Behold!

Worship Book

Holston Annual Conference

June 11–14, 2017 • Lake Junaluska, NC
Special Word of Thanks

We want to express a special word of gratitude to the following persons who have worked so diligently behind the scenes to prepare meaningful worship services for our time together at Annual Conference 2017 under the theme, “Bless.”

Altar Settings:
  Rev. Sarah M. Slack, First UMC, Maryville, Maryville District

Music Director:
  Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District

Organist:
  Mr. Bryan K. Underwood, State Street UMC, Bristol, Abingdon District

Pianist:
  Mrs. Sandra Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District

Head Usher:
  Rev. W. Anthony “Tony” Collins, Burks UMC, Chattanooga District

Leader, Morning Teaching Moments:
  Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III, Retired, Cleveland District

Assistance with Worship Preparation:
  Dr. P. Dawn Chesser, Discipleship Ministries, Oak Ridge District
  Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District
  Rev. James R. “Rusty” Taylor, Director, Congregational Development and Revitalization, Maryville District
  Rev. Michael G. Sluder, Director, Connectional Ministries, Maryville District
  Rev. Carol E. Wilson, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Maryville District
  Rev. Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., Conference Secretary, Knoxville District
  Rev. W. Anthony “Tony” Collins, Burks UMC, Chattanooga District
  Rev. Glenna Manning, Concord UMC, Oak Ridge District
  Mrs. Becky Hall, Christ UMC, Chattanooga District
  Mrs. Lori L. Sluder, Executive Secretary to the Bishop, Maryville District
  Ms. Donna Hankins, Multimedia Coordinator, Holston Conference
  Mr. Rick Cherry, Conference Treasurer/Director, Administrative Services, Holston Conference
  Mrs. Charlotte Riggins, Administrative Assistant, Connectional Ministries, Holston Conference

Audio-Visual and Sound Support:
  Mrs. Becky Hall, Christ UMC, Chattanooga District
  Ms. Donna Hankins, Conference Staff
  Stuart Auditorium AV Crew, Lake Junaluska, NC

Worship Book Preparation:
  Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District
  Rev. Carol E. Wilson, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Maryville District
  Mrs. Millie Meese, Conference Staff, Knoxville District
  Mrs. Lori L. Sluder, Executive Secretary to the Bishop, Maryville District

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Annual Conference Worship Schedule

Pre-Service Music will begin 30 minutes prior to the worship services on Sunday and Tuesday evenings and Wednesday morning and 15 minutes prior to the Memorial Service.

Evening Worship  
**Sunday, June 11, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Stuart Auditorium**
- **Celebrant:** Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Holston Area
- **Liturgist:** The Reverend Mary Elizabeth Tipton, Wesley Foundation Director, UVA Wise, Big Stone Gap District
- **Music:** Fountain City UMC Chancel Choir, Knoxville District

**Morning Teaching Moment with Holy Communion**  
**Monday, June 12, 2017, 8:30 a.m., Stuart Auditorium**
- **Teaching:** The Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III, Retired, Cleveland District
- **Celebrant** and **Liturgist:** The Reverend Elizabeth Hernandez-Lopez, Door of Heaven UMC, Wytheville District
- **Celebrant** and **Liturgist:** The Reverend Javier Hernandez-Torres, Door of Heaven UMC, Wytheville District
- **Music:** El Ministerio del Espiritu Santo, First UMC, Sevierville, Maryville District

**Memorial Service**  
**Monday, June 12, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Stuart Auditorium**
- **Preacher:** The Reverend Randall B. Martin, Broad Street UMC, Cleveland District
- **Bagpipes:** Mrs. Beth Morgan
- **Music:** Annual Conference Choir

**An Evening of Inspiration ~ Africana Live: Reflect, Reclaim, and Rejoice**  
**Monday, June 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Stuart Auditorium**
- **Music:** Central United Methodist Church Music Ministry, Atlanta, Georgia

**Morning Teaching Moment with Holy Communion**  
**Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 8:30 a.m., Stuart Auditorium**
- **Teaching:** The Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III, Retired, Cleveland District
- **Liturgist:** The Reverend Douglas Grove-DeJarnett, Munsey Memorial UMC, Johnson City District
- **Celebrant:** The Reverend Kathie R. Wilson-Parker, Edgefield UMC, Johnson City District
- **Music:** Emily, Abby, & Katie Lin, Concord UMC, Oak Ridge District

**Retirement Recognition**  
**Tuesday, June 7, 2016, 11:00 a.m., Stuart Auditorium**

**An Evening of Inspiration ~ Mission Celebration**  
**Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Stuart Auditorium**
- **Guests:** Maria and Bill Humbane, Ishe Anesu, Mutare, Zimbabwe
- **Music:** Lauren Talley

**Service of Ordination, Commissioning, and Recognition and Sending Forth**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 9:00 a.m., Stuart Auditorium**
- **Preacher:** Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Holston Area
- **Music:** The Lake Junaluska Singers
Presiding and Preaching

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

Resident Bishop
Holston Annual Conference

Evening Worship and Holy Communion
Sunday, June 11, 2017 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Pre-Service Music ~ 7:00 p.m.
Fountain City UMC Chancel Choir

Service of Commissioning and Recognition
and Sending Forth
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 ~ 9:00 a.m.
Pre-Service Music ~ 8:30 a.m.
The Lake Junaluska Singers

The Reverend Randall B. Martin

Broad Street UMC
Cleveland District, Holston Annual Conference

Memorial Service
Monday, June 12, 2017 ~ 2:00 p.m.
Pre-Service Music ~ 1:45 p.m.
Fairview UMC Orchestra
Mrs. Beth Morgan, Bagpipes

Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III

Tennessee Wesleyan University, Retired
Cleveland District, Holston Annual Conference

Teaching Moments
Monday, June 12, 2017 ~ 8:30 a.m.
Music ~ El Ministerio del Espíritu Santo

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ 8:30 a.m.
Music ~ Emily, Abby, and Katie Lin
Evening Inspiration and Celebration

Africana Live: Reflect, Reclaim, and Rejoice
Monday, June 12, 2017 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Central UMC Music Ministry
Atlanta, Georgia
Gerald Lee Ricks, Director
Rev. Yvette Massey, Senior Pastor

Mission Celebration
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Special Guests ~ Maria and Bill Humbane
Pre-Service Music ~ 7:00 p.m.
Gospel Singer Lauren Talley

Our Musical Talent
Fountain City UMC Chancel Choir
Lauren Talley
El Ministerio del Espíritu Santo
Emily, Abby, and Katie Lin
The Lake Junaluska Singers
Sunday, June 11, 2017 ● 7:30 p.m.
Stuart Auditorium

Trinity Sunday
The First Sunday after Pentecost

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

Pre-Service Music, 7:00-7:30 p.m.  Fountain City UMC Chancel Choir
Prelude                                Mr. Bryan K. Underwood
Words of Welcome and Call to Order     Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Call to Worship                        “Psalm 46” Beck
                                      Fountain City UMC Chancel Choir
*Procesional Hymn of Unity  “And Are We Yet Alive” Burton-Edwards
*Prayer                                Mr. Wesley Rouse
*Hymns of Praise #110  “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” EIN’ FESTE BURG

Psalm 121
I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore

“Whom Shall I Fear” Tomlin

Evening Prayer                         The Reverend Mary Elizabeth Tipton
The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, 
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, 
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; 
And forgive us our trespasses 
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, 
but deliver us from evil. 
For thine is the kingdom, 
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem “I Wanna Be Ready” arr. Powell
Leslie Hill Graves, Soloist
Fountain City UMC Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading Bishop Taylor

Sermon Bishop Taylor

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Invitation Bishop Taylor

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with their neighbors. As we prepare to join in the evening feast with our Lord, let us confess our sins together:

Confession and Pardon

Forgive them all, O Lord:
Our sins of omission and our sins of commission;
the sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years,
the sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies;
our secret and more open sins,
our sins of ignorance and surprise, and
our more deliberate and presumptuous sins;
the sins we commit to please others,
the sins we commit to please ourselves;
the sins we know and remember
and the sins we have forgotten;
the sins we strive to hide from others
and the sins by which we have made others offend;
Forgive them all, O Lord;
please forgive them all for His sake,
He who died for our sins and rose for our justification
and now stands at Your right hand and makes intercession for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.
(John Wesley 1738)
Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
You loved the world so much
That you gave your only son
That whoever believes in him
Would have eternal life.
You sent him into the world,
Not to condemn it,
But that it might be saved.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**(Sung response) “Holy, Holy, Holy” Scholtes**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
**Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory. (Repeat)**
**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**
**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ.
Who knew you as his loving parent
And thus called you “Abba!”
We, too, cry, “Abba!”
Knowing that when we do
It is the Spirit itself bearing witness
That indeed we are your children.

By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection,
You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, He promised to be with us always,
baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire,
as on the Day of Pentecost.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread,
gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of Me.”
When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

In remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

(Sung response) Hall

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, showing forth the fruit of the Spirit until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup (A gluten-free station is available behind section 7)

Worship Music during Communion Fountain City UMC Chancel Choir

*Hymn of Faith “In Christ Alone” Getty

*Benediction Bishop Taylor

*Postlude Mr. Underwood

*Please stand as you are able.
Monday, June 12, 2017 ● 8:30 a.m.
Stuart Auditorium

Morning Teaching Moment and Holy Communion

“Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth”  Isaiah 43:19:a (ESV)

Prelude          Mr. Bryan K. Underwood
Prayer           The Reverend Elizabeth Hernandez-Lopez
*Hymn of Praise  “How Great is Our God”  Tomlin
Special Music    El Ministerio del Espíritu Santo
Teaching Moment  The Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III
Acción de Gracias Bilingüe por El Domingo de Comunión Mundial
The Great Thanksgiving in English and Spanish  Rev. Hernandez-Lopez
                                           The Reverend Javier Hernandez-Torres

The Lord be with you.
And also with you. / Y también contigo.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord. / Los elevamos al Señor.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise. / Es digno y justo darle gracias y alabarle.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You have made from one every nation and people
to live on all the face of the earth.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Santo eres tú y bendito es tu Hijo Jesucristo.
Mediante el bautismo de su sufrimiento, muerte y resurrección,
diste nacimiento a tu Iglesia,
nos liberaste de la esclavitud del pecado y de la muerte,
e hiciste con nosotros un nuevo pacto
mediante el agua y el Espíritu.
Nos comisionó ser sus testigos hasta el último rincón del mundo
y hacer discípulos de todas las naciones,
y hoy su familia en todo el mundo se junta alrededor de su santa mesa.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

**Renueva nuestra comunión con tu Iglesia por todo el mundo, y fortalécela en cada nación y en medio de cada pueblo para dar testimonio fielmente en tu nombre.**

**Mediante el poder de tu Espíritu, haznos uno con Cristo, uno con los demás, y uno en la obra del ministerio a todo el mundo, hasta que Cristo venga en la victoria final y podamos todos participar en el banquete celestial.**

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

**Breaking the Bread**

**Giving the Bread and Cup (A gluten-free station is available at section 7)**

**Worship Music during Communion**

**Hymn of Faith**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Please stand as you are able.*
Worship Participants:

Teaching Moment ~ The Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III, Retired, Cleveland District

Liturgist and Celebrant ~ The Reverend Javier Hernandez-Torres, Door of Heaven, Wytheville District

Liturgist and Celebrant ~ The Reverend Elizabeth Hernandez-Lopez, Door of Heaven, Wytheville District

Music Leader ~ Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District

Organist ~ Mr. Bryan K. Underwood, State Street UMC, Abingdon District

Musicians ~ El Ministerio del Espiritu Santo, First Sevierville, Maryville District

The Reverend J. David Roberts created the communion prayer using the following resources:


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Monday, June 12, 2017 ● 2:00 p.m.
Stuart Auditorium

Memorial Service

“I am the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die.
And whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”
John 11:25-26 (NIRV)

Pre-Service Music, 1:45-2:00 p.m. 
Mrs. Beth Morgan
Fairview UMC Orchestra

Prelude Processional
“Highland Cathedral”
Mrs. Morgan
Mr. Bryan K. Underwood

Please stand as we honor the family members of those memorialized today.

Silent Procession of the Memorial Banners
The bells on the memorial banners represent the lives of those being remembered in today’s service and those persons who have been instrumental in the walks of faith of today’s worshipping congregation. Please remember this great cloud of witnesses in silent prayer as we give thanks for their faithful witness.

*Hymn of Praise #711
“For All the Saints”
sine nominе

*Greeting
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

We have gathered here to celebrate the lives of those who have served faithfully through the years and now share the triumph of Christ.

We affirm with praise and thanksgiving the goodness of our Lord.
Let us rejoice in God’s presence with us, in death as in life among those who mourn as with those who now see Christ face to face.

In the midst of our grief we sing with joy, for God’s love is over all that has been made. Blessed be God’s glorious name forever.

Prayer
Bishop Taylor

Tender and compassionate God, we seek to know you through the hearing of your Word and pray that we may go beyond hearing to obeying, as shown by the faithful lives of your departed servants whom we honor today.

We know that they are precious in your eyes, worthy of your special attention and ours, for they served well in the task that you gave them. Grant that we may feel your presence As did the followers who knew Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and may we experience the fire within that sent them out to share good news. Amen.
Anthem

“It Is Well”
arr. Walker, Walker, Duren
Annual Conference Choir and Orchestra

Introduction of Preacher
Bishop Taylor

Scripture Reading
II Timothy 1:3-7
The Reverend Randall B. Martin

Sermon
“Hand-Me-Down Faith”
Reverend Martin

*Hymn of Faith # 709
“Come, Let us Join Our Friends Above”
FOREST GREEN

Reading of the Names
Bishop Taylor

As Bishop Taylor calls the names of those we remember, we invite you to stand
if you are a family member, were blessed by their ministry, or if this person
made a significant impact upon you during her or his ministry.

Prayer for the Saints and Faithful Departed
Bishop Taylor

Everliving God,

this day revives in us memories of loved ones who are
with us no more.

What happiness we shared when they walked among us.
What joy, when, loving and being loved, we lived our lives together.

Their memory is a blessing for ever.

Months or years may have passed, and still we feel near to them.
Our hearts yearn for them.
Though the bitter grief has softened, duller pain abides;
for the place where once they stood is empty now.
The links of life are broken,
but the links for love and longing cannot break.

Their souls are bound up in ours for ever.

We see them now with the eye of memory,
their faults forgiven, their virtues grown larger.
So does goodness live, and weakness fade from sight.
We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

Their memory is a blessing for ever.

And we remember as well the members
who but yesterday were part of our congregations and communities.
To all who cared for us and labored for all people, we pay tribute.
May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our faith,
for now the task is ours.

Their souls are bound up in ours for ever.

We give you thanks that they now live and reign with you.
As a great crowd of witnesses, they surround us with their blessing,
and offer you hymns of praise and thanksgiving.

They are alive for ever more. Amen.
Anthem
“Amazing Grace”
arr. Knight
Annual Conference Choir and Orchestra
*Benediction
*Benediction
*Benediction
*Benediction
Bishop Taylor
Hymn of Adoration #302
“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”
EASTER HYMN
Mr. Underwood
*Postlude
*Postlude
*Postlude
*Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

Worship Participants:
Mary Virginia Taylor, Resident Bishop, Holston Area,
The United Methodist Church
Preacher ~ The Reverend Randall B. Martin, Broad Street UMC,
Cleveland District
Music Leader ~ Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District
Organist ~ Mr. Bryan K. Underwood, State Street UMC, Abingdon District
Choir ~ Lay and Clergy Members and Guests of the Holston Conference
Bagpipes ~ Mrs. Beth Morgan
Orchestra ~ Fairview UMC, Maryville District

Following the service, you are invited to the tent between Stuart Auditorium
and Harrell Center to greet family members of those memorialized today.
Clergy Members
In Memoriam

James Willis Beard, Sr. 7/21/1942 12/9/2016
Thomas Richard Blackshear 12/27/1934 7/31/2016
Porterfield “Pete” Bradby 3/16/1931 2/6/2017
Andrew Jackson Brown, Jr. 2/12/1932 12/27/2016
Donald McClain Brummett 4/7/1941 10/30/2016
Ernest O. Cole 6/25/1921 1/19/2017
Edwin John Doerr 5/1/1935 8/26/2016
John Franklin Keller 4/12/1947 12/15/2016
Linda Gail Krauss 7/20/1952 1/23/2017
James Paul Lane 7/25/1931 11/29/2016
Larry Anderson Linkous, Sr. 6/12/1944 1/29/2017
Charles Edward Lippse 1/2/1934 9/2/2016
Kenneth B. Meredith 5/26/1946 1/18/2017
George Frank Saddler 11/3/1933 1/27/2017
John Ross Steiner 4/26/1926 7/21/2016
Cabel Winston Trent 9/22/1927 1/19/2017
Howard Malcolm Wansley 4/14/1948 5/14/2016
Warren Harding Wattenbarger 1/19/1932 3/2/2017
Vernon Asbury Windom 5/10/1929 1/21/2017
Clergy Spouses
In Memoriam

Jonnie Marie Cobble  7/29/1931  3/27/2017  (Alvin C. Cobble)
JoElla Diehl  6/12/1952  4/7/2016  (James W. Diehl)
William Hicks-Caskey  2/6/1925  10/28/2016  (Wanda Sue Hicks-Caskey)
Erma Lou Hill  5/21/1951  8/27/2016  (William L. Hill)
Wilma “Jeanne” Hinton  5/23/1927  11/9/2016  (Bill E. Hinton)
Tera Shelby Irvin  9/25/1925  3/9/2017  (A. Jack Irvin)
David Clayton Myers  8/18/1943  2/21/2017  (Mariel H. Myers)
Jeane Tatum Philpott  1/31/1947  7/3/2016  (Dr. James L. Philpott)
## Surviving Spouses
### In Memoriam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juanita Barnes Arnold</td>
<td>8/7/1924</td>
<td>11/28/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(James Henry Arnold)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewell Baines</td>
<td>10/7/1942</td>
<td>12/11/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Miles D. Baines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Farrar Baxter</td>
<td>1/3/1928</td>
<td>1/29/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>(George W. Baxter, Jr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vernon Lee Bishop, Jr.</td>
<td>12/3/1940</td>
<td>8/26/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Patricia Bishop)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucille French Cutshaw</td>
<td>12/12/1925</td>
<td>6/20/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Robert “JR” Cutshaw)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Dailey Duck</td>
<td>7/13/1921</td>
<td>9/21/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(John W. Duck, Jr.)</td>
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<td>(Claude H. Emmert)</td>
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<td>(David Reece Gilliam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elsie May Hamm</td>
<td>1/10/1927</td>
<td>5/22/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(C. Clay Hamm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Rogers Hudson</td>
<td>9/23/1931</td>
<td>1/11/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Robert B. Hudson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty W. Hurlock</td>
<td>5/10/1926</td>
<td>11/13/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Charles J. Hurlock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Neblet James</td>
<td>9/1/1929</td>
<td>8/13/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(D. Trigg James)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ruth Ealey Kelley</td>
<td>9/1/1928</td>
<td>12/15/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Archie M. Kelley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nell Webb Mohney</td>
<td>10/31/1921</td>
<td>7/19/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Ralph W. Mohney, Sr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Kay Riley</td>
<td>5/23/1943</td>
<td>1/9/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>(C. Martin Riley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doris Lee Collier Trent</td>
<td>11/18/1929</td>
<td>2/17/2017</td>
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<td>(Cabel W. Trent)</td>
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1947 – 2017

Robert Bradford “RB” Anderson, Jr. died April 24, 2017, after a brief illness. He was a resident of both Bland, VA and Shacklefords, VA. RB was born December 6, 1947, and was preceded in death by his parents, Robert B. Anderson and Margaret Funk Anderson.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah Beavers Anderson of Bland and Shacklefords, VA; two sons and daughters-in-law, Rath and Michelle of Bland, VA, and Dane and Mandy of Montpelier, VA; five beautiful granddaughters, Virginia (Ginny), Aeryie Grey, Rill, Juliet and Isadora; a brother, Chuck Anderson of Virginia Beach, a sister, Peg Monahan of Williamsburg, and also a very special niece, Melanie Batholomay, and her children, Veronica, Heidi and Rex, of Knoxville, TN.

