (pursuing ordination in the Virginia Conference) said: “It is a time when we hold fast to our convictions and identify what is unique to the United Methodist Church. What is our role, currently and in the future? It’s amazing: our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I am excited about my ministry journey and the future of the UMC.”

Duke Divinity continues to build on our connection to Methodist churches around the world through a formal partnership with Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea. This agreement, signed on Sept. 21, 2024, supports the creation of pathways for the exchange of students, faculty, and academic programming.

Our faculty continue to excel in their committed service to teaching, research, and ministry. Two scholars joined our faculty this year: Aaron Griffith, assistant professor of American church history, and Kevin Hart, Jo Rae Wright University Distinguished Professor, with a joint appointment in the Duke University department of English. William Turner Jr., James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of the Practice of Preaching, received the Duke University Medal for Distinguished Meritorious Service, the highest honor bestowed by the university.

Duke Divinity commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Women's Center at the school with a guest preacher and celebration dinner. With a \$5 million gift from The Duke Endowment, we are strengthening our Office of Black Church Studies through recruiting a senior scholar and supporting academic, theological research. A \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., part of their Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer Initiative, will help launch a Duke Divinity program to study how congregations more fully and intentionally engage children in intergenerational corporate worship and prayer practices. The program, "Let the Children Come," is a regional partnership of congregations and leaders from across the southeastern United States.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our

ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as we join the leading of God's Spirit in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean of Duke Divinity School



XV ESCUELA DE DIVINIDAD DE DUKE

En el otoño del 2024, Duke Divinity celebró su nonagésima octava convocatoria de apertura con estas palabras del Decano Edgardo Colón-Emeric: "Hay posibles púlpitos en toda esta universidad y por toda esta tierra.... Si estás aquí estudiando para ser pastor o capellán, eres un predicador de Pentecostés. Si estás aquí estudiando para ser un trabajador social o un proveedor de cuidado médico teológicamente formado, eres un predicador de Pentecostés. Si estás aquí aspirando a pertenecer a la academia o meramente a ser cristiano, eres un predicador de Pentecostés."

Por la gracia sustentadora y la fidelidad de Dios, continuamos recibiendo estudiantes de toda la nación y de todo el mundo para ser entrenados para ministerios que van desde el pastado de la iglesia local hasta la capellanía en hospitales y prisiones; desde el liderazgo comunitario hasta educación teológica. En el 2024, le dimos la bienvenida a 223 estudiantes de 41 estados de los Estados Unidos y el Distrito de Columbia, y a varios estudiantes que poseen ciudadanía primaria o secundaria en otros 11 países. El programa de Maestría en Divinidad recibió 108 nuevos estudiantes, incluyendo 62 en el programa residencial (un incremento de los 54 que recibimos el año anterior) y 46 en el programa híbrido. La Maestría en Artes de la Práctica Cristiana recibió ocho estudiantes nuevos; el Doctorado en Ministerio, 39 (un incremento de 22 que recibimos el año anterior); la Maestría en Teología, 10; la Maestría en Estudios Teológicos, 27; el Doctorado en Teología recibió cinco estudiantes nuevos. El Certificado en Teología y Cuidado de la Salud dio la bienvenida a cinco estudiantes presenciales en el campus y a 21 en el programa híbrido. Estamos agradecidos de que Dios continúa trayendo

personas con diversidad de orígenes y dones a la Escuela de Divinidad de Duke. De los estudiantes del M.Div. residencial, el 42 por ciento reportó una o más identidades raciales/étnicas no-blancas, y el 50 por ciento de nuestras estudiantes entrantes a este programa son mujeres. En el caso de nuevos estudiantes del programa híbrido del M.Div., el 33 por ciento reportó una o más identidades raciales/étnicas no-blancas y el 63 por ciento son mujeres.

Este ha sido un año de celebraciones centenarias para la Universidad de Duke y The Duke Endowment. Duke Divinity tuvo el honor de participar del servicio de capilla durante el fin de semana de fundadores que se celebró en la Capilla de Duke, donde ambos obispos de las conferencias de la Iglesia Metodista Unida en Carolina del Norte (la Obispo Connie Shelton y el Obispo Ken Carter) participaron dirigiendo partes del servicio, junto con el Decano Colón-Emeric. Estudiantes y exalumnos de Duke Divinity contribuyeron oraciones y música, haciendo mención especial de tres mujeres que forman parte de nuestro programa de Maestría en Teología quienes ofrecieron oraciones en mandarín, hindi, y coreano. Es un gozo compartir estos dones de nuestra comunidad global con el campus universitario.