RB enlisted in the US Army in June 1967 and volunteered to serve two tours in Vietnam, the first as an E-5 Squad Leader in Charlie Company C-75 Rangers; the second as the door gunner on extraction missions. He returned to graduate from Marshall University to be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He received an M.Ed. from Virginia Tech, and served as an ROTC instructor and led the Ranger program there. He was Airborne (Jump Master), Ranger and Special Forces, serving throughout the Middle East and Asia, including Operation Desert Storm. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1991.

After military retirement, RB’s second career was in education. He taught JROTC at Hopewell and Carroll County High Schools, was a counselor at Wilderness Leadership Academy, and also served as principal of The Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands.

RB’s third career was a calling to be a prison chaplain, serving first at River North Correctional Center in Grayson County, and then Bland Correctional Center, near his home.

Throughout all of his various careers, RB was also a passionate farmer, who always believed in sustainable agriculture. He passed with grace and the assurance that his faith sustained him. A light to many, he “Leads the Way.”

Graveside rites were held Friday, April 28, 2017, at Shackelford’s Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery.

James Willis “Bill” Beard, Sr.  
1942 – 2016

The Rev. James Willis “Bill” Beard, Sr. was born in Chattanooga, TN, on July 21, 1942, to Alice Atchley and John Willis Beard. After graduating from Redbank High School, he served a stint in the Navy on the “crash crew” for the Blue Angels in Pensacola, FL. Starting a family young (Lisa, Billy Jr., Beth, and David), Bill put off his own college completion as he supported his family as a technician for Xerox and then a small business owner.

Bill was raised by parents who instilled a great love of God and the Church. He often spoke that he felt the call of God on his life for many years before he responded. In 1987, at 45 years old, he went on to finish his Bachelor of Arts at The University of Louisville and then his Master of Divinity at Southern Seminary in 1993. (Ordained in 1988, he served a local church during his seminary years.)

In August 1994, Bill was married for a second time to The Rev. Kimberly S. Isley. They moved to Knoxville. In 1996 upon completion of her CPE Residencies, Kim came to serve in Holston Conference as the Associate Pastor of Fountain City UMC. In September of 1997, Bill became the Pastor of Walland UMC. They subsequently completed the United Methodist courses at Asbury
Seminary. (Bill had a lifelong love of reading. He was also a Kentucky Colonel and a member of the SAR.)

In December of 1999, Bill and Kim welcomed their daughter Kaitlin Marin Isley Beard. She has been a light and joy in all the years that followed—she is greatly loved by Bill (and her mom) and was a great help to his morale. Bill’s service to Holston Conference was 1997-2001, Walland UMC; (2000-Elders Orders Recognized); 2001-2003, Pleasant Hill, Knoxville; 2003-2006 Lincoln Park; 2006-2007 Lincoln Park-Lynnwood Parish; 2007-2010, Wears Valley; 2010-2014, Martel UMC. At all of these appointments Bill showed initiative and energy—he often made dinners for his churches, or sponsored musical groups, or brought in The Johnsonville Brat Truck to help raise funds for what was needed. He loved working with children and eating with the men’s group where they would go to work on projects.

In June of 2014, Bill, Kim, and Kaitlin were blessed when Kim was appointed to Centenary UMC in Erwin, TN. Sadly, Kim’s father passed away that fall and Bill’s health began to fail. Their new Church family has supported them all the way. Bill died while in Hospice in Erwin on December 9, 2017. His funeral was held Friday, December 16, 2016, at Centenary UMC with The Revs. Walter Weikel and Walter Cross officiating.

**THOMAS RICHARD BLACKSHEAR**

**1934 – 2016**

Thomas Richard Blackshear, 81, of Red Bank, passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2016. Tom was born in Nashville, TN, on Dec. 27, 1934. He grew up in Chattanooga, with his parents, Thomas and Kathleen Blackshear, and his brother, Kenneth B. Hall. He graduated from Red Bank High School in 1953. He graduated from Tennessee Tech University with a BS Degree in Business Administration in 1957. He joined the United States Army in 1957. He continued to serve our Country in the U.S. Army Reserve until 1985, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He received his MBA degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1968. He attended U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1974. He was married to Valerie Jean Harris in 1957 until her passing in 1982. This marriage was blessed with two sons, Thomas, Jr. and Stephen.

Tom worked for 3M Company as an industrial engineer (1959-1966) and Smith Kline and French Pharmaceuticals in product management and sales (1966-1983). He taught at Chattanooga State Community College (1983-1985) and as Associate Professor of Business at Lincoln Memorial in Harrogate, TN (1986-1999). In 1993, while teaching at LMU, he received his Doctorate of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. While teaching at LMU, Tom began his Ministerial Studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, completing his studies in 1996. He served as Pastor of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Jasper, TN, from 1996-1999. He also taught at Tennessee Wesleyan College from 1999-2001. He served as pastor of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church in Decatur, TN (1999-2008).

Tom married Bobbie Brown in 1988, adding three adult stepchildren to the family. Tom and Bobbie both retired from teaching in 2001 and traveled extensively until Tom’s health began to decline. Tom received many honors, some of which were Induction into the Red Bank High School Hall of Fame in 2003, Distinguished Citizen of the City of Chattanooga, Who’s Who in the South, Pi Kappa Delta Honorary Speech Society, Pi Sigma Epsilon Honorary Marketing Society, and Pi Omega Pi Honorary Business Society. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Bobbie; his two sons, Thomas Blackshear, Jr., of Anna Maria Island, FL, and Stephen (Barbara) Blackshear, of Pensacola, FL; his brother, Kenneth (Wanda) Hall, of Chattanooga; stepdaughters, Laura Anne (Keith) Walter and Vicki Wigington; stepson, Charles (Deanna) Wigington; and eight grandchildren. The celebration of Tom’s life was held in the Chapel of Lane Funeral Home on Thursday, August 4, 2016, with burial following in Chattanooga National Cemetery.
**PORTERFIELD “Pete” BRADBY**
1931 – 2017

Porterfield “Pete” Bradby, 85, born March 16, 1931, in Rushmere, VA, entered into eternal rest February 6, 2017, at Beverly Park Place Health and Rehab Facility. “Pete,” an honorably discharged second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was the former director of public relations at Knoxville College. He later worked for the Housing and Urban Development for 27 years. After retirement, he pastored Asbury Chapel and Haven Chapel United Methodist Churches. Pete was a member of Lennon Seney UMC. His hobbies included fishing, photography, boating, and walking his dog Gigi.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Milton and Florence Bradby. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 51 years, Glorial H. Bradby; children, Allen (Dania) Bradby, Portia Bradby, and Catharine Whitworth; grandchildren, Alexis Bradby, and, Marie and Patrick Whitworth; brother, Curtis (Dorthy) Bradby, sister, Barbara (Sam) Jackson, brother-in-law, Eddie (Cecelia) Humphrey; nephew, Waverly (Pat) Bradby, as well as a host of relatives in the DC and Virginia area. At Pete’s request, his body was donated to medical science that he may help someone else live.

A Family Memorial was held at the Bradby residence. A Time of Remembrance was held during the Sunday worship services at Lennon Seney UMC, Asbury Chapel UMC, and Haven Chapel UMC to honor the life and dedication of Pete. Final Burial was held in Rushmere, VA.

**ANDREW JACKSON BROWN, JR.**
1932 – 2016

Andrew Jackson Brown, Jr. was born February 12, 1932 in Knoxville, TN, to Andrew Jackson Brown, Sr. and Lillie Belle (Clark) Brown. He died December 27, 2016, at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. He graduated from Knoxville High School in 1951 and was the final drum major for the marching band and captain of ROTC Company D. He attended UT Knoxville for 2 years and played in the band before he joined the United States Army. He served 18 months in the Panama Canal Zone with the 986th Signal Radio Company. He was promoted to rank of 1st Lieutenant. He also served 15 additional years in the Army Reserve.

After Jack’s 2 years of active duty in the Army, he entered Tennessee Wesleyan College in 1955 to complete his degree. This is where he finally answered the call to ministry. He also met Nancy Huff at TWC and they married in 1958. They had been married 58 years at the time of his death.

Jack earned his Bachelors of Divinity degree (M.Div.) in 1962 at Candler School of Theology. He was ordained Deacon then Elder and served the following churches in Holston Conference from 1958-2006: Friendship Circuit; Benton – Mt. Hermon; Ducktown – Croft’s Chapel; Morrison’s Chapel; Bethesda – Eden – Embreeville; Fairhaven; Bluff City – Rockholds; Copperhill, First; Loudon; Blountville; Central, Lenoir City; Macedonia, Reynolds Memorial; Havens Chapel – Trinity; Church Street; and Bell’s Campground. Jack had a beautiful tenor voice and enjoyed singing in all his church choirs.

In addition to being a fulltime pastor, Jack was a professional photographer. He served as the official photographer for Holston Conference for 25 years. In his spare time, he was an avid golfer, an active Lions Club member for 33 years, and a HAM Radio Operator.

After retirement, he returned to his home church, Central, Knoxville, to be part of its ministries. Jack was known by his warm smile, sense of humor, and easygoing personality. He was a devoted pastor, friend, teacher, counselor, and God’s faithful servant.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents. Those left to carry his memory are his wife, Nancy (Huff) Brown; daughter, Rev. Diana Brown Taylor, LCSW (Rev. Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.); son, Michael Andrew Brown (Sybil Rymer Brown); grandchildren, Andrew Calvin Brown and

DONALD MCCLAIN BRUMMETT
1941 – 2016

Donald McClain Brummett, Servant of God and man, born in Erwin, TN, on April 7, 1941, died October 30, 2016, in Wichita, KS. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Beatrice Brummett. Don is survived by his soulmate, best friend, and wife of 53 years, Viola Smith Brummett, son, Eric Brummett and wife, Sharla, granddaughter, Dora, three brothers; and one sister.

He retired from the Air Force as a CMSgt after 24 years of service. After his retirement, Don became a Methodist pastor serving churches in Texas and Tennessee.

A Celebration of Life service was held Friday, November 4, 2016, at Calvary United Methodist Church, Wichita, KS.

EDWIN C. CARTER, JR.
1930 – 2016

Edwin Charles Carter, Jr., was born March 16, 1930, in Knoxville, TN, to Edwin C. Carter, Sr., and Lola (Myers) Carter. Ed attended schools in Knox County and in Key West, FL, and graduated from Carter High School in 1947. Enrolling in the University of Tennessee, he joined the Swim Team.

Ed enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve in 1948. His education was interrupted by his call to active duty in 1950. After he was discharged June 20, 1953, Ed enrolled in night school at the University of Tennessee. In 1957, he entered and completed study as an architectural draftsman at Fulton Technical School. He completed these studies under the G. I. Bill.

Ed answered the call to the ministry from Fountain City Methodist Church. He was licensed to preach May 20, 1958. He was ordained a Deacon May 26, 1966; he was ordained an Elder October 18, 1967, by Bishop H. Ellis Finger, Jr., at Fountain City Methodist Church. He completed his formal education as a student for the ministry, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory & Henry College, and graduated from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in 1967.

Ed married Carrie Lou Smelser on June 1, 1952. The Carters had two daughters, Cheryl Ann (Sherry) Carter and Martha Carol Carter Routh. Their grandchildren are Charles Russell (Rusty) McCauley, John Carter Routh, and Carol Ann Routh. The Carters’ great-grandchildren are Braelyn Marianna, Beckham Russell, and Brilee Harper McCauley.

An Eagle Scout and Ranger Explorer, Ed had a lifelong passion for Scouting. During his ministry, he worked at camps throughout the Holston Conference. His architectural training was utilized in his churches and mission work. He served after retirement from full-time ministry as director of tutoring of the Knoxville Cooperative Parish.

As a minister, Ed served fifteen churches and eleven appointments over his thirty-eight years of full-time ministry. After retirement, he served five years as a pastor and served at three churches as an interim pastor. His travels included short-term missions to Costa Rica in 1976 and Liberia in 1979. He traveled to the Holy Land in 1984. Ed attended the conference in 1968 when The Methodist Church became The United Methodist Church.
Ed succumbed to congestive heart failure December 29, 2016. His funeral was held December 31, 2016, at Fountain City United Methodist Church with The Reverend Dr. Randy Frye and the Reverend John Jackson officiating. Ed was buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Knoxville.

**Ernest Otis “E.O.” Cole**  
**1921 – 2017**

Ernest Otis “E.O.” Cole passed away on January 19, 2017, at Jefferson Memorial Hospital following an extended illness. He was born in 1921 to Ms. Roberta Miller of Mount Villa, AL. Partially raised by his grandmother, they came to McRoberts, KY, and later moved to Weeksburg, KY, where he finished grade school and finished high school in Wheelwright, KY, in 1938. Once he graduated from high school, he followed his grandfather’s and uncle’s footsteps going into the coal mines of Caretta, WV. Ernest was called into the Army in 1941 and left home to fight in WWII. After his tour was over, he came back to Caretta, WV, where he met his lovely wife, Geneva Swain, and having married in 1946, they have been married over 70 years. He began his ministry in 1950 in the Kentucky/West Virginia Conference. He finished his course of study in 1955 and was ordained an Elder by Bishop Edgar A. Love.

He is preceded in death by a brother, James Cole, Sr.; his oldest son, Uyless E. Cole; step-son, Joseph Hardy; and son-in-law, William C. Horton, Sr. He leaves behind his loving wife; two sons, Otis Cole, Sr. and Ronnie Cole, Sr.; three daughters, Anna J. Horton, Sharon Ann Riddles, and his devoted baby girl, Diane M. Whiteside; also a devoted son-in-law, Buford F. Whiteside; a host of grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and a nephew, James Cole, Jr.

Ernest has been in the ministry for over 55 years, proclaiming the Word of God and bringing souls to Jesus. He has had his share of life’s ups and downs, but has always prevailed with the Lord by his side. He was a proud man, a strong man, a family man, and a man with a conviction of the Holy Spirit and a true crusader in Christ. Just as Paul the Apostle, he fought a good fight, he kept the faith, and there is a reward laid up for him. The family would like to give a special thanks and appreciation to the caregivers at Life Care of Jefferson City for the wonderful, loving care they have shown their father through the time he was there.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at Farrar Funeral Home with Rev. Nathaniel Wilson and Rev. Andrew Smith officiating. Graveside interment followed at Westview Cemetery with military honors by VFW #5266.

**Edwin J. Doerr, Jr**  
**1935 – 2016**

Edwin was born on May 1, 1935, and passed away on Friday, August 26, 2016 at The Medical Center in Macon. He was a resident of Reynolds, GA, at the time of his passing. Memorial services were held on Sunday, August 28, 2016 at Crowell United Methodist Church with a private burial. He was a member of Crowell United Methodist Church and the 2007-2008 Madison Who’s Who of New York for Professional Accomplishment, Academic Achievement Leadership and Service. Mr. Doerr was a Baptist Minister for several years and retired as a Methodist Minister after 29 years. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Montgomery Doerr of Reynolds; three sons; two daughters; three sisters; and numerous grandchildren.

Reverend Robert T. “Bob” Edmonds passed away Thursday, June 23, 2016, in the Franklin Woods Community Hospital. Bob was born in Knoxville, TN, where he attended public schools, graduating from Knoxville High School. Soon after graduation from high school, Bob was employed by the Southern Railway System, where he worked for seven years as a freight car repairman. In 1957, Bob felt the call to the ministry. In preparation for this calling, he attended Emory & Henry College in Emory, VA, and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. He received his B.S. degree in 1961. Bob attended seminary at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1965. Bob was admitted on trial to the Holston Annual Conference and ordained a deacon in 1962; he was admitted to full connection and ordained an elder in 1965. Bob retired from full-time ministry in June 1999 and has since made his home in Johnson City, TN. In 2004 Bob was able to continue the ministry to which he had given his life by serving as Aftercare Coordinator with Morris-Baker Funeral Home. He visited families after their loss and welcomed them to grief support and fellowship events. He served as interim pastor of The First United Methodist Church in Elizabethton, TN. Bob, and his wife Jean were faithful members of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife Jean Meadows Edmonds; one daughter, Teresa Young; one son, Tom Edmonds and his wife Shiryll; one brother, R. Mitchell Edmond; three grandchildren, Robert Edmonds III, Jon Edmonds and his wife Laura, and Alicia Young; six great-grandchildren, Abriana Edmonds, Elissia Edmonds, Mason Edmonds, Parker Edmonds, Xander Lowery, and Emily Hoover; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Monday, June 27, 2016, in the Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church with Rev. Charles Lippse and Rev. Mark Gooden officiating. The entombment service was conducted Tuesday, June 28, 2016, in the Sherwood Memorial Gardens, Alcoa TN. Active pallbearers were selected from family and friends.