Duke Divinity continúa invirtiendo en maneras de apoyo para el liderazgo metodista y su formación pastoral. Nuestro programa de D.Min. le dio la bienvenida a dos cohortes nuevas, una en Liderazgo Tradicional y una en Liderazgo Misional, con apoyo del Parish Ministry Fund y The Duke Endowment. Estos 39 estudiantes están fortaleciendo su capacidad para el liderazgo, estableciendo nuevas

comunidades de fe, y afrontando los retos que enfrentan las iglesias y las comunidades.

Durante la primavera del 2024, aquellos estudiantes de la Maestría en Divinidad que son miembros de la Iglesia Metodista Unida tuvieron la oportunidad de matricularse en un curso diseñado para prepararlos para ser observadores en la Conferencia General de la IMU que se celebró en Charlotte, Carolina del Norte. Tuvimos tantos estudiantes interesados que tuvimos que aumentar el límite de inscripción. Los estudiantes se reunieron semanalmente con miembros de la facultad de Duke Divinity que han sido ordenados presbíteros en la IMU, y con casi media docena de obispos y líderes denominacionales. Como un estudiante (quien está en el proceso para ordenación en la Conferencia de Virginia) dijo: “Este es un tiempo en el cual nos aferramos a nuestras convicciones e identificamos aquello que es único de la Iglesia Metodista Unida. ¿Cuál es nuestro rol en este momento y en el futuro? Es increíble: nuestra misión es hacer discípulos de Jesucristo para la transformación del mundo. Me emociona pensar en mi jornada en el ministerio y el futuro de la IMU.”

Duke Divinity continúa construyendo sobre nuestra conexión con iglesias metodistas alrededor del mundo a través de una colaboración formal con la Universidad Teológica Metodista en Seúl, Corea del Sur. Este acuerdo, el cual se firmó el 21 de septiembre del 2024, apoya la creación de sendas para el intercambio de estudiantes, facultad, y programación académica.

Nuestra facultad continúa sobresaliendo en su servicio comprometido a la educación, la investigación, y el ministerio. Este año, se añadieron dos miembros a nuestra facultad: Aaron Griffith, Profesor Asistente de Historia de la Iglesia Estadounidense, y Kevin Hart, Profesor Universitario Distinguido, con un nombramiento conjunto en el Departamento de Inglés de la Universidad de Duke.

William Turner Jr., Profesor Emérito de la Práctica de la Predicación, recibió la Medalla al Servicio Meritorio Distinguido de la Universidad de Duke, el honor más alto que otorga la universidad.

Duke Divinity conmemoró el quincuagésimo aniversario del Centro de la Mujer en nuestra escuela con la presencia de una predicadora invitada y una cena de celebración. Con el recibimiento de un fondo de \$5 millones del Duke Endowment estamos fortaleciendo nuestra Oficina de Estudios de la Iglesia Negra a través del reclutamiento de un nuevo profesor y el apoyo a investigación teológica académica. Una beca de \$1.25 millones del Lilly Endowment como parte de su Iniciativa para Nutrir a la Niñez a través de la Adoración y la Oración ayudará a lanzar un programa en Duke Divinity para estudiar como las congregaciones pueden involucrar a la niñez de maneras más completas e intencionales en la adoración colectiva intergeneracional y las prácticas de oración. El programa “Dejar a Los Niños Venid” es una colaboración regional de congregaciones y líderes del sureste de los Estados Unidos.

Duke Divinity continúa estando agradecida por nuestra participación continua en la Iglesia Metodista Unida y nuestra colaboración con esta conferencia. Miramos con emoción hacia la continuación del trabajo colaborativo entre nuestras instituciones mientras juntos seguimos la dirección del Espíritu Santo en la tarea de preparar personas para el ministerio cristiano. Para aprender más sobre Duke Divinity, por favor visité nuestra página web www.divinity.duke.edu.

Sometida respetuosamente por Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Decano de Duke Divinity



== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

XV EMORY - CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Since 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness, welcoming students from more than 40 denominations. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 416 from 13 countries, 41 states, 32 annual conferences, and 43% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program, earning course credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a near 90% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler's recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2024-2025, we are on track to award nearly \$6.5 million in scholarship support across all degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarship support, and those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships. Plus, a remarkable gift this year of \$20 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation promises to have a transformative impact on the school and future students alike, fueling a considerable expansion of our scholarship program and reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a hub of Christian learning for an expanding

audience. Those who are not seeking a graduate degree can engage in learning through The Candler Foundry, which offers in-person and online short courses, events, and certificate programs; the United Methodist Course of Study for educating licensed local pastors; the Candler Center for Christian Leadership for refining business skills of United Methodist leaders; and La Mesa Academy, offering a graduate certificate in theological studies via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish, English, and Korean.

Four key appointments this year strengthened the already robust United Methodist presence among our faculty: Geordan Hammond, associate professor of Methodist and Wesleyan studies; Soren Hessler, assistant professor in the practice of leadership and administration; Jennifer Quigley, assistant professor of New Testament; and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, who joined us as bishop-in-residence following the retirement of Bishop Larry Goodpaster.