James Ronald “Ron” Gough 1942 – 2016

The Reverend Doctor James Ronald (Ron) Gough, 73, of Johnson City, passed away on Monday, May 16, 2016, at Franklin Woods Hospital. He was born in Johnson City, August 23, 1942, to James Earl and Bertha McNeil Gough.

He graduated with honors from Boones Creek High School, Milligan College, Emanuel School of Religion, Vanderbilt University, San Francisco Theological Seminary, with additional studies at the Order of Black Friars, Oxford University, Oxford, England, earning and adding many degrees of study to his academic repertoire. Dr. Gough became a minister and served in that capacity for several churches in Kentucky and North Dakota. In the final years of his ministry, Dr. Gough served with the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church in Tennessee.

Survivors of Dr. Gough are his wife of 55 years, Freda; son, Terry and his wife Erin; daughter, Rhonda Haas and her husband Tim; six grandchildren, Ashlee Sullivan and her husband Peter, Nicholas Haas, Tianna Haas, Christian Gough, Jonathan Gough, and Samantha Gough; as well as two great-grandchildren, Savannah and Jaxson Sullivan; three sisters, Gail Ford and husband Harry, Kathy Carmichael and husband Pat, Vickie Pate and husband Larry.

Funeral services to celebrate the journey of his life were held at the Limestone Cove Christian Church, Unicoi, Dr. Gough’s first pastorate, on Saturday, May 21, 2016.
The family would like to thank the ICU nurses and doctors at Franklin Woods Hospital for their
tireless love, compassion, and professionalism in caring for Dr. Gough and his family during the
final days of his life.

Andrew “Drew” Lee Henry
1948 – 2016
Rev. Andrew “Drew” Lee Henry was born April 24, 1948, in
Baldwyn, MS. He and Jane Bingham were married on
December 28, 1969, at Church Street UMC in Knoxville. He received
his BS in Forestry from Mississippi State University in 1972, and
an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School in 1975. He died on Friday,
November 4, 2016.
Drew served over 43 years as a United Methodist pastor. Across
his ministry, he was licensed in the Mississippi Annual Conference,
ordained and a member of the North Carolina Conference, member of Holston Conference
twice), the Tennessee Conference and the Memphis Conference. In North Carolina Conference,
he served University Church in Chapel Hill and Marshallburg United Methodist Churches. In the
State of Tennessee, he served Lake City, Tuckaleechee in Townsend, Briceville, Burlison, St; Luke
in Memphis, West End in Nashville, Union City, Lexington, Cleveland First, and Sevierville First.
Drew retired in 2015 to a peaceful ridge in Seymour, TN, surrounded by the nature that he loved.
He was preceded in death by his wife, Jane Bingham Henry, his parents, Emily (Mauldin)
Henry Barber and Leroy J. Henry and his aunt, E. Eugenia Mauldin.
Drew is survived by his daughters: Elizabeth Henry Favier and husband John, and Sara Henry
Thomas and husband Kevin; his grandchildren, Lily Eugenia Angeline, Fox Henry Angeline,
Mary Elizabeth Favier, Milo Henry Thomas and Sullivan Henry Thomas; his brother Paul Henry,
his sister Rebecca Henry Crawford and husband Ernie, his sister-in-law Rebecca Bingham
Norwood and husband Reed, and brother-in-law George Bingham and wife Ruth and their
families.
A Celebration of Drew’s life was held on November 11, 2016, at Church Street UMC,
Knoxville, TN. The Reverends Charles Maynard, Randy Pasqua, Brenda Carroll, and Andy
Ferguson officiated. He is buried at Highland Memorial Cemetery in Knoxville.

John Franklin Keller, Jr.
1947 – 2016
Reverend John Franklin Keller, Jr was born April 12, 1947, in
Hickory, NC, to the late John Franklin Keller, Sr. and wife Bessie
(Wallace) Keller. John attended schools in Granite Falls, NC and
Hickory, NC. John grew up and faithfully attended Concord Baptist
Church, Southern Baptist Association, in Granite Falls. After marriage
to Janet (Marshall) Keller, the couple began a devoted life to The
United Methodist Church in the many moves they made with John’s
first career work in finance for several of the leading furniture
manufacturers in the Southeastern states. He held employment with DMI Furniture, Gilliam
Furniture, Vaughan-Bassett, Barcalounger, Pulaski Furniture, and Berkline over a 50-year span.
John admitted he had a calling for pastoring for quite a few years before committing his life
to the service of the Church. Over the years, John had served in a long list of positions within
The United Methodist Church. He also felt a deep love for youth and he and Janet served in
leadership roles with youth programs in several churches they attended. The Youth Ministry
through Resurrection held a special place in the lives of John and Janet’s children, Jonathan and
Joy, as they grew into young adults and continued to serve as chaperones for the youth of Oakland
United Methodist Church attending Resurrection each January. John had followed youth studies in
teaching Sunday School and helping with the youth group meetings over the years. He and Janet
shared their time and talents for working with young people for some 45 years hoping to make a difference in the life of just one person.

John became bi-vocational 12 years ago under the mentoring of Rev. Terril Littrell. He had worked for the last 11 years as Corporate Credit Manager for Unaka Corp of Greenville, TN, and was retiring on December 31, 2016, but was called home to Heaven on December 15, 2016, after expiring at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. His departure from family and friends was very unexpected as he was planning to be discharged the following day. God had other plans and John was at the Glorious Christmas Celebration in Heaven with loved ones last year. He had served the congregation of Oakland United Methodist Church, Jefferson City, TN, for the last 10 years and was honored to have the privilege. John was always seen with a smile and outstretched hand welcoming all persons to join in the services and more importantly in the love of Christ. He was fully devoted to continuing education, reading, and studying every day since beginning his ministry. He had a deep prayer life that encompassed his daily living. John was active in the Morristown District and served most recently the last 3 years on the District Revival Committee. He was a strong supporter of the Jubilee Project. John served as president of the National Furniture Manufacturers Credit Association and participated in Jaycees and Junior Achievement.

John was a deeply devoted husband to the love of his life, Janet, being married for 50 years in August 2016. They had two children, five grandchildren, and their first great-grandchild was born in January 2017, a day John had been so excited about. The children are son Jonathan and family of State Road, NC, and Joy Keller Blalock and family of Statesville, NC. He is also survived by two sisters, Sharon Keller Miller and husband Chris, and Myrona Keller Justice of Hickory, NC, along with a niece and nephew. John and Janet were also dedicated caregivers to Janet’s sister, Marsha Elaine Marshall, who had resided with them since 2001. What some would count as a burden, John only saw it as a reward to be able to serve Marsha with love and compassion. He is greatly missed.

John was an organ donor by choice and encouraged others to consider this option. He felt he had been blessed beyond measure in his life and was grateful that someone may have been able to be helped with this small gesture. A Celebration of Life was held at Oakland United Methodist Church for the congregation and friends from the area to attend. The family held a Celebration Service in Granite Falls, NC, for family and friends in their hometown region on January 22, 2017.

To feel if he had adequately conveyed a certain message to the Oakland congregation John would sometimes use one of the following in closing a service: “God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it … Do you believe that? Are all minds and hearts clear? My bags are packed, my ticket is punched, and I’m ready to go. Are you?” And he surely was.

Lowell Dwight Kenney
1936 – 2016

Rev. Lowell Dwight Kenney, 80, of Morristown, passed away Monday, October 3, 2016, at Heritage Health Center.

Rev. Kenney attended United Theological Seminary. His first appointment as a pastor was at Union Temple in July 1957. During his career, he served at Perry County Mission Church, Bethel UM Church, Saint Andrews UM Church, and Centenary UM Church. He served at Centenary from 1974 until he retired in July 1997. He was very active in the Morristown Police Department, United Way, and First Church in Dandridge.

During his years of retirement, Rev. Kenney enjoyed watching his grandsons and their friends play sports, mostly baseball. He always had a garden big enough to feed the neighborhood. He had lots of special neighbors in Dandridge.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Annette Kenney, and grandsons, Lance and Logan Kenney. He is preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Ann Haltom, and his parents, George and Fleta Kenney.
Special thanks to Regency Retirement Village, the Heritage Center, and Smokey Mountain Healthcare for caring for dad in this past year; they have cared for him far better than we could have imagined.

The funeral service was held at Centenary U.M. Church in Morristown, with Rev. Darris Doyal, Rev. Tom Ballard, and Rev. Bryan Wyke officiating. A graveside service was held Oct. 7, 2016, at Graceland Memorial Gardens.

**LINDA GAIL KRAUSS**

**1952 – 2017**

A beautiful woman with a beautiful heart, Rev. Linda Gail Krauss was born on July 20, 1952. She was an adopted child so her biological parents were unknown. She was born in Knoxville TN. She had a blood brother, Gary Lynn, who was adopted with her the same day and an older adopted sister, Donna. She was adopted by her loving parents, JB and Ethel (Coulter) Pesterfield. Linda was a happy child who wasn’t afraid to get into a little mischief. She went to school at Everett High School in Maryville in the late 60s. She had to drop out in her senior year in order to give birth to her first child, Tammy, and also to get married. She later received her high school diploma through Thompson High School online courses. Linda was proud to say she attended Duke Divinity School Course of Study for a couple of years along with her good friend Rev. Martha Beamer.

Linda served in five appointments as a Licensed Local Pastor but one of her favorites was Exeter UMC in the Big Stone Gap District. While there, she was honored for coming up with the idea for and implementing the formation of the church library for use by congregation and community. She helped to procure books, a computer, and resource material. For her efforts, the library was named the Linda Krauss Library, a huge honor for an humble woman!

Linda was married to her loving husband, Vince, on March 04, 1991, in Maryville TN. Linda met Vince through a precursor to online dating, the National Observer newspaper! Vince tells people that he was a mail-order husband! Linda knew what she wanted, went out after it, got Vince, asked him to marry her, and the rest was a magical, 26-year God-blessed marriage!

Linda had two daughters from a previous marriage and Vince had two daughters from a previous marriage so four daughters could say they were loved by a wonderful woman. Linda and Vince have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Linda loved to cook (Vince can attest to that!). She was always making something for a church social or for Bible study groups. She loved being with family and friends, especially at two of her most favorite places to be, the Smoky Mountains and the beach. She loved to sit out on a hotel balcony overlooking the ocean, watching the waves rolling in. She said that was God’s way of giving her peace in times of trouble.

Linda fought a long, hard battle with health concerns. For the last year of her life, she wasn’t able to serve a church but she still ministered to people, right up until one week prior to her passing. God blessed Linda by graciously receiving her into heaven on January 23, 2017. She is now enjoying Life eternal with her daddy, momma, her brother Lynn, and other family members and waits for her “Darlin Dumplin Butt” to join her.

A Celebration of Life for Linda was held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, at Henderson Funeral Home in Saltville, VA. Dr. David Tabor, Rev. Sandra Johnson, and Rev. Martha Beamer were the officiating clergy. Linda’s final wishes were that she was to be cremated and her ashes scattered in the Smoky Mountains and the beach and so her earthly remains went to the mountains and beach one last time.

She leaves a piece of scripture for you: “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31 God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again!
JAMES PAUL LANE  
1931 – 2016

Rev. James Paul Lane, 85, of Kingsport, entered into his heavenly home on Tuesday, November 29, 2016.
He was born, July 25, 1931, in Scott County, VA. He was a lifelong resident of the area and currently resided in Kingsport.
He was employed at Eastman Kodak for 35 years. He served as a local pastor in The United Methodist Church for 43 years. His appointments included Alleys Chapel, Bellamy’s Chapel, Smith’s Chapel, Blairs Chapel, Clinchport, Rye Cove, Horton’s Chapel, Duffield, Pattonsville, Riggs Chapel, Nottingham, Shady Grove, Amis, Elm Springs, and he retired from Depew’s Chapel.
He was preceded in death by his parents, Amos Clayton and Pearl Edith Bellamy Lane; brothers Edgar Lane and Rev. Claude Lane; sisters, Thelma Templeton, Helen Calhoun, and Shirley Lane; brother-in-law Calvin Calhoun and sister-in-law Erma Lane.
He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Margaret Christine Lane; children, Edith L. Horne and husband Bill, Roger W. Lane and wife Earline, Paula L. Meade and husband Rodney, Kathy L. Harper and husband Danny, and Jeannie L. McMeans and husband Mike; grandchildren, Lisa Horne Teague, Jason Horne and wife Wendy, Craig Lane and wife Tina, Michael Lane and wife Kathy, Melissa Meade Ayers, Kari S. Harper, Michael Paul McMeans and wife Kayla, Christopher McMeans and wife Danielle, Logan McMeans and Samantha Chapman; great-grandchildren Mason, Nathan, and Owen Horne, Madeline Lane, Olivia and Ben Lane, Madison Vander Lind, Ella and Amelia Ayers, Colton and Kyson McMeans, Kamryn and Cashdan McMeans; sisters Betty Williams and husband Daryl, Shelby McConnell and husband Phil and many special nieces and nephews.
A celebration of life service was held in the chapel of Carter Trent Funeral Home in Kingsport on December 3, 2016, with Rev. Johnny Hackney and Rev. Steve Pedersen officiating.

LARRY ANDERSON LINKOUS, SR.  
1944 – 2017

Larry Anderson Linkous Sr. was born in Bluefield WV, June 12, 1944 to F.J. Linkous and Nina Bell (Shepherd) Linkous. He attended Wytheville Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, and received his Master of Theology from Duke Divinity School.
He is survived by his wife Sandra (Shipwash) Linkous, daughter Carol Smallwood, sons Bucky Linkous, Mark Linkous, Matthew Linkous, and Adam Linkous.
He loved his Lord and Savior with all his heart and the churches he served more than life. He loved preaching the word of God, farming, truck driving, travel, cutting wood, and collecting antique Farmall tractors and tractor pulling.
He went home to be with his Lord and Savior Sunday, January 29, 2017. His funeral was held Wednesday, February 1, at the historic Asbury UMC in Rural Retreat, VA. He was buried at the Linkous family Cemetery at Oakwood Farm in Speedwell VA. Officiating were Rev. Steve Alderman and Rev. Derek Cowan.
Charles Edward Lippse
1934 – 2016

Charles Edward Lippse, 82, went peacefully from under the stars to his eternal home on Thursday, September 2, 2016. He lived his entire life in the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church, born to Rev. Glenn Lippse and his wife, Grace, in Radford, VA, on January 2, 1934. After graduating Science Hill High School in 1952 and Emory & Henry College in 1956, Charles received his Masters of Divinity from Emory University in 1959, and followed his fathers’ footsteps into the ministry. Ordained in June of 1960, Charles first served as a student pastor at the Benton and Carlock churches of Polk County, TN, and was then appointed full-time pastor at Pound United Methodist Church in Pound, VA.

Charles set out for the small town of Pound rather unoptimistically, but it was there that he met the love of his life, local girl Kay Fleming. Pound was where the two were married on April 2, 1960, and graced with twin daughters Jill and Gwen the following spring. Though they would leave that next summer, the town would remain special to them for the rest of their lives. At his next appointment, Lupton City United Methodist Church, the Lippses welcomed their third daughter Hilda in October 1962.

The next seventeen years, Charles would lead congregations at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church (Knoxville), Dublin United Methodist Church (Dublin, VA), and Tyner United Methodist Church (Chattanooga). In 1979, Charles transitioned into the role of Superintendent of the Chattanooga District. He would re-enter the pulpit as senior pastor at Broad Street United Methodist (Cleveland), Munsey Memorial (Johnson City), and First Broad Street (Kingsport) before retiring in 1999.

Charles felt fortunate to meet, know, and serve so many wonderful congregations across the conference through his forty-three years of work. As a pastor, Charles could filter complex theology and doctrine through his own life experiences, telling relatable stories that conveyed memorable messages. Beyond committing his days and nights directly to the churches and communities in which he worked, Charles proudly represented the Holston Conference as a delegate and chair of multiple committees at Jurisdictional and General Conferences. Charles maintained the Methodist message he was raised with, but continually sought to deepen his understanding of the faith through relentless research, taking annual trips to Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University.

As a husband, a father, an uncle, and a grandfather, Charles exhibited the same level of unconditional commitment and care. He could be both steady and serious, sly and silly – a patient listener, an expert storyteller, and an unstoppable jokester. He thrived in the sunshine and cherished any opportunity to be outside. Travel truly delighted Charles, and he counted himself blessed to have travelled extensively in the Holy Land, Europe, and Central America.

Charles is preceded in death by his parents, his brother James F. Lippse, and his wife, Kay. He is survived by his daughter Jill Brown and her spouse Doug, daughter Gwen Guthrie, daughter Hilda Sullivan and her spouse Julian, as well as five grandchildren: Grey Watson, Wells Guthrie, Ella Marie Sullivan, Sam Sullivan, and Charley Sullivan. Charles is also survived by brother-in-law Frank Jackson and brother-in-law Craig Fleming and his spouse Margaret, and five nieces and nephews: Finley Jackson, Crystal Bolling, Shannon Fleming, Ryan Fleming, and Vanessa Fleming, as well as several cousins.

Following a private family committal at First Broad Street, Kingsport, led by Reverend Joe Green, a Memorial Services was held at Munsey United Methodist Church in Johnson City, TN, on Friday, September 9 with visitation following. Rev. Douglas Grove-DeJarnett presided over the service with Reverend Gordon Goodgame and Reverend James Bennington also participating. The Chancel Choir sang an anthem in honor of Charles. Mrs. Caroline Darden also sang a beautiful solo.