Jonathan Strom became dean of Candler in August 2024, when former dean Jan Love returned to the faculty. Strom has served on Candler's faculty since 1997 as professor of church history, with nearly a decade as senior associate dean of faculty and academic affairs, and a number of years as director of international initiatives. He is committed to nurturing the school's deep connection with The United Methodist Church.

Candler is strengthened by your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of the church. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu and follow us on social media to stay informed of all we offer throughout the year.



EMORY
CANDLER
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

XV GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary (GTS) is the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon’s Mission is to help prepare for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all.

GTS is currently an “extended unit” of the Interdenominational Theological Center. As a constituent member of the ITC who is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), GTS has conferred degrees in partnership with the ITC for Gammon Theological Seminary graduates since 1959. Gammon Theological Seminary seeks separate accreditation through SACSCOC and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS).

We are excited to share Academic and Operational updates for 2024.

- In June 2024, we hired a world-renowned theologian and scholar, Dr. Renita J. Weems, as our Chief Academic Officer.
- This Fall 2024, we launched state-of-the-art renovations to the Gammon building. The renovations transformed the facility into a place for four in-person class sessions, upgrading all meeting spaces with state-of-the-art technology and furnishings.
- In September 2024, the Board of Trustees of Gammon Theological Seminary approved the submission of our application to begin the SACSCOC Accreditation process. This historic decision included Gammon launching our Independent MDIV degree program in September 2024.

Here are a few of this year’s ministry and fund development highlights.

- In Spring 2024, Gammon hosted our 2nd Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, which received \$70,000 in donations toward the scholarship fund.
- The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship The fund, which was launched by Dr. Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey) and Dr. Walter Kimbrough, continues to grow with matching gifts in partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.
- In June 2024, the Florida Conference’s Rev. Geraldine McClellan Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is now fully endowed at the Florida United Methodist Foundation, continued to grow with donations for 2024. Now, the fund balance exceeds \$130,000.00, and Dr. Geraldine McClellan was honored at our 2024 Founder’s Day/Pastors and Leaders Conference Gala banquet with our Icon of Excellence Award.
- Gammon hosted the Ebony Exploration Event for 75 young adults under the age of 35. The students explored their sense of call and vocational discernment.
- In December 2024, Gammon celebrated our 141st Founder’s Day and Pastors and Leaders Conference. We hosted over three hundred people attending workshops (in person and virtual) and our Scholarship Gala Dinner at IMPACT Church in Atlanta, GA.
- Gammon received two \$10,000 donations for two new endowed funds from Dr. James H. Salley, in honor of his parents in the South Carolina Conference, and from Rev. Dr. Michael McQueen, District Superintendent for the North Georgia Central North District.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Candace M. Lewis
President - CEO

== == == END OF REPORT == == ==

XV GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (GETS) continues to live into its mission of Forming courageous leaders in the way of Jesus to cultivate communities of justice, compassion, and hope...for the thriving of the Church and the healing of the world. We do this work in partnership with the annual conferences of the United Methodist Church and other partners who share our values. Now in our 172nd year of ministry to the church, the academy, and the world, Garrett is a strong, growing, thriving community of faith and learning that represents the fullness of the global church's witness.

During this past academic year, Garrett welcomed its largest entering class in over a decade for a fifth straight year, with 135 new students, and a current enrollment of 324 students representing 38 states and 24 nations from across the globe. We continue to see growth in our student body from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, adding to an already richly diverse student body. While our denominational diversity also continues to grow, we also proudly welcomed growth in our United Methodist students who constitute more than half of our student body. Our faculty also reflect this regional and global diversity, with fully half originating from nations outside the United States.

Our growth in recent years continues to reflect patterns seen across theological education, mainly in distance and online learners. For the first time in our history, distance learners in the entering class outnumbered residential students. This has allowed for truly global learning spaces that have enriched our conversations and our overall learning environment. We're blessed to have the world represented in our classrooms, which also impacts how our faculty teach, what they research, and for whom.

Over the last year Garrett has also been blessed by multiple major grants to fund faculty research and institutional priorities. A major grant is funding the work of our Center for Ecological Regeneration, allowing the seminary to partner with local congregations in the Midwest to equip them to respond to climate change in their communities and the disproportionate impact it tends to have on the poor and local economies. Another major grant is funding work in our Centro Raíces Latinas to strengthen Hispanic-Latiné pastoral leaders and congregations, helping clergy and communities

build institutional capacity and expand their ministries. Yet another grant is helping to expand the reach and impact of our Garrett Collective, our lifelong learning and resource platform that seeks to make theological education accessible and affordable to a significantly broader audience.

Garrett's world-class faculty continue developing curricular innovations that are responsive to the church's growing needs, while also contributing a significant body of scholarly work to their respective fields. They are also partnering with annual conferences and local churches in delivering much needed programming for leadership development and faith formation, an expanding focus of our Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships division. Garrett is proud to be a United Methodist institution, and proud to continue to deepen its partnership and programming with annual conferences around the globe.

Seminario Teológico Evangélico Garrett
Informe a la Conferencia Anual
2024-2025

El Seminario Teológico Evangélico Garrett sigue cumpliendo su misión de formar líderes valientes que siguen el camino de Jesús para cultivar comunidades de justicia, compasión y esperanza... para el florecimiento de la Iglesia y la sanación del mundo. Hacemos este trabajo en asociación con las conferencias anuales de la Iglesia Metodista Unida y otros compañeros en misión que comparten nuestros valores. Ahora en nuestro 172.º año de ministerio para la iglesia, la academia y el mundo, Garrett es una comunidad de fe y aprendizaje fuerte, en crecimiento y próspera que representa la plenitud del testimonio de la iglesia global.

Durante el último año académico, Garrett dio la bienvenida a su clase entrante más grande en más de una década por quinto año consecutivo, con 135 nuevos estudiantes y una matrícula actual de 324 estudiantes que representan a 38 estados y 24 naciones de todo el mundo. Seguimos viendo un crecimiento en nuestro cuerpo estudiantil proveniente de Asia, África y América Latina, que se suma a un cuerpo estudiantil ya muy diverso. Si bien nuestra diversidad denominacional también sigue creciendo, también recibimos con orgullo el crecimiento de nuestros estudiantes metodistas unidos, que constituyen más de la mitad de nuestro cuerpo

estudiantil. Nuestro cuerpo docente también refleja esta diversidad regional y global, ya que la mitad proviene de países fuera de los Estados Unidos.

Nuestro crecimiento en los últimos años sigue reflejando patrones observados en todas partes de la educación teológica, principalmente en los estudiantes a distancia y en línea. Por primera vez en nuestra historia, los estudiantes a distancia en la clase entrante superaron en número a los estudiantes residenciales. Esto ha permitido espacios de aprendizaje verdaderamente globales que han enriquecido nuestras conversaciones y nuestro entorno de aprendizaje. Tenemos la suerte de tener al mundo representado en nuestras aulas, lo que también impacta la forma en que nuestro cuerpo docente enseña, qué investiga y para quién.

Durante el último año, Garrett también ha sido bendecido con múltiples subvenciones importantes para financiar la investigación del cuerpo docente y nuestras prioridades institucionales. Una importante subvención está financiando el trabajo de nuestro Centro para la Regeneración Ecológica, lo que permite al seminario asociarse con congregaciones locales para equiparlas para responder al cambio climático y los impactos ecológicos que tiene en las comunidades y economías

locales. Otra subvención importante está financiando el trabajo en nuestro Centro Raíces Latinas para fortalecer a los líderes pastorales y las congregaciones hispanas, ayudando al clero y a las comunidades a desarrollar capacidad institucional y expandir sus ministerios. Otra subvención está ayudando a expandir el alcance y el impacto de nuestro Garrett Collective, nuestra plataforma de aprendizaje y recursos para individuos y organizaciones que busca llevar la educación teológica a una audiencia significativamente más amplia.

La facultad de Garrett continúa desarrollando innovaciones curriculares que responden a las crecientes necesidades de la iglesia, al mismo tiempo que contribuye con investigaciones académicas en sus respectivos área de especialización. También están caminando con conferencias anuales e iglesias locales para ofrecer programación muy necesaria para el desarrollo del liderazgo y la formación en fe, un área de enfoque en crecimiento del seminario. Garrett se enorgullece de ser una institución Metodista Unida y de continuar profundizando su compañerismo y programación con conferencias anuales en todo el mundo.

===== **END OF REPORT** =====

XV HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER (HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA)

Hinton Rural Life Center, located in the Appalachian Mountains in the southwest corner of North Carolina, is a mission outreach and retreat center of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. In 2024, we made a significant impact in our community as we served 1,136 individuals through our mission outreach ministries. Last spring we celebrated a major milestone – eliminating our debt -- which had exceeded \$1 million just a decade ago. This allows Hinton to focus even more on our mission: Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Center serves individuals, congregations, and rural communities through retreat ministries, educational opportunities, and missional outreach.

Another proud moment was the ribbon cutting for our new Educational Tool Barn, funded by The Duke Endowment, which provides hands-on learning experiences to help raise awareness and educate community members and our guests as to the built environment's affects health and safety. This is an important and prevalent issue in our service area, as those with low incomes are likely to live in housing with health and safety concerns.