The Lippse Family is deeply grateful for the many expressions of sympathy, love, and concern by so many from across the Holston Conference.
Kenneth B. Meredith
1946 – 2017

Pastor Kenneth B. Meredith, 70, of Damascus, VA, passed away on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at his home. He was born in Chilhowie, VA, on May 26, 1946, a son of the late Robert Lee Meredith and Stella Bonham Meredith.

He was a native of Chilhowie, VA, and graduated from Chilhowie High School. He had lived in Bluefield, VA, for 21 years before moving to Lebanon, VA, where he served as a pastor at a local church there. He moved to Damascus, VA, in 2012 where he was the current pastor at Wright’s Chapel, Laurel Community Church, and Zion United Methodist Church. He was the co-chaplain of the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department and had many tent revivals all over Southwest Virginia. Ken retired after 20 years as a bus driver for Tazewell County Schools in VA. He was a member of the Damascus Senior Citizens and drove the bus for District 3 of the Senior Citizens. Ken also drove a charter bus for many years for Premier Transportation and was a funeral attendant for Garrett Funeral Home.

Kenneth is survived by his son, Robbie Meredith of Damascus, VA, and a daughter, Kim Gordon and husband, Brian, of Lancaster, SC; their mother, Joan Hinkle; two grandchildren, A.J. and Austin Gordon; four sisters, Wanda Echols of Chilhowie, VA, Lynn White of Marion, VA, Janet Todd of Meadowview, VA, and Betty Musser of Marion, VA; and five nieces and one nephew.

A funeral service was held Sunday, January 22, 2017, in the Riverview Chapel at Garrett Funeral Home with Bro. Anthony Milhorne and Pastor Greg Alderman officiating. The committal service and interment followed at St. James Lutheran Church Cemetery, Chilhowie, VA, where a last call ceremony was conducted by the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department. Pallbearers were his fellow firemen at Damascus Volunteer Fire Department.

Robert Rood Moore
1937 – 2017

Robert Rood Moore was born in Kittanning, PA, on April 6, 1937, to Howard Mason Moore and Tirza Freemont (Rood) Moore.

Robert was a loving husband of Tillie (Dunmire) Moore for over 60 years. He was the father of two children, Bob (Sharon) Moore and Tania (Rich) Stevenson. He delighted in having seven grandchildren, Micah (Abi) Moore, Joshua Moore, Hannah (Nick) Nozell, Zachary (Meghan) Stevenson, Jacob (Lena) Stevenson, Jessica Stevenson, and Corrie Stevenson. He took great joy in his two great-grandchildren, Jacob Grey Stevenson and Naima Grace Stevenson.

He received his ordination as elder on June 10, 1976. He received his education at Emory & Henry (B.A.) on May 18, 1969, Asbury Theological Seminary (M. Div.) on May 21, 1972, and Emory University (Ph.D.) on December 21, 1982.

Bob was on special appointment from Holston Conference to serve on the faculty at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY for over twenty-eight years. For over thirty years, he was a Sunday School teacher at the Wilmore United Methodist Church.

He loved University of Kentucky basketball and he had a pure jump shot of his own. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and intercepted Chinese Communist radio communications during a Chinese uprising in Formosa. (The Air Force sent him to Yale University to study Chinese just for this purpose.) Since he was born in Western Pennsylvania, he remained true to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Robert died September 28, 2016, at home with his loving family by his side. His funeral service was at the Wilmore United Methodist Church with burial in the Wilmore Cemetery.
George Frank Saddler 1933 – 2017

George Frank Saddler, 83, died on January 27, 2017. He was born on November 3, 1933 in Sylacauga, AL, to the late Mr. and Mrs. Major and Mary Lou Saddler.

Rev. Saddler graduated from East Highland High School in Sylacauga, AL, and attended McKenzie College, Beaumont State, and served his country through the United States Army where he was honorably discharged. He later moved to Lookout Mountain, TN, and began a long career with the State of Tennessee in 1967.

Rev. Saddler’s service to Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute began in 1967 and lasted almost 40 years where he served as an “original employee,” meaning he was there when the hospital first opened its doors. He held several positions but most enjoyed working closely with patients in the nursing department because he had direct contact with them and could let his light shine as he spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Upon his retirement from the State of Tennessee he was recognized for his distinguished service to the citizens of Tennessee.

Rev. Saddler accepted Christ at an early age and was called into the ministry in 1978 at the Olivet Baptist Church where Reverend Robert Richards served as pastor. Later he became assistant pastor of Olivet Baptist Church and completed seminary school at the American Baptist Theological Seminary. He later was called to pastor for over 10 years for Marble Top Baptist Church in Kensington, GA.

Rev. Saddler praised the Lord over the years with reverence and honor and in 2005 became the Pastor of St. Elmo United Methodist Church in Georgetown where he retired in 2016.

Rev. Saddler was predeceased by his parents the late Mr. and Mrs. Major Saddler, two brothers, Frank Saddler and John Saddler, and two sisters, Mrs. Juanita Long and Mrs. Mae Eva Threatt.

He is survived by a dedicated and loving wife, Mary Kathryn Saddler; his children, Angela Saddler-Webb (Chattanooga), Cheryl Cobb-Debrosse (Woodland Hills, Ca.), Cheryl Saddler (Rochester, NY) and Michael Saddler (Rochester, NY); two sisters, Mrs. Lillian Lawrence of Talladega, AL, and Mrs. Pauline S. Hamlette (Thomas) of Fort Washington, MD; five sisters-in-law, Mrs. Beulah King, Mrs. Gloria Harris, Mrs. Vivian Langston, Mrs. Barbara Davenport, and Mrs. Montine Kelly of Chattanooga; two brothers-in-law, Mr. John Tumblin (Patricia) and Mr. Edgar Tumblin; grandchildren, Allison Webb, Summer Webb, Gerald Webb III, Michelle Suliveras (Juan), Jennifer Saddler, Angelyn Suliveras, and Devin Debrosse; and a host of beautiful nieces, nephews, relatives, and dear friends.

The funeral service was held on Friday, February 3, 2017, at Olivet Baptist Church with Bishop Kevin Adams officiating. Interment was in Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Robert L. Schooley 1940 – 2016

The Rev. Robert L. Schooley, 75, was ushered into the presence of the Lord Jesus, unexpectedly, with his wife by his side on August 26, 2016. His life was dedicated to his wife, children, and grandchildren, serving the Lord and sharing the gospel around the world. He loved teaching students, missionaries, congregants, and leaders how to share the love of Jesus and win the lost. His ministry teaching included the United States, Belgium, Israel, Europe, Cuba, Cambodia, as well as adjunct professor at Walters State Community College. Prior to retiring, he served for 20 years as a pastor for The United Methodist Church in the Morristown area. As a retired pastor, he continued ministries within the church body of New Hope Church in Kodak and mentored young men.

Upon graduation from college, he became the youngest professor at NCU. Attaining Tenure, his achievements were many: facilitated/established Psychology Department, Behavioral Sciences
Chairman, taught Biblical Studies, Counseling Psychology/Sociology, Music, Athletic Director, Basketball/Baseball Coach (State Champions), Dean of Men, School Counselor, Board of Administration, Board of Regents, led protracted study groups to Israel/Europe, and equipped hundreds of students to minister the Gospel and fulfill their calling. To God be the glory!

Bob faithfully practiced the blessing of giving tithes/offerings/talents to God, from childhood until eternity, being blessed beyond measure. Finding forgiveness for his sins at an altar, he prayed his life would honor Jesus, and he did his best. Bob was truly a gifted leader, amazingly skilled, articulate, and well-rounded man and craftsman.

As Senior Pastor, and Pre-K-12 School Administrator, training staff pastors, and fulfilling the Great Commission, his 55-year ministry journey continued. From the Midwest to Southeast, Cuba missions, Canada, Cambodia orphanage/aids camp, Bahamas; Continental Bible College, Brussels, Belgium, adjunct faculty; Morristown District Pastor 20 years: Economy/Mt. Airy, Mt. Pleasant/Talbott, Cosby; provided music for District Revival; Child/Family Services Counselor; Kiwanis President-2001; Walters State CC adjunct faculty; and community positions.

Bob prayed and preached his heart out, and Jesus changed lives as God and physicians maintained his failing heart. Following 2011 retirement, Bob and Sherry continued ministry as co-founders of ENCORE; in music/teaching/mentoring/serving at New Hope Church in Kodak, TN.

Schooleyism: “The Bible is the FINAL rule of faith and practice! It has all we need. We must align ourselves to HIS Word.” What will you do with Jesus?

He was preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Betty Schooley, and granddaughter, Breanna Schooley. Survivors include his beloved wife of 25 years, Sherry; children, Mark and Briana, Jamie and Jeff, Suzanne and Mark, Jonathan and Laura and Jody; 17 grandchildren; brothers, Tom and Valerie, Michael and Darlene and David and Michelle Schooley; several nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law: Sondra Brooks and Jenifer Ashley; and many beloved friends.

A celebration of graduation to see his Heavenly Father was held Monday, August 29, 2016, at New Hope Church in Kodak, TN, with the Reverends Tom Sterbens and Michael Schooley officiating.

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**JOHN ROSS STEINER**

1926 – 2016

John Ross Steiner, 90, passed away peacefully at home, on July 21, 2016. He was born April 26, 1926, in Knoxville, TN, and was the son of Benjamin Boyd and Margaret (Ault) Steiner. He was a beloved husband, devoted father and grandfather, loving brother, and friend. He graduated from Knoxville High School in 1944. He immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a Machinist onboard the USS Wheatland AKA-85 in WWII from 1944 to 1946. After serving our country, he returned to Knoxville earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in December 1949 from the University of Tennessee.

Following a calling from the Lord since the age of fourteen, he entered and graduated from Emory University in August 1952 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. On January 31, 1953, he married the love of his life Germaine Rita Millsaps. They were blessed with fifty-seven years of marriage before her death in February 2010. Germaine was a vital part of John’s life and his ministry.

During their first years of marriage, John served as a Pastor in the Holston Methodist Conference where he served as Pastor in Pound, VA, Radford, VA, Sweetwater, Knoxville, Morristown, and Johnson City, TN. John returned to the University of Tennessee where he earned his Masters of Science in Social Work in 1968 and further served The United Methodist Church as Executive Director of Spofford Children’s Home in Kansas City, MO, from 1970-1982, and he ended his successful career serving several years as the Executive Director of Murphy Harpst Vashti Children’s Home in Cedartown, GA.
Upon retirement, John and Germaine moved to Maryville, TN. John always loved to learn new skills. As an avid hobbyist, some of his interests were model railroading, motorcycling, ham radio, and hand crafting pens/pencils out of wood and acrylic. He was a licensed private pilot, played the harmonica, enjoyed riding his scooter, and most recently discovered ballroom dancing. He cherished this time with old and new friends and looked forward to every opportunity to dance.

John was preceded in death by infant daughter, Debra Kay Steiner; father Benjamin Stiner; mother Margaret Steiner; and brother Carrol Steiner. Survivors include daughter Ginger Steiner Linds of Maryville, TN; son and daughter-in-law Mark and Susan Steiner of Overland Park, KS; brother and sister-in-law Robert and Lois Steiner of Knoxville, TN; grandchildren Bridget, Sarah, and Heidi Steiner, Sam and Taylor Linds; and twelve nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life Service was held Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at First United Methodist Church, Maryville, TN, with the Reverend Catherine Nance officiating with special comments from close friend Dot Simpson from Kansas City, MO. Interment was Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at Sherwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

**Cabel Winston Trent**

1927 – 2017

Cabel Winston Trent, age 89 of Knoxville, passed away Thursday, January 19, 2017. He was born in Independence, VA, Grayson Co., September 22, 1927 to Stephen Alexander and Grace Maude Houk Trent, one of four children born in this second marriage for “Steve” Trent, whose first wife died. The other children were Edna Marie Patton Smith, Scott Washington, and June Preston Trent. There were five sisters and three brothers by the first marriage of Steve Trent: Walter Stark, Robert Roscoe, Kyle, Mae, Dell, Ollie, Pearl and Grace.

An ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church and a member of the Holston Annual Conference, Cabel received his call to preach in his senior year of high school while a member of Flatrock United Methodist Church, Independence VA. He earned degrees at Hiwassee College and the University of Chattanooga (now UT, Chattanooga). He continued his education at Candler School of Theology; additionally, he received training in Pastoral Counseling and Pastoral Care.

His ministry included many United Methodist Churches in the Holston Conference: Etowah Circuit, Athens Parish, Ridgedale Memorial, Soddy, Englewood, Associate at Church Street, Jonesville First, Inskip, Bearden, Saint Andrews-Chattanooga, Wesley Memorial-Chattanooga, and Powell United Methodist Churches. He also served as Superintendent of the Big Stone Gap District of the Holston Conference. After retirement, he served 21 years as Special Needs Pastor at Church Street United Methodist Church, Knoxville. Cabel related strongly to the words of Jesus in Luke 22: 27 “I am among you as one who serves.”

While at Hiwassee College, he met Doris Lee Collier, daughter of Elbert C. and Sallie Collier, Big Stone Gap, VA, where she was a member of Seminary United Methodist Church. They had 68 years of marriage and service in churches together. Doris survives him. The unselfish, unconditioned, loving, and warm support of Doris has been key to Cabel’s ministry. She has fully served right along with him.

The Service of Death and Resurrection was held Thursday, January 26, 2017, at Church Street United Methodist Church with Bishop Richard Looney, Reverend William Fowler and Reverend Barbara Clark officiating. Interment followed at Lynnhurst Cemetery.
John Nelson Trundle
1934 – 2016

John Nelson Trundle was a man on the go … and he always took the church with him.

His desire to spread the Good News was reflected in the benediction he offered to congregations for many years: “You can leave this building, but you can never leave the Church. Where you are, there church is …,” he would begin.

So John Trundle took the church all over the world on dozens of mission trips. He took the church to the diners, bargain stores, and boat ramps throughout the Holston Conference and beyond. “Are you a Methodist?” was a question John would sometimes ask, which often invited a deeper conversation. There were no strangers in John Trundle’s world. The least, the last, and the lost can attest.

John Nelson Trundle passed away July 18, 2016, at the age of 82 in his hometown of Maryville. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Laura Rainwater Trundle, in 2014.

Born March 27, 1934, to William Nelson Trundle and Bessie Leigh (Kirby) Trundle, John graduated from Maryville High School, the University of Tennessee, and Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Just days after their marriage in 1955, John and Laura Trundle began their first appointment at the Greenback Circuit. Together they also served at New Salem, Clapp’s Chapel, First-Centenary (associate), McFarland, Signal Crest, Fountain City, Oak Ridge District (superintendent), Kern Memorial, and Morristown First.

Early in his ministry, John developed a passion for missions. He led or was a part of many world mission teams to countries in Asia, Africa, South America, and Central America. He also made sure the youth at his churches were engaged in mission opportunities both near and far.

Although he retired in 1996, John’s ministry never really ended. He helped organize the Friends of Estonia organization, which for the past 20 years has helped restore the United Methodist Church’s presence in Estonia after it was virtually destroyed during 50 years of Soviet Union occupation. John continued to be a mentor to pastors and was quick to offer encouragement and support to fellow clergy. In recent years, he took pride in providing hospitality as a greeter at First UMC Maryville’s Celebrate Recovery ministry.

John and Laura reveled in the beauty and diversity of the world, traveling to more than 100 countries and all 50 states. They also led tours to the Holy Land, Germany, Russia, and Great Britain to extend the experience to others. John and Laura were inseparable fixtures at Tennessee football and basketball games for decades. Quiet time was found in the garden and on lakes and rivers with a fishing pole.

Devoted to family, John and Laura were blessed with four children: Nancy Jane, John Stephen, David Marshall, and Linda Anne. They shared in John’s love of travel and were part of several mission trips as well. At his passing, he was also survived by seven grandchildren.

Howard Malcolm Wansley, Jr.
1948 – 2016

Howard Malcolm Wansley, Jr., of Plant City, FL, found complete healing and rest with his Savior in death on May 14, 2016.

He was a 1970 graduate of the University of South Florida, and a 1979 graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary earning a Master of Divinity.

Malcolm was a man of many interests. He loved to fish on Watts Bar Lake and cheer for the Florida Gators. He also loved politics and the stock market. However, I would have to say his great love was for the local church and the people of the community. Most of his ministry was in the Oak Ridge District where he was District Statistician many times; he loved numbers and seeing how
churches change. Malcolm served on several Conference boards and committees including Asbury, Inc. Board of Directors, the Board of Pension, and the Board of Ordained Ministry. He also served as a mentor to several candidates going through the ordination process. He had a full and productive life and served the Lord as a pastor for many years.

He returned home to Plant City in 2013. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Barbara Danley Wansley, daughter, Kimberly Wansley, mother, Clara Vann Wansley and siblings, Dianne Wansley and Ivan Wansley. He was preceded in death by his father, Howard M. Wansley.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at the First United Methodist Church, Lakeland. Rev. David McEntire, First United Methodist Church Lakeland along with Rev. Richie Hayes, Rev. Ed New, and Rev. Mike Holland officiated. A special memorial service to place the ashes was held on July 5, 2016, at the Columbarium at the First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, FL.

**WARREN HARDING WATENBARGER**

1932 – 2017

Born to Grayson and Maggie (Buttram), Wattenbarger in Niota, TN, he was the oldest of three siblings, Wheeler Ogle Wattenbarger and Hazel Wattenbarger Hicks.

Warren was preceded in his death by his parents Grayson and Maggie, as well as his daughter-in-law Renay Wattenbarger.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Mildred Fairchild Wattenbarger, children Kathy Martin (Terry) of Gray, TN, and Mark Wattenbarger of Rossville, GA, grandchildren Kristen Martin, Christopher Martin, Molly Martin, Grayson Wattenbarger, and Leigh Wattenbarger, his brother, Ogle Wattenbarger (Louise) and sister Hazel Hicks (Fred) both of the Athens, TN area, as well as 13 nieces and nephews.

Warren had several interests including reading, history, and being involved with his community in different professional organizations. After moving to Rossville, he attended school events and community theater events his grandchildren Grayson and Leigh appeared or worked in as an avid supporter for them.

His education included Tennessee Wesleyan College, East Tennessee State University, and Candler School of Theology. His full connection dates for Holston Conference were 10/01/1952 to Retired 7/1/2000.