Hinton's "Beautiful Feet" Discipleship Pathway of ministry opportunities, inspired by Isaiah 52:7, encompasses retreat and mission experiences for middle schoolers through Boomers!

- 307 confirmands and leaders participated in our Theotokos Confirmation Retreats; 390 used our Theotokos Connections confirmation curriculum.
- 13 youth participated in Staffers in Training, preparing for future leadership roles.
- 727 mission participants – youth and adults -- worked on Safe & Healthy Home Repairs and community projects
- 17 adults, mostly 60 and older, participated in our Boomers on Outreach Mission (BOOM) -- our newest mission initiative -- helping with Safe & Healthy Home Repair projects, as well as learning about poverty perspectives, enjoying Appalachian culture, and worshipping together.

Through our year-round Mission Outreach ministries:

- We conducted 80 home checks, reducing safety and health hazards in 67% of homes and improving

40% of homes to a better safety rating using our Star Rating System.

- 282 Safe & Healthy Home repair projects were completed on 62 homes; this includes Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) projects through Medicaid, which enable us to work with local contractors to address major needs, such as roofing, well repair, electric, HVAC, and more.
- Our firewood ministry distributed 787 loads of firewood valued at \$157,000—huge thanks to our incredible volunteer Woodchuckers!
- In response to the hurricane damage in other parts of Western North Carolina, Hinton coordinated the assembly of 400 flood buckets for that area, supported by donations of supplies and funds and with the help of local volunteers and visiting mission teams.
- Through our Christmas Care of Clay County, 432 children were provided with gifts of new clothing for Christmas.
- 525 individuals participated in our rural poverty simulation, which fosters awareness and understanding of the unique challenges and complexities rural poverty and helps cultivate empathy.

We celebrate all of those who came to Retreat, Reflect, Renew, and Serve at and through Hinton Rural Life Center. We especially appreciate the 1,142 volunteers (both local and those who came individually and on mission teams beyond our region) who served over 23,237 hours last year -- a value of \$735,219. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, 2024 was a year of growth and impact. We look forward to continuing our work in 2025 as we strengthen rural communities, serve our neighbors with compassion, and make disciples.

Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb, CEO & President, Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville NC



===== **END OF REPORT** =====

XV HOLSTON CONFERENCE - APPALACHIAN TRAIL CHAPLAINCY

“So why are you hiking the A. T.?” This question is probably one of the most-asked questions thru-hikers receive while on the A. T. I know I heard it all the time, and I tended to ask it a lot too.

The Appalachian Trail is a long and very challenging 2,197.4-mile scenic trail that spans from Georgia to Maine. Thousands of people attempt to complete the trail each year, but only 20-25% of them successfully complete it.

Many people answer this common question with a typical response like, “It’s always been my dream to hike the A. T.,” but a truer answer to this question is much deeper than this quick response. Hikers set off on the Appalachian Trail seeking change, answers, meaning, clarity, growth, or peace. They may have always “wanted to hike the trail,” but there is something currently acting as incentive for them to put “boots to the ground” now.

The Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church recognizes the real reason most hikers are on the Appalachian Trail. They see the need for a chaplain to hike the trail alongside other hikers, to build relationships, and to point them towards Jesus because He truly is the answer to the things they are searching for. I am very grateful that the Conference entrusted me with this task for the 2024 season. To have had the opportunity to represent my Savior and be so well supported by the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church is an unbelievable blessing. I had the privilege of sharing my testimony to many friends, praying with those in pain, serving those in need, feeding the hungry, and simply listening.

When other hikers asked me this same question, “Why are you hiking the A. T., Mountain Goat,” my response was a little different. Of course, I too was hoping that my experience on the A.T. would change me, give me clarity, growth and peace (and with God, it did!), but my real reason for hiking had a much

greater purpose. My sincere answer to this question was “I am hiking as Chaplain to tell you that Jesus really loves you.”

Ephesians 3:14-19 became my prayer for every person I encountered on the trail. It says, “I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from His glorious unlimited resources, He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to fully understand. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” (emphasis mine) My prayer for every person I came to know on trail was that God would empower them and make His home in their hearts, and that each friend would learn to trust and understand God’s love for them, making them truly complete.

I hiked from Georgia to Maine from March 1 to August 8, 2024. I met countless people: thru-hikers, section hikers and day hikers. I pray that the seeds that were planted in the hearts of those I came in contact with will grow and flourish and I ask you to pray the same.

I will forever be grateful for the support of the Chaplaincy committee and the prayers of so many that watched my journey. But most importantly, I am so grateful that God proved Himself faithful, allowed me to share His love with so many and successfully complete my role as chaplain. Matthew 19:26 “but with God, all things are possible”.

~ Julie “Mountain Goat” George
2024 Appalachian Trail Chaplain

= = = = END OF REPORT = = = =

XV METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO (MTSO)

Thank you for this opportunity to bring news from MTSO.