Warren served as a student pastor while attending Candler. He served in the Holston Conference for over 50 years in all three states. He served on several committees in the conference over his service time. During these years of ministry, he led several Holy Land Tours with church members and others. With each trip, he became more enriched in the history and knowledge he gathered.

Upon his retirement, he took the first circuit he had as a student pastor in Rogersville, TN, as his retired appointment. He enjoyed serving those churches and became involved in the local community again. He and Mildred moved to Rossville, GA, in 2011 to be closer to their son and family as his disease progressed. After his daughter-in-law became ill, he stayed with her and by her bedside until the day she died. His own disease of Alzheimer’s took a back seat to hers as he stayed with her on certain days as a day sitter. He never knew she was sitting with him for his disease.

To show a single example of compassion and caring he had in his life, it was well remembered by his family of a 1 a.m. hospital visit to his daughter-in-law. He had left the hospital the night before surgery and after he got home and settled down for the night, he told his wife he needed to go back to the hospital and stay with Renay and have a prayer. Renay and Mark were so surprised to see him back, dressed in his suit and tie. He held her hand and said a prayer so very reverently and needed at 1 a.m. in the morning. He then asked if he could be back at 6 a.m. and have another prayer before her surgery, and he did just that, praying for the four doctors and three nurses to use their God-given talents with Renay as they stood in the room. This is what Warren did as a pastor for everyone, not just his family.
Warren stayed at home with family until the last 14 months of his life. Alzheimer’s took its toll on Warren but he never let it get him down. Nurses would often comment on his kind spirit and his saying, “Thank you” for everything they did for him up until the day of his death. He died with the Nursing Home Chaplain in his room reading scripture and singing to him.

His funeral was held March 5, 2017, at First United Methodist Church, Rogersville, with burial at Highland Cemetery in Rogersville, TN.

Vernon Asbury Windom
1929 – 2017

Reverend Vernon Asbury Windom was born in Carrollton, GA, May 10, 1929. He was preceded in death by parents James Simon and Lemma (Webb) Windom, and brothers Monroe Windom and Rev. Neal Windom, former District Superintendent and pastor of the North Georgia Conference.

He graduated from Mt. Zion High School, attended Candler at Emory University, and The University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He began his ministry at the age of 17, while still in high school, serving his first Methodist church in Carroll County and ending his service of 55 years in the Holston Conference.


He is survived by his wife, Freida Dunson Windom, Rossville, GA, daughter Phyllis (James) Stinnett, Flintstone, GA, son Brent Windom, Kennesaw, GA, 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

He went home to be with the Lord on January 21, 2017. His funeral services were held January 23, 2017, with Rev. Al Bowles and Rev. Donnie Dehnke officiating, at Heritage Chapel, Ft. Oglethorpe, GA. Interment followed at the Anderson Memorial Cemetery, Ringgold, GA.

To his family and many friends his passing is considered to be our loss and Heaven’s gain.

Clergy Spouses

Johnnie Marie Cobble
1931 – 2017

Johnnie Marie Cobble, 85, of Morristown, TN, passed away Monday, March 27, 2017, at Life Care Center of Morristown. She was a member of Economy United Methodist Church. She was a devoted minister’s wife and mother for over 50 years.

Marie was born on July 29, 1931, in Overton County, TN. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Edna Gibbons, sister, Mae Gibbons, and brothers, Howard and Eston Gibbons.

She is survived by her husband of 64 ½ years, the Rev. A. C. Cobble, daughters, Denise (Mark) Burns, Darlene (David) Saddler and Diane Cobble, and grandchildren, Courtney Saddler and Aaron Saddler.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at Economy United Methodist Church in Morristown with Rev. Allen Shupe officiating. Graveside services were held March 30, 2017, at Hamblen Memory Gardens.
JoEllen Diehl
1952 – 2016

JoEllen Diehl, age 63, received her final healing April 7, 2016. She called Havron’s Chapel United Methodist and Whitwell First United Methodist her homes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Vernon and Francis Haeuszer; in-laws, Jim and Jewell Diehl; and brother-in-law, Ronnie Ehresmann. She is survived by her husband, Jim Diehl; three daughters, Michelle (Wayne) Ross, of Florence, AL, Liz (Mike) LaDean, of Muscle Shoals, AL, and Stephanie Diehl, of Whitwell, TN; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three sisters, Verna Ehresmann and Bea Holec, both of Rapid City, SD and Bobbie Roberts, of Hills, MN; brother, Rick Haeuszer, of Freeman, SD; countless children; and friends she considered family. Memorial services were held Saturday, April 16, 2016, at Whitwell First United Methodist Church.

Stacy Lee Hawthorne
1971 – 2016

Stacy Lee Hawthorne, age 45, of Bristol, TN, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 23, 2016, at Wellmont Hospice House after a courageous and faithful battle with cancer.

Stacy was a devoted follower of Christ and a member of Hunt Memorial United Methodist Church. He grew up in Weaver Church where he committed his life to Christ as a young man. His family was his life and they will remember and miss him each day while still giving thanks for his devotion to the Lord and the comfort of knowing he is in heaven. Stacy was a diehard fan of the University of Tennessee Volunteers, Vol for Life! He loved camping with his family and friends, fishing, and grilling. He was a NASCAR and golf enthusiast. He was a 1989 graduate of Sullivan East High School. Stacy was employed as a driver for UPS and was very close to his fellow UPS friends. Stacy will be missed by all who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and his mother-in-law, Julia Trinkle.

Survivors include his wife of 17 years, Caroline Trinkle Hawthorne; son, Hunter Hawthorne; parents, Lee and Kathy Hawthorne; sister, Tamara Mann and husband Lance; brother, Todd Hawthorne and wife Jenny; father-in-law, Richard Trinkle; nephews, Christopher Perrigan and wife Amy, Caleb Mann, Evan Mann; nieces, Kalyn Jones and husband Jeremy; his princess, Abby Hawthorne; several aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws, and his “crew”.

The funeral service for Stacy was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at Weaver Church, Bristol, TN, with Brother Eric Ramey and Pastor John Roe officiating. The committal service and interment were held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at Weaver Cemetery. Honorary pallbearers were Rob Miller, Eddie Bolling, Kevin Wysox, Terry Snyder, Jamie Free, Jason Matthews, Ray McRae, John Kestner, Terry Taylor, Allen Faidley, and his UPS co-workers.

William Hicks-Caskey
1925 – 2016

Reverend Dr. William “Bill” Edward Hicks-Caskey went to be with his Heavenly Father on the morning of October 28, 2016. He is survived by his loving wife Wanda (Sue) Hicks-Caskey, a sister Sue Bosworth, children John Edward Caskey (Esther), Karen Lorraine Caskey, Wesley Craig Caskey (MaryAnn), and Michael Wayne Hicks (Christy), grandchildren Katrina Nester, Crystal Caskey, Michael Caskey, Connor Caskey, Kevin Caskey, Adam Flamion, and Chelsie Hicks, great grandchildren Benny Levandowski, Avery Caskey, Cameron Caskey, Trey Nester, and Ethan Levandowski, as well as three nieces, five nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Bill is a graduate of Kent State University as well as a graduate of Drew Seminary. He was a retired professor emeritus of Special Education at East Tennessee State University as well as a retired United Methodist Minister.

A Celebration of Life service held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at Saint Mark’s United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, TN, officiated by the ministerial staff of Saint Mark’s United Methodist Church.
Erma Lou Hill
1951 – 2016

Erma Lou Hill, age 65, of Jacksboro, TN, died peacefully at home on Saturday, August 27, 2016. Erma was born on May 21, 1951, in Brazil, IN, to the late Harry and Reba Ewing Reeves. Erma was a member of the Jacksboro United Methodist Church.

Erma lived in Indiana for the first 30 years of her life. For the past 35 years Erma lived in Tennessee with her husband Rev. Bill Hill. She served churches in South Indiana and throughout East Tennessee. Erma had lived in Jacksboro for the past 15 years. She was married to Bill for 41 years.

A graduate of Van Buren High School in 1969 Erma was a member of the marching band. She graduated from Ivey Tech in Terra Haute Indiana as a Legal Secretary.

For more than 40 years Erma was an active member in the United Methodist Women’s group and served in many different positions. She loved working in her flower gardens and also loved crocheting and sewing. She was an excellent cook and baker. She also loved to work with crafts and always helped with VBS in the crafts. One of her most favorite hobbies was volunteering for an organization called “Ridin’ High.” Erma was a CNA and worked for Home Health for many years. She then worked in a Health Clinic as a Referral Coordinator.

Erma is survived by her husband Bill and two sons, Scott and Skyler, one granddaughter, Maya Lou, and daughter-in-law, Becca Perry Hill. She is also survived by sister Karolyn Trusty and brothers Bill and Jack Reeves.

A Celebration of Life service was held on August 31, 2016 at New Life Ministry Center with Rev Dave Grant and Rev Allen Shepherd officiating. Interment was at Powell Valley Cemetery in LaFollette. Erma loved the Lord and was very faithful in her service to the Lord. Anyone who knew Erma was blessed.

Wilma “Jeanne” Hinton
1927 – 2016

Jeanne was the second of seven children born to Clarence and Leona Marks, of Clay, KY, in 1927. Her marriage to Rev. Bill E. Hinton in 1948 continued 68 years until her death. She is survived by her husband, and two sons, Stephen Paul Hinton, of Staunton, VA, and John Mark Hinton, of Goshen, VA, a granddaughter, 3 great-grandchildren, and many friends. She was known in the churches where Bill was pastor as “a lady” that so many loved. She was an artist and became a professional doll maker. Bill describes her as a deeply spiritual person.

Tera Shelby Irvin
1925-2017

Tera Shelby Irvin, 91, of Mountain View, Missouri went to be with her Lord on March 9, 2017 while at Mountain View Healthcare, Mountain View, MO. She was born Sept. 25, 1925, in Hardin County, Tennessee, to Clyde Walker Shelby and Mary F. (Tucker) Shelby.

She was united in marriage to Andy Jack Irvin on April 20, 1945 and the couple had celebrated 71 blessed years together. Three sons were born to this union, David, Bob, and John.

Tera is survived by her husband, Jack; three sons, David Irvin and wife, Bonnie, of Hudson,
North Carolina, Bob Irvin and wife, Joni, of Mountain View, and John Irvin and wife, Barbie, of Republic, Missouri; eight grandchildren, David Irvin, Jr., Chris Irvin, Matthew Irvin, James Irvin, Jacob Irvin, Rachel Irvin, Andy Irvin, and Tonya Prost; one sister, Lura Volner of Cordova, TN; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Four siblings, Leonard Shelby, Milton Shelby, Clinton Shelby, and Edith Franks preceded her in death.

Tera loved children and shared that love by teaching kindergarten for 17 years in Tennessee before moving to Missouri in 1994. She also had a great love of flowers. She enjoyed preparing large meals for family gatherings. Tera was a member of The United Methodist Church. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother and will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held on Monday, March 13, 2017 at Yarber Mortuary, Mountain View, Missouri with Dr. John Noble officiating. Interment was at Greenlawn Cemetery, Mountain View.

**DONNA CAROLE MARTIN JOHNSTON 1950–2016**

Donna Carole Martin Johnston, 66 of Pearisburg, VA, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Donna Carole was born on August 12, 1950, in Pearisburg and was a daughter of the late William Donald Martin and Madeline Meredith Martin. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, whom she dearly loved, W.R. Johnston, Jr., of Pearisburg; one son Russ Johnston, his wife Brenda and her grandchildren Kiera, RJ, and Lulu of California; one sister, whom she adored and depended upon heavily, Celia Hardwick, her husband Jay, nephew Cris Hardwick and his family, Melissa, Jake and Aiden, all of Blacksburg. She is also survived by her mother-in-law, June Johnston of Daleville, her sister-in-law Teresa Miller and husband Mac and their family of Roanoke, brother-in-law, Dr. Neil Johnston of Atlanta, and many other family and friends. Donna Carole passionately loved Jesus and had a profound faith. She loved the fellowship of, and serving in, her home church, First United Methodist Church, Pearisburg, and immensely enjoyed the fellowship she shared with her two new churches, Kathleen Memorial and Hales Chapel. She was a woman of strong faith and cared deeply about others, especially those in the church that were ill. A graduate of Ferrum and Radford Colleges, Donna loved teaching and had a passion for literature. Another of her passions in life was golf, especially when it involved her son Russ, the Akron Zips, the VA Tech Hokies, and the Giles High Golf Team where she was the unofficial Assistant Coach for 21 years. A celebration of her life was held Saturday, December 3, 2016, at First United Methodist Church, Pearisburg with the Rev Dr. Brian Birch officiating.

**DAVID CLAYTON MYERS 1943 – 2017**

David Clayton Myers, born on August 18, 1943, in Christiansburg, VA, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, in Augusta, GA. He was the son of the late James and Mary Myers of Riner, VA. Fred and Ruby Altizer were David’s surrogate parents after his mother and father died. He was preceded in death by beloved daughter, Valerie Hall. David truly loved his family and his numerous cousins.

He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Mariel H. Myers, Augusta GA, daughter, Hope Myers Quesenberry (husband Robert Quesenberry) of Richmond VA, and Cindy Ogden (husband Robbie Ogden) of New Ellenton, SC, grandchildren, Brienne McDaniel, Jared McDaniel (wife Li), Ariel Ayers (husband Brandon), and Charity Quesenberry, great-grandchildren, Lillian Quesenberry, Corey Ayers, and Elijah McDaniel.

The Myers family lived in Riner, VA, for more than 100 years. David retired as an award-winning dairy farmer, farming for 27 years after the death of his father.

David faithfully supported Mariel’s ministry at Higher Ground Christian Retreat Center and in
The United Methodist Church. He was also ordained in the Ministry of Helps with Healing in His Wings Ministry.

David’s funeral service was held Friday, February 24, 2017, in the Horne Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg, VA.

**JEANE TATUM PHILPOTT**

1947 – 2016

Jeane Tatum Philpott, 69, of Kyle, TX, died July 3, 2016. Born Jeane Carol Tatum to Edward and Dorothy Tatum in Newport News, VA, she grew up in the small community of Steelsburg in Tazewell County near the coalfields of southwest Virginia. She attended a one-room school as a child and never forgot her rich country roots or the people who lived back home. She graduated from Richlands High School in 1965 and from Emory & Henry College in 1969. Jeane leaves behind many dear friends and relatives and a family who will miss her greatly. She is survived by her husband, Jim, of Kyle, a son, Ben (wife, Joy, and daughters Winn and Tate), of Austin, and a daughter, Sarah, of Kyle. Jeane is also survived by her sister, Jane (husband, Ken), of Charlottesville, VA, as well as by three brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law, three nephews and a niece. In addition, she will be missed by eight aunts and uncles and many cousins living near her home in Virginia.

Jeane was a career registered nurse and worked in many capacities in Virginia and Tennessee, including critical care, cardiac, hospice, public and home health, oncology, radiation, and wound care. She was a caring and kind nurse to many patients. Along the way, she earned a Master’s degree and certifications in her fields of interest. Jeane’s personal interests always seemed to center around the home, especially the kitchen. She was known for her love of baking and often greeted new friends and neighbors with a batch of her signature cookies. Giving to others was at the top of her list. She loved card and board games, which helped to stem the tide of cognitive decline in her later years. Whether it was Gotcha in Virginia, Canasta in Tennessee, or dominos in Texas, she loved the fun and friendship of playing. Her discipleship in The United Methodist Church was meaningful and long-lasting. Once a licensed local pastor, she found the Christian faith to be the organizing principle of her life and in recent times had dedicated herself, along with her friend Carol, to a ministry of preparing food packs for disadvantaged schoolchildren in Hays CISD. Jeane spent most of her working career in various forms of nursing. She was a natural cook and loved preparing food for others. She expressed herself in writing and poetry. The Christian faith was the organizing principle of her life and she championed ministries to the excluded and ignored.

A memorial service was held in the Worship Center at Buda United Methodist Church in Buda, TX on Sunday, July 24, 2016, with the Reverend Nancy Day, and our friend, the Reverend Gary Grogg, officiating. It was a gathering of love and celebration for her life.
Surviving Spouses

**Juanita Barnes Arnold**

1924 – 2016

Juanita (Barnes) Arnold was born August 7, 1924, in Sullivan County, TN, to the late Charlie Thomas Barnes and Ida Mae (Carberry) Barnes. She was the oldest of eight children. She gave her life to Christ as a young girl and served Him faithfully throughout her entire life.

Juanita married James Henry Arnold on April 28, 1946. He later became a licensed Methodist Minister and they celebrated 51 years of marriage together before his passing in 1998. Together they had three children, Judy Morelock of Kingsport, TN, Janice Campbell (deceased), and David Arnold of Fall Branch, TN.

Juanita served in many ministry positions throughout her lifetime. On August 10, 1950, the Logan’s Chapel Women’s Society of Christian Service was organized and Juanita was elected to serve as the first President. The organization’s name was later changed to the United Methodist Women. She later held the offices of treasurer and Secretary of Program Resources in this organization.

She taught a children’s Sunday school class for several years. Juanita loved Christ, her family, her church family, children and taking care of her flowers.

Juanita went to be with Jesus and many loved ones on November 28, 2016 at the young age of 92. Her final words were “I am going home.”

A funeral service was held on November 29, 2016, at the Fall Branch funeral home with Rev. Randy Waller and Pastor Phil Kestner officiating. A graveside service was held on November 30, 2016, in the Logan’s Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery.

**Jane Farrar Baxter**

1928 – 2017

Jane F. Baxter, 89, of Bristol, TN passed away Sunday, January 29, 2017 at Bristol Regional Medical Center. She was born in Nashville, TN on January 3, 1928 to Robert Lynn Farrar, Sr. and Lilias Morehouse Farrar. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, George W. Baxter, Jr.; her siblings, Robert Lynn Farrar, Jr. and Macon Farrar Wells; and her son, G. William Baxter III.