Field education students will benefit from Liturgy and Leadership Cohort Program

To equip the next generation of leaders with the ability to navigate complexity with resilience and adaptive leadership skills, MTSO has developed the Liturgy and Leadership Field Education Cohort Program. Funded with a grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through the Ministerial Education Fund, the program is presented by United Methodist pastors Rachel Billups and Matt Rawle, built upon their deep-rooted dedication to creativity and innovation within the church. Over the course of three academic years, we are convening three cohorts of seven promising ministry candidates to immerse them in the methodologies that foster church growth and community impact.

Lisa Allen-McLaurin and Beth Stroud elected to faculty

We began the 2024 Fall Semester with two newly elected faculty members. Assistant Professor of History Beth Stroud, an ordained United Methodist elder, comes to MTSO from Princeton University, where she served as a lecturer in the Princeton Writing Program. She also has taught at Union Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary and Sarah Lawrence College.

Professor of Worship, Music and Spirituality Lisa Allen-McLaurin, an ordained elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, is the author of *Worship Matters! A Collection of Essays on the Practical and Spiritual Discipline of Worship*. Prior to her election to the faculty, Dr. Allen-McLaurin served under appointment at MTSO starting in July 2023. Previously, she chaired the Church Music and Worship Department at Interdenominational Theological Center.

Racial Resilience project launched

Beginning in April, MTSO brought together congregational clergy, lay leaders and youth for training around anti-racism and justice as part of a new project, Cultivating Racial Resilience, made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. While many anti-racism training programs ask participants to set aside the complex feelings about race and racism, this program treats those feelings as effective guideposts for sustainable anti-racist work. Three cohorts will participate in Cultivating Racial Resilience over the next two to three years.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Russell, director of communications



= = = = **END OF REPORT** = = = =

XV SAFE GATHERINGS

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Last Updated: 03/20/2025



===== END OF REPORT =====

XV SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community dedicated to forming leaders for innovative, creative ministry. Our integrated theological education, enriched by faith and social justice, combines real-world experience with academic rigor. Through our FLEX schedule offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning options, our Master's and Doctorate programs provide customized education guided by dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community leaders. Our graduates emerge equipped with the tools and first-hand experience to pursue diverse paths in ministry, service, and leadership locally and globally.

Saint Paul recently launched an innovative Doctor of Ministry program: Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership. This program focuses on developing contemplative spirituality practices that empower students to become change agents in church and society. Grounded in divine listening, students engage with innovative ministry practices while learning to manage and sustain them through adaptive principles, emotional intelligence, and intercultural competence. The program prepares leaders to forge renewed paths for faithful leadership in a challenging world. Discover more about the Saint Paul DMin at spst.edu/doctor-of-ministry/.

In July 2024, the Pause/Play Center for Preachers welcomed its first cohort of 12 preachers from five denominations nationwide. These leaders sought to revitalize their preaching through Spiritual Direction, coaching, retreats, and specialized resources. The Center's inaugural public gathering drew 50 pastors nationwide for a two-day event featuring keynote speaker and Saint Paul alumna Dr. Marcia McFee. The Center accepts applications for the next pastor cohort open in March, with registration for the July 30-August 2, 2025 Kansas City gathering beginning in January.

Saint Paul School of Theology earned the distinction of hosting the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human?" through a national competition by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and American Library Association (ALA). Scientists and experts from the NMNH Human Origins Program will visit our Kansas Campus in Leawood to lead community events, including clergy programs, educator workshops, and community conversations. The exhibit, running February through May

2025, features interactive panels, kiosks, hands-on displays, and videos that explore humanity's evolutionary journey. This free public exhibition encourages meaningful dialogue about human origins while embracing diverse perspectives from both scientific and theological viewpoints.

Our hybrid format continues to unite our community, enabling participants to join chapel services and events either in-person or online. Weekly chapel services throughout the academic year showcase the talents of students, alums, faculty, and local leaders. At the same time, Spiritual Formation sessions engage participants in varied spiritual practices, from outdoor experiences to community leadership connections.

The Saint Paul faculty consistently upholds high scholarship, research, publication, and engagement standards. Notable recent faculty achievements include:

- Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Lindsey P. Pherigo Associate Professor of New Testament Studies and Biblical Interpretation, contributed the chapter "Biblical Interpretation and Criticism in Neocolonial Africa: Challenges, Conceptualizations, and Needs in the Twenty-First Century" to *The FUTURE of the Biblical PAST*
- Dr. Jacob Randolph, Assistant Professor of History of Christianity and Academic Director of the Oklahoma Campus, published "What About the Palestinians? Southern Baptists vs. Southern Baptist Missionaries"
- Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education and Pause/Play Center for Preachers, authored "Designing Worship from a Process Perspective" in *Preaching the Uncontrolling Love of God* and launched the Pause/Play Center for Preachers podcast
- Dr. Richard Liantonio, Adjunct Professor of Hebrew Bible, reviewed *The Bible: A Very Short Introduction*, 2nd ed. in the *Journal of Jewish Studies*

The 2024-2025 academic year brought significant leadership changes to Saint Paul. The Board of Trustees appointed Mrs. Dana Aldridge as Board Chair and welcomed Tom Cochran as Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Cochran's extensive experience strengthens our donor relationships and alums network. We are actively reconnecting with alums across the Midwest and beyond through regional events, fostering collaboration and sharing recent achievements.