Jane received a BA in Elementary Education from Peabody College for Teachers and taught for 11 years in the Nashville area. Once married and with children, she used her love of teaching to tutor elementary students in reading and math and high school students for the SAT. She was a member of the Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa (an international honorary teacher’s sorority) and helped organize chapters in Lakeland, FL and Bristol, TN. She served as a Brownie troop leader and a member of the Appalachian Girl Scout Council. She was involved in missions as a member of United Methodist Women and attended State Street United Methodist Church. She loved camping, reading and traveling and was devoted to her family.

Jane is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Baxter Smith and husband Michael Parker Smith; her daughter-in-law, Aileen Smith Baxter; and two grandchildren, Colin William Baxter and Hannah Elizabeth Smith.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, February 5 at State Street United Methodist Church with Reverend Jonathan Jonas and Reverend Mark Hicks officiating.
Vernon Lee Bishop, Jr.  
1940 – 2016

Vernon “Lee” Bishop, Jr., age 75, of Knoxville, passed away August 25, 2016, at Tennova North Medical Center. Lee was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Rev. Patricia Bishop, parents, Vernon and Mildred Bishop, and sister, Elnora Bishop. Mr. Bishop is survived by sons, Chris Bishop and wife Linda, Daniel Bishop and wife Joelle, Michael Bishop and wife Christine; daughter, Deloris Bishop, grandchildren, Bethany Bishop, Melanie McMurray and husband Daniel, Christopher Bishop, Amberly Bishop, Michelle Bishop, Michael Bishop, Morgan Bishop, Matthew Bishop, Kailey Bishop, sister, Patricia Irwin and husband Doug, several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held, Monday, August 29, 2016, at Faith United Methodist Church with the Rev. Mark Dowell officiating.

Lucille French Cutshaw  
1925 – 2016

Lucille French Cutshaw was born December 12, 1925, in Cocke County, TN, to Estel and Gurthie (Johnson) French. Her father was a Freewill Baptist minister. She was the eldest of three children with a sister Marie (deceased) and brother Norman (who lives in Greene County, TN).

In 1936-37 the family bought a 100-acre farm in Rankin, a community in Cocke County. The family raised all the food they needed and raised vegetables to sell to Stokley Cannery Factory in Newport. Lucille was saved in 1937 at age twelve. In 1942 TVA took the river bottom farm for Douglas Lake. The family moved to a small farm in Newport. They also ran French’s Cash Grocery which Lucille managed. In 1949, the family bought a farm and moved to Greene County. Lucille worked at Parks Belk until she married.

On November 22, 1951, Lucille married Robert (JR) Cutshaw. They had two sons, Chris and wife Jeanie and Terry and wife Teresa. She also had three grandchildren, Larry, Landon, and Brandi. Mr. Cutshaw served in the Army and later became a barber. He answered the call to the ministry in 1972 and served as a Baptist minister until 1980. From 1980 until 1987 he served as a United Methodist minister at Old Union. Mt. Airy, and Fairview United Methodist churches. Lucille served as a minister’s wife as well as teaching a training union class, singing in the choir, and was president of OMU at Mt. Airy.

In 1987, Mr. and Mrs. Cutshaw returned to Greenville due to his health issues. He died in 1988. In 1987, Lucille joined Trinity UMC. She served as a greeter for Sunday morning services. She was a treasurer for the Maude Landmisser Circle, Beacon Light Class, and Echoes. She was a founding member of the Clothes Closet and worked in this ministry until her health prevented her from working there. Lucille was also chairman of the Prayer Chain. Mrs. Cutshaw’s lifelong interests included mowing her yard with a push mower and working in her flowers. She enjoyed raising a garden and canning vegetables each summer. She mowed her yard and raised a garden until the last year of her life. Lucille was an avid quilter and made at least one quilt a year. Some quilts were donated to the Lord’s Acre Sale, and others she gave to her family. Another special interest was cooking for her family.

Lucille died on June 20, 2016, of cardiac arrest due to complications from a fall on June 16, resulting in several broken bones. Her funeral was on Friday, June 24, 2016, at Kiser-Rose Hill Funeral Home with the Rev. Stuart Albee officiating. Her burial was at Mosheim Central Cemetery on Saturday, June 25, 2016.
Joyce D. Duck, age 95, of Kennesaw, GA, died Sept. 21, 2016, after a brief illness. Born in 1921 to Victor and Floy Dailey of Atlanta, she is preceded in death by her parents as well as her siblings Beverly Ayers, George Dailey, and David Jeffares. Joyce married John W. Duck, Jr. from Lynchburg, VA, in 1946. John became a Methodist minister and they became members of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. Over the next 30 years, they served Methodist churches throughout Virginia and Tennessee. After John’s death in 1978, Joyce returned to Georgia to care for her mother and sister, respectively, before their homecoming.

Joyce had a beautiful spirit, a twinkle in her eye, and was loved by many. Her life was an inspiration and witness to the Christian faith. Her “retirement years” were filled with continuing to serve The United Methodist Church, charitable giving, quilting, crocheting, and volunteering on the Auxiliary Board at Ross Memorial in Kennesaw, until her death.

While never having children of her own, Joyce is survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and their families.

The family welcomed all those who knew and loved their “Aunt Joyce” to celebrate in her homecoming at Due West United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 25, 2016. A graveside service was held Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at Ft. Hill Memorial Park, Lynchburg, VA, where Joyce was interred beside her beloved Johnny.

Virginia Emmert, 86 of Blountville went to be with the Lord, Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at Indian Path Medical Center after a lengthy illness. Virginia was born on Christmas Day in 1929 to Elmer and Lilly (Denton) Pope. She was a member of Cassidy United Methodist Church. Her special interests included cooking, sewing, gardening, and Bible study.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Claude Emmert, her parents and 5 brothers. Survivors include daughters, Sheila Ketron and husband Mike, and Claudia Jean Horton and husband Dale, both of Kingsport; sons, Jerry Emmert and wife Vickie, Lawrence Emmert and wife Sherry, both of Blountville, Randall Emmert and wife Mitzi of Limestone, TN, Jeffrey Emmert and wife Heidi of Kingsport, TN; 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; sisters, Edith Reynolds of Bristol, TN, Shirley Roller and husband Phillip of Blountville; brothers, Kyle Pope and wife Gail, and Charlie Pope, both of Blountville; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday, November 17, 2016, at Cassidy United Methodist Church with Rev. Tom Hancock and Rev. Randall Emmert officiating. Graveside services were conducted Friday, November 18, 2016, at East Tennessee Cemetery.

June was born on February 17, 1926, and passed away on Sunday, November 27, 2016. June was a resident of Independence, VA, at the time of her passing. She was formerly from Sparta, NC. She was married to David.

A funeral service was held Wednesday November 30 2016, at the Province Funeral Home in Pennington Gap, VA. A graveside service followed at the Red Hill Cemetery in Pennington Gap, VA, with Paul Davis, Jr. officiating.
**Elsie May Hamm**  
1927 – 2016

Elsie May Hamm was born on January 10, 1927, and passed away Sunday, May 22, 2016. She was a resident of King, VA, at the time of passing. Elsie was married to C. Clay Hamm.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, May 26 2016, at Fancy Gap United Methodist Church with Rev. Sam Bartlett officiating. Burial followed in the Morris Cemetery.

**Carolyn Rogers Hudson**  
1931 – 2017

Carolyn Rogers Hudson was born in Rose City, Arkansas on September 23, 1931 to Odessa (Loving) Rogers and Elbert E. Rogers. She was married to Robert B. Hudson (deceased clergy with the Holston Conference) in October 1947. Together, they had four children, Craig Hudson, Darryl Hudson, Mike Hudson (deceased), and Elizabeth H. Dickson (deceased).

Carolyn enjoyed playing the piano, and she always sang in the church choir in every church that her husband served as the Minister. She embraced the life of being a minister’s wife and always looked forward to her life in each new church that her husband served. She had a very outgoing personality and loved to tell funny stories and jokes. She dearly loved her four children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In her later years, she suffered from diabetes. The last two years of her life were spent in Covington, GA, close to her son Craig. She died on January 11, 2017, from renal failure. Carolyn was buried on January 16, 2017, in the Holston Emory & Henry Cemetery next to her husband, the Reverend Robert B. Hudson, and their eldest son Michael. Her sweet smile, happy nature, and warm personality will always be remembered.

**Betty Lou Wood Hurlock**  
1926 – 2016

Mrs. Betty Lou Wood Hurlock, 90, of Knoxville, on Sunday, November 13, 2016, after a brief illness, peacefully and surrounded by family, rejoined hands in Heaven with her beloved husband Charlie.

Born May 10, 1926, to Samuel Pierce and Ethel Jones Wood, she was raised in Atlanta, GA, with her older sister, Helene (deceased). She was a proud alumna of the prestigious Girls High School, where she excelled in academics, choral performance, and forming lifelong friendships. She was a member of Park Street United Methodist Church, where she was a leader in her youth group and soloist for their choral programs.

After school and while working in medical administration, she met the love of her life, Charles “Charlie” Hurlock and upon his graduation from Emory’s Candler School of Theology, they married. For 68 years, they gave witness to what a truly Christian marriage should be - seldom apart, commonly holding hands and occasionally overheard arguing about “who loved whom the most.” Together, they faithfully served United Methodist Churches throughout the Holston Conference. At each appointment, they made positive contributions to the churches and communities they served, developing lasting friendships everywhere they went.

Her life was defined by her Faith, Family, and Fortitude. Woman of Faith: her faith directed her entire life. In her youth, she had 14 years of perfect Sunday School attendance and was a leader of the youth group. In her adult ministry, she was always teaching Sunday School, leading youth groups, mentoring and encouraging others and sharing her musical talents. Woman of Family: devoted to her husband, children and extended family, she created a warm, welcoming and secure atmosphere in all of their homes across the Holston Conference – “home” being wherever our family was gathered. She was committed to the idea of healing families when they “break,”
founding “Partners in Crisis,” a ministry for Clergy families struggling with life’s challenges. Woman of Fortitude: she always seemed to find a way to share a positive witness when facing difficult situations. She used her every talent and opportunity to share her faith. For years, she volunteered as a reader for “Recording for the Blind” and vision-impaired until she lost her own sight. Her beautiful voice inspired many until throat issues reduced her to a whisper. As long as she was able, she delivered mobile meals.

After her own battle with breast cancer, she joined Bosom Buddies and Reach to Recovery to assist and encourage others dealing with this devastating disease.

Through all of her trials and tribulations, her consistent gentle and sweet spirit was an inspiration to others.

Betty will be remembered as a lifelong example of the “truly servant heart.” She loved and lived life to the fullest and in the honor of “Her God.” She is survived by daughter Carol Chamberlain (Allen, deceased), son David Hurlock (Christie Bledsoe Hurlock), special nieces, Jeanette Day, Marjorie Putnam, and Donna Hurlock, grandchildren, Wesley Chamberlain (Amy), Chad Chamberlain (Alice), Cara Chamberlain Russell, Sarah Catherine Hurlock, great-grandchildren, Emma, Aidan, Cole, Sophia, Connor, and Rylie. Our family wishes to extend sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of the Shannondale staff and personal caregivers throughout the years.

A celebration of Betty’s life was held on Saturday, November 19, 2016, at First United Methodist Church, Knoxville. Private interment followed.

Dr. Ann Neblett James, age 86, passed away gracefully after a brief illness. Born September 1, 1929, in Coeburn, VA, she went to the Lord on August 13, 2016.

Her family acknowledges that she was the core of strength that they consistently leaned on and her familiar counsel of “all things come to those who wait” provided much guidance. Dr. James enjoyed spending time with her family, keeping up with politics, reading, and listening to the music of Pavarotti.

Dr. James valued education and after her graduation from Virginia High School in 1946, she matriculated at Virginia Intermont College. In 1948, she transferred to Westhampton College at the University of Richmond to study science. She graduated with honors in 1950. A lifelong advocate of higher education, Dr. James set a shining example for her children and grandchildren by earning a Master of Science in Education at ETSU in 1971 and later received a Doctorate in Education in 1983.

Those left to cherish her memory include two sisters, five children, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Mary Ruth Ealey Kelley, age 88 of Jackson, TN, passed away Dec. 15, 2016, at The Bridge at Ridgley. Born Sept. 1, 1928, in New Augusta, IN, she spent virtually her entire life in Tennessee. She was a graduate of Hiwassee College and served several school districts in Northeast Tennessee as a cafeteria manager. She also served as the First Lady of numerous churches that her late husband of 61 years, Rev. Archie Kelley, served in the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. She was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church of Jackson, TN.
She is survived by a daughter, Davie Harrison of Jackson, TN and two sons, Leldon Kelley and his wife Lisa of Tracy City, TN and Lloyd Kelley of Irmo, SC. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, John and Margaret Easterly Ealey.

Services for Mrs. Kelley were held Monday December 19, 2016, with Dr. Barry Scott of Aldersgate United Methodist Church of Jackson, TN, officiating.

**NELL WEBB MOHNEY**

1921 – 2016

Nell Webb Mohney, author, columnist, inspirational speaker and noted Sunday School teacher, died July 19, 2016.

Nell was a classy example of ageless energy, style, graciousness, and charm. Through her writing and speaking, she served as a positive role model and inspiration to countless others. Most importantly, her servant leadership was a strong testimony to her Christian faith and her commitment to the Kingdom.

Born in Shelby, NC, on October 31, 1921, Nell received the Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude from Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC. In 1985, she was named distinguished Alumnus of Greensboro College. In 1984, she was awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN. Following college graduation, Nell was employed by the First Methodist Church, Lenoir, NC as Director of Youth Ministries. Three years later, she was named Director of Youth Ministries for the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church including the summer camping program at Camp Carlyle in Hendersonville, NC and High School Youth Assemblies at Lake Junaluska, NC.

It was in that position that she was chosen as one of 18 youth delegates to represent the Methodist Church at a World Conference of Christian Youth in Oslo, Norway, in 1947. Another delegate from American Methodism was a young minister, Ralph Mohney, serving his first appointment in Holston Conference at Manker Memorial Church in East Chattanooga. Following the conference, the Methodist Church and the U.S. State Department sponsored two teams to work to rehabilitate young people in Poland and Czechoslovakia following World War II. Each caravan team had 5 young people and a counselor. Nell was on the Polish team and Ralph was the counselor.

They were married on December 31, 1948, and worked together in a team ministry in four pastorates, and Ralph’s tenure as District Superintendent and later as President of Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, TN. After retirement they were invited to join the staff of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship in Nashville. Their assignment was to visit, study, and tell the stories of the denomination’s fastest growing churches. This they did in two books, Parable Churches and Churches of Vision.

Their retirement from the Board marked the beginning of Nell’s ministry to businesses, churches, and other professional groups as speaker, seminar and retreat leader. This led to her speaking professionally throughout the United States and in four foreign countries. During those years, she wrote and Cokesbury/Abingdon Press published 13 books and she co-authored eight additional books. Her favorite writing assignment, which began in 1978, was a weekly column in the Chattanooga Free Press, later the Chattanooga Times Free Press. She continued these weekly columns until her 94th birthday in October 2015.

Her favorite speaking assignment has been as teacher of adult classes in the churches in which they served. At the time of her death, she was teaching the Downtown Singles Sunday School Class at First-Centenary Church. In 1997, she was named a Woman of Distinction by the Chattanooga Chapter of the American Lung Association; in 1998 she was named to Marquis’ “Who’s Who in America”; in 1999 she was named Tennessee Woman of Distinction; in 2008 she and her husband received the Distinguished Service Award by the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Chattanooga; and in 2015 she was honored with the Lydia Impact Award given by Scenic City Women’s Network.

She has served on the boards of Contact Ministry, American Lung Association, and the
Administrative Council of First-Centenary United Methodist Church. Earlier, she served two terms on the Chancellor’s Round Table of UTC and as one of the writers on the Chattanooga State publication, Chattanooga on the Move.

Nell was predeceased in death by her husband, Dr. Ralph Wilson Mohney, Sr. and a son, Richard Bentley Mohney. She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Ralph and Jackie Mohney; two grandchildren, Ellen Mohney (Ryan) Gray and Richard Wesley Mohney; and three great-grandsons, Jackson David Gray, Carter James Gray, and Maddox Jude Gray. Nell was a constant source of support, encouragement and involvement for all of her family. The family wishes to acknowledge care giver Judy Jones for her years of faithful service and friendship to Nell.

A memorial service was held at First-Centenary United Methodist Church on Sunday July 24 with Dr. Doug Fairbanks and Dr. Linda I. McDaniel officiating. Honorary Pallbearers were members of the Downtown Singles, Morgan and Mohney Sunday School Classes along with her dear friends – the “Floozies”, a group of 12 ladies who meet monthly for discussion and support. Burial followed the service at Forest Hills Cemetery.

**DONNA KAY RILEY**

**1943 – 2017**

Donna Kay Riley, 73, of St. Petersburg, passed away Jan. 9, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Curtis Martin Riley. Donna is survived by her loving family. A Celebration of Life service was held on January 21, 2017, at Anderson-McQueen Funeral Home in St. Petersburg, FL.

**DORIS LEE COLLIER TRENT**

**1929-2017**

Doris Lee Collier Trent, age 87, died Friday, February 17, 2017, just 29 days after the death of her beloved husband of 68 years, Rev. Cabel W. Trent. Doris was a gracious and loving servant of the Lord and will be missed by many. She faithfully worked alongside her husband in his ministry as he pastored churches throughout the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. Doris was a member of Church Street United Methodist Church, where she was a member and teacher of the Pathfinders Sunday School Class. She was a member and held offices in the United Methodist Women at the local, district, and conference levels.