The Course of Study (COS) School served 233 students in 2024-2025, including 66 new enrollees, offering 45 classes with approximately 550 total registrations. The program serves 34 Conferences and 92 Districts, supporting 107 full-time and 121 part-time Licensed Local Pastors. Twenty-two students completed the 20-course program this year. With GBHEM approval, we offer both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. COS School students receive full seminary benefits, including library access, chapel participation, and engagement in campus events.

Saint Paul maintains strong financial health with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment nine to ten times our annual expenses. Seven years of focused sustainability efforts have positioned us for strategic growth. As always, we continue to be grateful for the community donations supporting technology advancement, scholarships, and program development. Our enhanced hybrid learning model provides flexible options for students while maintaining educational excellence. The Board's newly approved strategic plan charts an ambitious course for our future.

Our partnership with Zoom and Neat has yielded significant technological improvements. The new Neat Center technology enhances remote classroom participation, while upgraded Classroom Neat Boards offer improved functionality and flexibility. These advancements, combined with AI enhancements in Microsoft 365, our Student Information System, and our Learning Management System, create a more dynamic learning environment. In addition, the Fall 2024 chapel renovation has transformed the space into a more sacred and technologically enhanced environment.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. Your advocacy for the seminary and generous financial support have been vital in realizing our accomplishments. Many thanks for the innumerable ways you have helped Saint Paul. Your prayers and actions on behalf of the seminary are a blessing to all of us.

Jay K. Simmons, President



== == **END OF REPORT** == ==

XV UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. United welcomes all who are following God's call on their lives, and many are answering God's call! In the 2023-2024 academic year, the seminary served 595 graduate students, making it the second largest of the thirteen United Methodist seminaries in the United States, according to the Association of Theological Schools.¹

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 35 states, 21 nations, and 48 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest group at 30 percent of the student body.²

Academics

In large part, enrollment growth is due to continued interest in United's Houses of Study programs, which offer master's and certificate tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements, and denominations in which they serve.

In summer 2024, United welcomed its inaugural cohort of Doctor of Theology students. The advanced research degree program is conducted primarily from a distance, requiring only four weeks of in-person intensives during the three-year program. During their program, students develop original research with a focus on church renewal.

United's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract students looking for an advanced professional degree to expand their ministerial and leadership capabilities. In the 2023-2024 school year, 267 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Finances

United celebrated becoming debt free in May 2024, after making its last payment on a \$3.3 million debt

to its endowment. In addition to eliminating the seminary's debt, United has been focused on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment will expand scholarship opportunities for students for generations to come. With the increase in scholarship gifts from the Fresh Wind campaign and the reduction of United's own debt, the seminary has significantly increased scholarship support for United students.

Innovation Center

The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center celebrated the third anniversary since its launch as United's "research and development" hub for ministry practitioners and thought leaders seeking to create and provide innovative resourcing for congregations. In 2024, the Innovation Center engaged over 2,200 participants through more than 30 live webinars, training events and courses.

In Romans 10:14, St. Paul writes: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" United's students and graduates are going out into the world to proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love. Thanks be to God!

Dr. Kent Millard, President

¹ ATS 2023-2024 Annual Data Tables (Table 2.12 and Table 2.2-A) on fall 2023 enrollment.

² Student data represent unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2023-2024 academic year. Demographic figures represent those who responded.



=== END OF REPORT ===

XV WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC) is to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

Today, the world needs public servants. Wesley DC remains committed to nurturing future leaders in church and society with theological and spiritual growth and community engagement:

Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees: Our diverse programming serves our diverse student population. We offer traditional, brick and mortar, in- person study and flexible, online and hybrid models. Wesley DC is committed to curating space for diversity, community, and (re)imagining ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>

Doctor of Ministry Degree: Wesley DC maintains one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs, offering specialized tracks of study for scholars going into local parishes, global missions, or military chaplaincy. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>

The Hub for Collaboration and Imagination: Wesley DC envisions a dynamic, Spirit-inspired church that responds to God and neighbor. To that end, we catalyze faith communities and leaders to learn about innovation and spiritual entrepreneurship to enact transformative ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