Born November 18, 1929, to Elbert Carl and Sallie Pauline Collier in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, she graduated from high school at the age of 15 and enrolled in Hiwassee College where she met Cabel. They were married June 2, 1948. She later continued her education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she was a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, graduating with honors in 1974. Her elementary school teaching career spanned many years in Virginia, Georgia, and Tennessee. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, Elbert Carl Collier, Jr. and her sister, Mildred Bess. She is survived by sisters, Betty Tackett, and Patty and husband Pete Ison, of Jacksonville, FL; brother, Lynn Collier, of Big Stone Gap, VA; sister-in-law, Joyce Collier, of Knoxville; and brother-in-law, Bill Bess, of Orlando, FL; as well as several nieces and nephews. A Service of Death and Resurrection was held on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at Church Street United Methodist Church, with Bishop Richard Looney, Rev. Barbara Clark, Rev. William Fowler, and Rev. Andy Ferguson officiating. Interment was at Lynnhurst Cemetery.
Betty attended the University of Tennessee where she was a member of Kappa Delta. She devoted her life to the ministry of her husband. They served in United Methodist Churches in both the Holston and Tennessee Conferences from 1935 to 1973. Following Marquis’ death she pursued work at the Cleveland Daily Banner for Lee Walls Jr, Merchants Bank in the newcomer area, and First-Century United Methodist Church in the membership cultivation area. Through these years she taught Sunday school, was involved with the Road to Emmaus, choir, and other church outreach programs. She was a member of United Methodist Women, Cleveland’s Woman’s Club, and the Cleveland Music Club. She was one of the longest tenured members of the DAR in Tennessee. She always enjoyed travel with friends and family.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at Broad Street United Methodist Church in Cleveland, TN, on February 16, 2017. Burial was at Highland Memorial Cemetery in Knoxville.
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ● 8:30 a.m.
Stuart Auditorium

Morning Bible Study and Holy Communion

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Rev. 21:5 (ESV)

Prelude
Mr. Bryan K. Underwood

Prayer
The Reverend Douglas Grove-DeJarnett

*Hymn of Praise #145
“Morning Has Broken”
BUNESSAN

Lamentations 3:22-24
The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.
I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; Therefore, I will hope in him!”

“10,000 Reasons”
Redman

Special Music
Emily, Abby, & Katie Lin

Teaching Moment
The Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III

The Great Thanksgiving
The Reverend Kathie R. Wilson-Parker

Holy God,
In the beginning was darkness, mystery, and you. By your own Word you shattered the darkness with light. You set in the sky radiant beams of sunlight and punctured the night sky with sparkling jewels. You forever changed our darkness.

Holy God,
Though there are shadows and worries, you have placed your Word in us to be a lamp for our feet. You have given your Spirit like a bright guiding star. You fill us with Your Love as glorious as the sun. You place your Truth like a crescent moon. Every darkness is overcome with Light. And every Light contains shafts of your Eternal Light.

God of the sun and stars, we praise you and with all the creatures of earth and all the company of heaven we join the unending hymn.
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Ever-persistent and ever-loving God, you placed a star in the sky
to guide people from far and near to your child.
Jesus became the Light of the World,
drawing the lost and forgotten, the hurt and the wounded,
the oppressed and depressed to the wellsprings of life.
He changed water into wine,
called unheralded workers to be disciples,
preached good news to the poor,
healed the sick and beckoned people to love their neighbor.
By his baptism, suffering, death and resurrection he revealed the depths
of your love and the power of light over darkness.

On the night he gave himself up, Jesus gathered with his friends.
He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his followers, saying,
“Take, eat, this is my life broken for you.”
Likewise, he took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples.
“Drink this, all of you, for this is my life poured out for you and for all,
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Holy God,
Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may be a living sacrifice, holy and
acceptable in your sight, and that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that through Christ’s presence we may become a beacon of holy light,
a source of joy, a witness for peace.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other, one with seekers far and near,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

And now let us pray together the prayer the Lord Jesus Christ has taught us to pray.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the
kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup  
(A gluten-free station is available at section 7)

Worship Music during Communion  
Emily, Abby, & Katie Lin

*Hymn of Faith  “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”  ST. BRENDA’S

*Benediction  
Reverend Wilson-Parker

*Postlude  
Mr. Underwood

*Please stand as you are able.

Worship Participants:

Teaching Moment ~ The Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III, Retired,  
Cleveland District

Liturgist ~ The Reverend Douglas Grove-DeJarnett, Munsey Memorial UMC,  
Johnson City District

Celebrant ~ The Reverend Kathie R. Wilson-Parker, Edgefield UMC,  
Johnson City District

Music Leader ~ Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District

Organist ~ Mr. Bryan K. Underwood, State Street UMC, Abingdon District

Musicians ~ Emily, Abby, & Katie Lin, Concord UMC, Oak Ridge District

Acknowledgement:

Reprinted from The Upper Room Worshipbook. Used by permission.
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ● 11:00 a.m.
Stuart Auditorium

Retirement Recognition

“Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NLT)

Prelude

Mr. Bryan K. Underwood

Prayer

The Reverend Mickey W. Rainwater

*Hymns of Adoration

#57 “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” vss. 1, 2, 3, & 4 AZMON
#156 “I Love to Tell the Story” vss. 1 & 4 HANKEY
#170 “O How I Love Jesus” vss. 1 & 2 O HOW I LOVE JESUS

Reading of the Names

The Reverend Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.

As the name of each person retiring is read and he or she comes forward to be greeted by the Bishop, we ask those who are from a church this person has served or who have been in ministry with this person to stand where you are and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for his or her years of service to The United Methodist Church and Holston Conference.

Recognition of the Retirees

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Reverend Rainwater

Bishop Taylor/People:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you came to us from congregations where the Spirit of the Lord was upon you;

and you were charged to preach to the brokenhearted, to visit the captive, to anoint those who were bruised. These things you have done.

We thank God for the community of the faithful in which the Word of God found response.

Countless persons have depended upon you for help.

In the providence of God, you know that both suffering and joy can be God’s way of teaching and healing.

At your ordination, you received authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the Church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to Order the life of the Church.
At your consecration,
you received authority to equip the people of God,
and to embody the unity of the congregation’s worship with its life
in the world.
By God’s grace you did many things that seemed to be beyond your
power.

We thank God that you were given the vision to be faithful.
Death and illness have not come on schedule.
The truth has not always been easy to preach.
We know something of the grace by which you have lived,
And we thank God for your vision.

Never think lightly of the great good
that God has wrought through you.
Continue to be true to your calling.
May God’s love and power be with you always.

Let us pray together.
God of grace, you fill your servants with the vision.
You empower your servants with your Spirit.
We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men,
and for the ways in which you have ministered to us
through them.

Give them a sense of your abiding presence,
that they may continue to love and serve you,
and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Glimpses of Ministry from the Retiring Class
A video capturing thoughts from our retiring clergy.

*Hymn of Faith #413 “A Charge to Keep I Have” BOYLSTON

Passing of the Mantle

The Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry: Rev. Rainwater
In the book of Kings we read of the prophet Elijah’s ministry.
The mantle Elijah wears is a symbol of his willingness to trust and submit to
God’s leading all of his days. As Elijah made his final journey from this life into
the next, his mantle fell upon the younger prophet, Elisha, and the spirit of Elijah
came to rest upon Elisha.

The Conference Lay Leader: Mr. Del Holley
In his first letter to Corinthians, Paul reminds us that together we are the body of
Christ, called and gifted by the Holy Spirit to serve the needs of the world. Some
among us are apostles and prophets, others are healers, helpers, interpreters, and
miracle-workers. No one part of the body is more important than another. It takes
all of us working together to serve as Christ’s body in the world.
The Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry: Rev. Rainwater
In baptism we promise to nurture one another in the Christian faith and life: to proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ, to be communities of love and forgiveness, and to pray for each other, that we may all be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

The Conference Lay Leader continues: Mr. Holley
And our Book of Discipline tells us that all Christians are called to ministry, to offer ourselves in servanthood as we join in Christ’s mission of outreaching love to God’s people.

The representative of the class of retiring clergy: The Rev. Dennie Humphreys
The mantle that we pass from our generation to the next is the mantle of Elijah’s trust, obedience, and servanthood. As we move into retirement, we pray that the spirit of Elijah will fall upon all who are gathered here today, laity and clergy alike. We pray that those who come after us, clergy and laity whom God is calling to lead God’s people, the church, into the future, may together feel the power of the mantle of Elijah falling upon us.

The congregation responds:

We who come after you take up the mantle which falls upon us.
May we inherit a double share of your spirit.

The bishop responds: Bishop Taylor
I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1–6)

*Hymn of Commitment #298 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Hamburg

*Benediction Bishop Taylor

*Postlude Mr. Underwood

*Please stand as you are able.
Retirement Recognition Participants:
Mary Virginia Taylor, Resident Bishop, Holston Area,
The United Methodist Church
The Reverend Mickey W. Rainwater, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry,
Maryville District
The Reverend Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., Director, Clergy Services and
Conference Secretary, Knoxville District
Mr. Del Holley, Conference Lay Leader, Knoxville District
The Reverend Dennie Humphreys, Representative of the Retiring Class,
Knoxville District
Music Leader ~ Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District
Organist ~ Mr. Bryan K. Underwood, State Street UMC, Abingdon District
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Ricky H. Clowers</td>
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<td>Laura Shearer</td>
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<td>John D. Thompson</td>
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<td>Kathie R. Wilson-Parker</td>
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**John Cooper Anderson**

Spouse: Susan  
Favorite Hymn: *Amazing Grace*  
Favorite Scripture: Psalm 139

I was born May 12, 1955 to Reverend Joe and Allie Anderson in Knoxville, TN. I was baptized at about two months of age by my grandfather, Reverend D.B. Cooper, and became a church member in 1967, through Profession of Faith by Reverend Albert Joiner, founding pastor of Cokesbury Methodist Church. Even before I was born, my Heavenly Father knew me, and embraced me with his Loving Spirit, and placed me at my birth in a Christian family where I would be loved and nurtured in the Christian life. I was taught to trust Christ as the only true way to be saved! As a seven-year-old boy, I became aware of God's Presence, and I sensed the Holy Spirit embracing my heart and calling me to serve Jesus and his Church. Throughout my life, God continued to lead me, and through God's Providence, called me to the Ordained Ministry, guided, protected and provided what I needed to serve him. God is faithful!

During seminary at Emory University-Candler School of Theology, I prayed, “Lord, you know that I'm lonely. Please guide me to a future wife who has a pure heart.” God led me to Susan DiAnn Bridge Anderson, the answer to my prayers. We were married on April 16, 1988. On February 22, 1991, God gave us a daughter, Elizabeth Ann Anderson; and on June 11, 1996, God gave us a son, Joshua Michael Anderson. They were baptized as babies by their grandfather, Reverend N. Wayne Bridge. Thanks be to God! Susan and I have been married for 29 years. She has been a very loving, understanding, patient, and gracious mother and “preacher's wife!” We have served in pastoral ministry through ups-and-downs. Some congregations loved us and made us happy, but some did not. Each time we moved to another church, we hoped the congregation would accept us. We made sacrifices as we moved to churches from town to town. My wife and children gave blood, sweat, and tears for the ministry! I am very proud of my family’s devotion to helping the congregations! I give thanks to God for such a wonderful family for balancing time-energy with family, friends, school, and jobs, and with busy churches! During 31 years of ministry, we have served 11 appointments, 13 churches, in 7 districts in the Holston Conference. Over the years, Susan and our kids moved with me 10 times, and they had to change jobs and schools each time. Susan has served as a teacher in four different United Methodist Preschools. We worked hard packing-up and moving our family for new parsonages. Sometimes parsonage living conditions were good, and sometimes not so good, but my family would always smile and make the best of it. They are greatly beloved and appreciated by me! Thank God for my wife, Susan, and children, Elizabeth and Joshua! It has been a honor to be a husband and dad; and a honor to serve as a Local Pastor, Deacon, and Elder in The United Methodist Church! Mostly, I desire to give thanksgiving and appreciation to our Loving God who called me to the ministry. All glory be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who reveals love, grace, and mercy!

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**Ricky H. Clowers**

Spouse: Sandra  
Favorite Hymn: *Pass It On*  
Favorite Scripture: James 4:7-8

I would like to thank Holston Conference for the opportunity to serve the Lord. It has been a great experience for me and my family. I have been able to go places and meet people that I would never have had the opportunity to, if it weren’t for The United Methodist Church.

I have served some wonderful churches in Holston Conference. There are people connected with those churches that I will never forget and are still friends.
with. The Bishops and District Superintendents that I have served under, I want to thank for all they have done forme.

My family has played a major role in my ministry. I appreciate their understanding when I couldn’t be there because of ministerial duties. Their encouragement kept me going on those days when I didn’t think I could.

And also, I thank God for the privilege to serve in ministry. There were times when I wondered why God would allow an individual like me to be God’s representative to people and minister to their needs. God has blessed my life and has allowed me to experience many things concerning God’s awesome power. I will never forget how God has been present in the lives of people and churches I have served.

I want to close with the words of the great entertainer Bob Hope, “Thanks for the memories.”

KENNETH C. CONNER
Spouse: Bea Ann
Favorite Hymn: In the Garden
Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 40:31

God’s Amazing Grace! If He can use me, He can use anyone! I thank God for every day of life He gives me as well as the people He has blessed me with. At the top of the list is the young lady that has blessed my life for the past forty-seven years. We met in high school where we had math class together. Right away, I found out she had a strong faith and loved the Lord. I found that out when I tried to get her to go out on a date instead of going to a revival service at her church. Her reply over the phone was, “if you see me tonight it will be at Church.” I hung up and after a while of pondering, I called her back and when she answered, my question was, “What time does church start?” Through her testimony, I started attending church and you know the rest of the story. I was saved in that same little church. Several years later, the Lord began to speak to my heart and call me into His ministry. It was through her that I received an answer to God’s calling. “Kenneth, the Lord is calling you into the ministry,” she reported one day. Have I been talking in my sleep or something? I fully believe that God doesn’t call one without the other.

As I look back, I have been blessed beyond words with those who God has put in my path. Family, friends, clergy, parishioners, and the list is endless. After twenty-five years in the coalmines and twenty-seven years in ministry, God has blessed me in being able to relate to most folks regardless of surroundings and situations.

I thank God for the support of my family during these years of service, always a positive support. For those in ministry who influenced me and were an inspiration to me, Bro. Paul Marchbanks, Bro. Don Scott and a host of others who in the early years counselled and guided. I look forward to retirement and settling down with family. However, I won’t be retiring from preaching God’s word; there is no retiring from that. “THANKS BE TO GOD!”

GARY E. CRUM
Spouse: Millicent (Millie)
Favorite Hymn: Lead Me Gently Home, Father

Millicent and I have been blessed by the Lord in many ways, not the least of which is for our later years to be in pastoral service within the Holston Conference. We gladly have labored together in rural Russell County, VA, first at Cleveland (VA) UMC, then at the three-church Russell Circuit (six appointments), and most recently
at Lebanon Memorial UMC, in Lebanon, VA, where I serve as Associate Pastor.

Prior to being called in 2009 to the pastorate, I served for decades in a variety of federal, state, and local governmental health agency posts, and also for eleven years taught bioethics and health care sciences at George Washington University. Too old to enter seminary in 2009, I was pleased to learn of the lay speaker and then the candidacy/licensed local pastor paths, and was eventually licensed as a local pastor by Bishop Swanson in 2012. Along the way from lay, to pulpit supply, and on into licensed clergy, I was helped by many loving and extremely talented Holston Conference pastors, including, but not limited to, Harry Layell, Mike Hubble, Wil Cantrell, Sandra Johnson, and Paul Griffith. Timothy Hankins currently mentors me with his impressive theological training and deep spiritual discernments, and is, like the others, a blessing to Millicent and me from the Throne of God.

Also worthy of recognition, for two of my Russell Circuit churches were Union churches, were my Southern Baptist Convention co-pastors Jim Shortt, Darryl Baker, Cuba Porter, and Roger Carter, not to mention numerous saintly laypersons, both SBC and UMC.

My secular resume is long, but every citation and accomplishment listed there I have come to see after passing the age of three-score and ten as simply a list of blessings obtained wholly from the hand of a loving Savior. Each day I feel more and more the hand of God on me and Millicent, and we rejoice exceedingly that our names are written in heaven, thanks to the blood of Jesus.

My prayer is that Lebanon Memorial UMC and the fine people of central Russell County will be blessed through me and Millicent serving as clay conduits for the Potter’s unfathomable mercies, until such time as the angels lead us gently home.

Joe-d DowlingSoka

Spouse: Christina

Hymn: Lift Every Voice and Sing

Scripture: John 1:1-5

For more than 40 years, I have served in The United Methodist Church as a Youth Director, Camp Director, and Pastor. This pilgrimage in ministry has taken me from Florida (Trinity UMC, Gainesville; Kendall UMC, Miami) to Louisiana (First UMC, Minden) to Oklahoma (UM Church of the Servant) to Ohio (Sedalia-Newport-South Solon Charge, Midway) to England (Harrogate Circuit, Harrogate, North Yorkshire) to Iowa (Anthon-Rock Branch-Oto Charge, Anthon) to Tennessee (Buffalo Mountain Camp, Jonesborough; First Broad St. UMC, Kingsport; Otterbein UMC, Johnson City; First UMC, Bristol; St. Elmo UMC, Chattanooga) and now on to Alaska (Willow UMC, Willow).

It has been a deeply enriching journey in Christ. I have been stretched to my limit and blessed more than I could perceive. Through it all, my desire has been to serve not only those within the church walls but also those on the outside looking in. “In the beginning was the Word,” according to John's Gospel. He goes on to tell us that the Word is Jesus – “self-giving love even unto death” is how I hear John’s ringing declaration. For me, this is what church should be - giving itself away. It is also what being a pastor is about. I pray that I have been more giving than taking in these years of service in The United Methodist Church.

In retirement, I am journeying to work with Christina in the Willow Community of Alaska. We will be pastors of the Willow United Methodist Church and leaders of the Willow Community Ministry there.

I am deeply grateful for all the wonderful people and churches with whom I have had the privilege to serve all these years. It has been good work and a good journey!
RICHARD S. EDWARDS

Spouse: Sue
Favorite Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Favorite Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

I feel very thankful for the 32 years I have been able to serve in ministry in Holston Conference. I was called from another vocation, and God's call came at the right time. My prior vocation helped shape and prepare me for ministry.

I was blessed to grow up in Munsey Memorial Church, Johnson City, with loving parents who supported and encouraged me. In that setting a number of laypeople modeled faithful service for me and influenced my life. Along the way God touched my life with experiences for which I am grateful: a Sunday afternoon walk as a teenager onto the field at Neyland Stadium after an altar call by Rev. Billy Graham, and a life changing mission trip to Belize while a college student.