Center for Public Theology: Wesley DC continues to provide sound theological training for future ministry leaders. We foster an entrepreneurial mindset and the practical skills needed to create ministry models which help the church to remain a vital institution that fosters flourishing. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

Community Engagement Institute: Wesley DC offers ground-breaking foundational courses and electives in community engagement, public theology, political theology, and social ethics. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/>

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion: Wesley DC is thrilled to share two new exhibits, *Un/familiar Terrain{s}*, a creative dialogue between UK-based artist, Michael Magruder, and Artificial Intelligence; and *Notebook*, featuring works by Iranian-born artist, Mojdeh Rezaeipour. We also welcomed Ama BE, a Ghanaian-American transdisciplinary artist exploring African migration ecologies. <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>

Lewis Center for Church Leadership: The Lewis Center conducts leading edge research for the local church. Wesley DC is pleased to report generous support from the Lilly Endowment; and continued training for clergy and lay leaders. <https://www.churchleadership.com/>

Call us: (202) 885-8659

Email us: admissions@wesleyseminary.edu

Follow us: Facebook/IG: @WesleySeminary and LinkedIn: @WesleyTheologicalSeminary Submitted by Lyvonne Briggs, Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing

= = = = END OF REPORT = = = =

SECTION III RESOURCES

REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS

¶ 251.2 of 2020/2024 BOD...“The lay member(s) of the Annual Conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the Annual Conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the Annual Conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of conference.”

This guide is presented to assist you as you fulfill your responsibility to report to your local congregation about Holston Annual Conference. We pray the guide will encourage you to keep a record of your experiences and perceptions, help you discover the heart and soul of the Annual Conference session, and assist you as you prepare your report and interpretation by suggesting topics and information that you might want to include. Remember to record both facts and your feelings to share.

While attending Annual Conference, be aware of the reports which indicate the state of the church, the dedication and work that is obviously reflected at all levels of leadership, how the decision-making process is used, and how the decisions reached will impact you, your local church, your district, and your conference. There may be controversy. Whenever concerned Christians meet to make decisions, some controversy often occurs. The important thing is how we handle this controversy.

Consider these suggestions for how you share, what you share and when you share with your local church:

How? A panel of you and other members who attended from your church; a discussion between clergy and lay members; an interview by someone in the congregation; an article in your church newsletter or bulletin.

What? All items that impact you, your church, your district, your conference; your overall impression of the spirit of the session; programs or ideas that made you enthusiastic; information that you feel your church can put to good use.

When? A Sunday morning worship service; adult Sunday school classes; Administrative Board or Church Council meetings; United Methodist Women or Men; a special all-church meeting.

Notes on Business Reporting Sessions:

Impression of Business of the Annual Conference:

Impression of Memorial Service:

Overall impression of Annual Conference:

[illegible]

Notes

[illegible]

===== END OF REPORT =====

SPECIAL EVENTS**SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025**

Time.....	Event.....	Location.....
1:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Registration	Harrell Center (Room 202)
1:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Archives and History display area	Harrell Center (Room 101)
1:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Display Area	Harrell Center (Auditorium)

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025

Time.....	Event.....	Location.....
7:00 am.....	Cabinet Breakfast	Terrace (Room 316)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Registration	Harrell Center (Room 202)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Archives and History display area	Harrell Center (Room 101)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Display Area	Harrell Center (Auditorium)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Dismantling Racism	Terrace (Room 316)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Clergy Spouse Luncheon.....	Bethea Welcome Center (Gaines Auditorium)
5:30 pm	Associate Member Dinner.....	Dodge City Steakhouse (895 Russ Ave, Waynesville, NC 28786)
8:30 pm	Black Methodist for Church Renewal.....	Terrace (Room 316)

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025

Time.....	Event.....	Location.....
7:00 am.....	Reconciling Ministries Network	Memorial Chapel
7:00 am.....	Extension Ministries Breakfast	Terrace (Room 316)
7:00 am.....	Emory and Henry Breakfast.....	Terrace (Auditorium)
7:00 am.....	Tennessee Wesleyan Breakfast.....	Terrace (Room 319)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Registration	Harrell Center (Room 202)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Archives and History display area	Harrell Center (Room 101)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Display Area	Harrell Center (Auditorium)
12:00 pm	Children's Ministry	Harrell Center (Room 201)
12:00 pm	Holston Order of Deacons.....	Bethea Welcome Cener (Gaines Auditorium)
12:00 pm	Clergy Women.....	Terrace (Room 316)
5:00 pm	First Centenary UMC Dinner.....	Terrace (Room 319)
5:00 pm	Hispanic Ministries	Terrace (Auditorium)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025

Time.....	Event.....	Location.....
8:00 am - 10:00am	Registration open.....	Harrell Center (Room 202)

Questions: CharlotteRiggins@holston.org