My first appointment in ministry at Trinity UMC, Oak Ridge, brought the greatest ultimate joy to my life. It was there I met my wife, Sue. She has blessed my life so richly, and the lives of our sons. She has brought wisdom, commitment, and joy to our shared journey together. I am thankful we could meet in that loving congregation.

Following Trinity, we were blessed to serve for nineteen years in a new church setting at First Farragut. There we met and journeyed with many new people as we shared in ministry together and built special relationships. They are years we are truly grateful for.

Likewise, I am thankful for the opportunity, following First Farragut, to serve in congregational development ministries in Holston Conference. There was great fulfillment and blessing in working with many churches, pastors, and laity throughout Holston.

My final appointment at First, Oak Ridge, has brought new blessings. There we have experienced many gifted and good people who care deeply for the church and its mission. They have helped me to grow in my faith and understanding.

I am grateful for many laity and pastors who have blessed my life through friendship and support. I am thankful for the many fine staff I have served alongside. And for those persons who mentored me along the way, I am especially grateful: Rev. Ben St. Clair; Rev. John Farmer; Rev. Ray Robinson; Rev. Gordon Ridenour, and, particularly, Rev. John Trundle. They, and many others, touched my life.

For the journey past, and what is yet to come, I am grateful. Thanks be to God!

DENNIE D. HUMPHREYS

Spouse: Sondra
Favorite Hymn: And Can It Be
Favorite Scripture: Romans 5:8

I received my license to preach in 1969 and went to McFarland UMC in Rossville, GA, as the Youth Director. That began a journey that has taken me and my family across the Conference. I would like to thank Sondra, Staci, and Lindsey for their faithfulness in the appointment process. We served great people in our church and on the Big Stone Gap District and made lifelong friends among the clergy and the laity.

I thank God for the call to serve and I thank Holston Conference for being my home to fulfill that calling.
Randall C. “Randy” Pasqua
Spouse: Jo Anne “Jo Mama” Pasqua
Favorite Camp Song: The Magic Penny Song

Early in my ministry, I gravitated toward camp ministry. Camp seemed to me the perfect place to focus on the message that we are loved by God, and that we should love God by loving each other. The ministry of faith development and nurture with campers, and the ministry of leadership development with the staff have been extremely rewarding, particularly through Buffalo Mountain Camp and Camp Lookout. When I moved to the camping office, I found great satisfaction in doing the planning and preparation work necessary to have a successful camp ministry. Through these years, I have focused much of my work on being true to our mission to share the love of Christ in the glory of God’s creation, and to meet the highest standards of operations of the American Camp Association. I am very proud of the quality of ministry Holston Conference Camping has delivered to our campers, our guests, and our staff.

I am truly thankful for the opportunity to work with hundreds of Camp Board members, thousands of camp staff, and tens of thousands of campers.

Jo Anne (known as “Jo Mama” in the Holston camping realm) and I look forward to being camp volunteers in as many ways as possible in these next days of life. We also plan to explore more of the wonders of creation, both near and far, camping, boating, biking, and hiking along the way. Please join us when you can.

Bill R. Porter
Spouse: Irene
Favorite Hymn: Redeemer
Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:13

Thanks be to God! My Christian journey began at age 21 when I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I was not raised in a Christian home but was raised with good morals, good work ethic and respect for others. Thanks be to God for my wife Irene and her love for the Lord and serving Him above all else. As we began serving in our community church, Nottingham United Methodist, I realized the unexpected call on my life to share the Gospel and enter the pastoral ministry.

Thanks be to God for Holston Conference for loving me in the calling that God placed in my heart. My sincere thanks to the Bishops, District Superintendents, and leadership staff that shaped my life in ministry by providing educational opportunities, caring leadership, and faithful words of wisdom and support. Thanks be to God for the churches that I have been privileged to serve. They were, in my opinion, the best.

My heart is full of gratitude for the ministry of special pastor/friends, for their steadfast walk with Jesus that stirred my heart for a deeper walk with Jesus. But, most of all, I thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and using me as His servant.

My desire is to continue in ministry as a part-time local pastor as long as I am able. Irene and I are blessed with a small farm where we plan to continue raising miniature donkeys. God is not finished with me yet. Thanks be to God!
**Billy W. Rines**

Spouse: Susan  
Favorite Hymn: *Have Thine Own Way*  
Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 26:3

My faith journey started as a small child at Bethel United Methodist Church located in Jonesville, VA. This was my family church and a place where my grandfather was the adult Sunday School teacher for over 50 years. My mother took us to church every time the church doors were open and our lives revolved around the church and all the programs it provided. I vividly remember the revival where my twin sister and I both accepted Jesus as our personal savior. That foundation has served me well over the course of my ministry and life.

I struggled for many years in my twenties with the call of God on my life. When I couldn’t ignore it any longer, I struggled for days with the Lord asking him to clearly reveal his call to me. After struggling, praying, and crying out to God, I went to my desk and opened my Bible and pointed to a verse that read, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” John 15:16. I finally accepted that call upon my life and have served God as a minister in his kingdom for the past 36 years.

My first appointment was the Nickelsville Circuit where I served from June 1981 until June 1988. My wife Susan, and two daughters Sherry and Tracey moved into the parsonage and the journey began. While there, we also welcomed our third daughter, Ashley. While there, I completed my Associate Degree and the Course of Study in 1987 and became great friends with the Rev. Sam Neeley while we studied together and traveled back and forth to Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Then on to Thornsprings-Wesley Memorial in Pulaski, VA, from 1988 to 1990, Afton-Stone Dam in Chuckey, Tennessee from 1990 to 1993, Mt. Carmel-Seviers in Chuckey, TN, from 1993-2001, Limestone-McCarty, from 2001 to 2003 and then McCarty-Albright from 2003 to 2007, all in the Greene County, Washington County area. Then in 2007 we moved to Blountville, TN, to serve the Cross-Holly Springs Churches until 2010, then on to the Damascus Circuit in Damascus, VA, from 2010-2013, to the Rutledge Circuit from 2013-2016, and came to the McFerrin-Elm Springs charge in 2016.

As I reflect over the past thirty-six years, I feel that I have been a truly blessed man to have been called into ministry and to have been a United Methodist Minister in the Holston Conference. Through many building programs where God allowed me to use my skills in carpentry, to reaching the lost and growing his kingdom, I have been blessed. Great friends, adopted family, and wonderful partnerships over the years in our great churches in the Holston Conference are just small examples of this wonderful ministry I have been able to be a part of. As I move into retirement status, I would like to thank all the people in all the churches I have served for their wonderful love and support. Most importantly, I thank God for my wonderful family who has supported my ministry for all these years.

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**Catherine L. Sandefur**

Favorite Hymn: *The Midnight Cry*  
Favorite Scripture: John 3:16

I grew up in a small gypsum company-owned town called Plasterco. Everything and everyone was pretty much taken care of by the company. We ordered or bought everything at the company store. I suppose you would say, “I wanted out!”

I graduated high school at the age of 16 and began college at East Tennessee State University in 1961. That didn’t work out too well, so in November 1963 I took the Civil Service Exam and travelled by train, all by myself, to Washington, D.C. This is when I discovered my
middle name was “sin”! If it was wrong I wanted to try it, and I usually loved it.

After I had lived there for about a year, a Christian friend of mine from high school came to Washington for the summer and got in touch with me. Patty was with the Navigator’s International Christian Organization headquartered in Colorado Springs, CO. She witnessed to me and had me meet her friends, who also witnessed. I suppose I believed them but I was not interested in changing my life. I did not know it at the time, but these 30 girls I had met were all praying for me.

I could go on about my wandering, but suffice it to say I finally gave my heart to Christ. I began studying God’s Word, participating in Bible Studies, and witnessing to others myself. I moved to Colorado and worked at the Air Force Academy while studying with the Navigators. Eventually I started working for that organization.

One day I asked myself, “Why am I doing this?” My answer was that I needed to move back home. I thought I was leaving Christ in Colorado.

After a few years of living my old lifestyle, I started back to church. There was a tugging at my heart to become an Episcopal priest, and it would not go away. I began the discernment process in the Episcopal Church three different times. Each time, something major happened to stop my progress in that effort. Then “Methodist” would come to mind. For 10 years, I kept saying, “Lord, I don’t want to be a Methodist.” I finally called Kim Goddard, District Superintendent in the Abingdon District. I asked my questions and did not get the answers I was looking for. She kept saying “Yes,” when I wanted a “No.”

I thank God for the Goddards, for Pleasantview UMC, for Paul Griffin, and the many friends that were prayer warriors on my behalf during my time of study and discernment. Before I completed my studies, I called Kim at least weekly asking for a church. She sent me to a little African-American church in Glade Spring, VA.

Ebenezer UMC was built by and for Slaves in 1880. Serving as pastor at Ebenezer has been the best experience in my life. When Mike Hubble, who was once my District Superintendent, had me pray about another church in the Abingdon District, I quickly discerned that another place was not my calling! I have had the opportunity to preach at other churches but my heart is with these folk at Ebenezer. Around ten attend regularly, and people of all races are invited to worship and praise our Risen Lord together. God has provided all that we have ever needed or asked for. And his abundance has allowed us to assist those in need in our community. What an answer to prayer! It will be ten years in July since I was sent to this church, and now as I enter retirement, I pray for ten more years with this congregation to see where God will take us!!! To God be the glory – a sinner girl like me preaching His love!

I would also like to thank to Sandra Johnson, the current District Superintendent in the Abingdon District, for the support she has provided for these last few years of my ministry. I’m also grateful that she has allowed Rev. Ralph Kidd to watch my back. And a final thank you for all the others that have been a glorious part of our growing and loving God together as a community.

**Alvin “Al” O. Shaver**
Spouse: Britt
Favorite Hymn: Traditional: *Here I Am, Lord*
Contemporary: *God's Not Dead*
Favorite Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:3

“In the beginning God created,” the first five words of the Bible have special meaning to me. As someone who was called several times, but, like many in the Bible, I thought “NO, not me.” I was adopted at the age of 6 weeks, and that fact was never hidden from me. My adoptive parents, the ones I always called Mom and Dad, introduced me to the Methodist Church at age 3 months, when I was christened, and 8 months later, I was baptized. Yes, I know, once baptized always baptized, but I still
have the certificates. I grew up in Los Angeles, CA, the meaning of which is the City of Angels. Growing up I was not what you would call angelic. But, through the church’s MYF programs in Junior High and High School, I settled down and completed primary education in February 1961. I attended the University of Southern California and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Aerospace Engineering. I then spent a tour in the U.S. Air Force, Strategic Air Command, and a lovely 13 months in the tropical land called Vietnam as a pilot. Having seen several of my fellow pilots not return, I knew God had something I was supposed to do, but resisted the formal call to ministry until much later in life. I worked for the church in almost every position you can imagine, beginning upon my return to civilian life, and worked 35 years for Lockheed Martin in their Development Organization named the Skunk Works and received a Management Certification from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Upon the love of my life and I retiring, we moved to Maryville, TN. We enjoyed our retirement (for 6 months, and then we were bored). I have been active in the ministry of several churches as a licensed local pastor. To this day, I still have several people ask why I did not take the ordination route, as I finished Course of Study in less than 4 years, and could have become ordained in 2014. I chose to stay a LLP so that I could devote all my time to the churches that I was appointed. I do not regret my decision.

My greatest joy is “Spreading the Good News,” and I have met so many dedicated ministers. My entire life from college on has been centered in my belief that it is more important to serve others than to be self-centered and think that I am important. I am no more important than any other person that works, sweats, prays, and supports their local church. Each of us are ministers in some form or another. I thank Bishops Chamberlin, Swanson, and Taylor for the privilege of serving my Lord in the Holston Conference.

**Laura Shearer**

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<tr>
<th>Spouse:</th>
<th>John</th>
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<tr>
<td>Favorite Hymn:</td>
<td>My Jesus, I Love Thee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Favorite Scripture:</td>
<td>Colossians 1:9-12</td>
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As I come to this time of retirement from active ministry, I am filled with joy for all I have experienced and been able to have a part in. Over these last months, I have reflected often on my lifelong relationship with The United Methodist Church and its very significant role in my faith journey. From my childhood in our denomination, I have found genuine love, compassion, wise guidance and encouragement, which helped me to experience the love of God and Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. This lifetime relationship with the Church began and was experienced for many years as a layperson. But I accepted God’s call to serve in full-time ministry in 1997 and entered candidacy for ministry as an elder in The United Methodist Church in 1998. I joined a church staff as a director of Christian education and a couple of years later entered Candler School of Theology. Upon graduation in 2003, I was appointed to serve a three-point charge in Holston Conference, located in Cleveland District, and set out with my husband, John, from Chattanooga, on the journey of itinerate ministry. In 2005, I was appointed to serve as a pastoral counselor at the time I began serving as an associate pastor at Church Street in Knoxville. While there, I was ordained. Since 2008, I have joyfully served full time as pastoral counselor for Holston Conference.

There are so many people who have supported me and loved me and for each of these I am tremendously grateful. To my husband John—Thank you for your love and support and willingness to accompany me; to my adult children, their wives and my grandchildren and other family members—I am thankful for your understanding the importance of fulfilling my calling and ministry responsibilities; to my colleagues in ministry—You made this journey so much fun! I appreciate your helpfulness, friendship and support; to three Bishops and many Cabinet members in Holston who have allowed me to serve in meaningful ways and often have offered words of
support and appreciation, I say "Thank you!" To the many clergy and clergy family members who have been willing to share their sacred stories with me, thank you your trust and for enriching my life; and to the people in the churches I have served, I am deeply appreciative for your acceptance of my efforts to serve God alongside you.

I look forward to the next phase of my life and ministry and know it will be filled with good things, for God’s grace is abundant. Thanks be to God for his never-ending mercy and love.

DAVID L. SMITH
Spouse: Peggy
Favorite Hymn: And Can It Be That I Should Gain
Favorite Scripture: All of It

I felt called to preach while I was in high school and received my Local Pastor’s License from The Methodist Church on February 16, 1968. The leaders of the Maryville District showed me there are ways to get around the Book of Discipline by writing on my license “contingent upon graduation from high school.” I think I am the last person to retire from Holston Conference with credentials received before The United Methodist Church was formed.

I have been privileged to serve seven appointments in five different districts: Evensville-New Bethel, First Surgoinsville, St. John Maryville, First Dandridge, St. Luke Knoxville, Clapp’s Chapel, and Asbury Knoxville. When I left four of these appointments, I had stayed longer than anyone else at that time.

I can look back over the past 50 years and see how God led me to pick a seminary, to meet my wife, Peggy, while preaching at a neighboring church in my first appointment, and to be appointed to each of the churches I have served. I started at Asbury and finished at Asbury. My first two years under appointment were as a student at Asbury Theological Seminary and my last appointment is to Asbury in Knoxville.

God has led me on a wonderful journey. There have been physical improvements from a new steeple at Evensville to a major remodel and addition at Clapp’s Chapel. However, the most important changes have been in the spiritual lives of church members. I have performed baptisms in churches, rivers, swimming pools and other bodies of water that were less than clean. I have been privileged to receive new members at each of my churches. For all of these things God is to be praised!

I feel that I am now being led into a new phase of my journey and I believe that God will provide new areas of service for me.

BRUCE W. SPANGLER
Spouse: Phyllis
Favorite Hymn: Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown
'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou didst for me!
I hear Thy whisper in my heart;
The morning breaks, the shadows flee,
Pure, universal love Thou art;
To me, to all, Thy bowels move;
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.
Favorite Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:8-9 (NRSV)
“Better is the end of a thing than its beginning; the patient in spirit are better than the proud in spirit. Do not be quick to anger, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.”

I remain a Wesleyan Methodist due to my commitment for and to Christian Perfection, the “grand depositum which God has lodged with the people called Methodists.” If Wesley was right in that the object of faith is not belief but love, then I will forever be hopeful for both this world
and myself. To be made perfect in love is both redemptive and therapeutic. I am constantly in need of both.

I have been so fortunate in my life to be surrounded by folks who love unconditionally. My mom and dad, by mere example, demonstrated such love since the day I greeted this world. I owe a great deal of gratitude to the people of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church in east Knox County, Tennessee. As an impressionable boy and later a teen-ager, the people of Pleasant Hill introduced and modelled a corporate love in the name of a God whose nature is to love. They said that God loved me. I became convinced it was so, I did not believe out of my own conviction. I believed because they passionately believed it to be so.

Ever by my side and me to hers, my life with Phyllis is a constant reminder that I am one lucky camper by the fireside of love.

To many of my clergy and laity colleagues within the Holston Conference who are courageous prophets, insightful sages, and inspiring yet humble leaders of universal love, thanks for the opportunity to learn from and serve with you.

**John D. Thompson**

Spouse: Donna
Favorite Hymn: *The Old Rugged Cross*
Favorite Scripture: Psalm 23

What a privilege. What a Journey. Sometime in 1993 God began calling me to ministry. First I volunteered as Youth Director at Dandridge First UMC. Yet, even as I worked with youth, including District Youth coordinator and CCYM, God still would not let go. God and I fought for almost 8 years and when I finally answered His call to pulpit ministry, all things were set right.

There was a calmness in my spirit that only He can provide. He has guided my path each and every day and has allowed me the high privilege of seeing Him at work in the lives of others. Together we have witnessed angels walking among us at lake baptisms, multiplying the food at Vacation Bible School family night, and miracles performed at Revivals. Sight was restored to the blind, legs grew to eliminate back pain. One who had been unable to lift his arms over his head was freed from that bondage. We have seen demons cast out, and so many more miraculous signs of God showing up.

But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. (Acts 8:12-13 NIV)

Over the years one of the greatest joys I have had was witnessing the transformation of those who gave their lives to Christ. Today many of our folks go out into God’s world seeking the opportunity to develop relationships with those who are lost and hurting. What our folks discover is that after building relationships, God opens the door for witness and invitation. My prayer is that they will continue to be the Ambassadors God has called them to be! When I think of where we came from and where God has led us to, it has truly been an amazing journey.

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part and to walk beside you in ministry for all of these years. It’s never about you and I. It’s always about Jesus! May each of you continue in your witness so others may have what we have, a relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Shalom!
Kathie R. Wilson-Parker
Spouse: Bill
Favorite Hymn: Hymn of Promise
Favorite Scripture: John 15:9-12 CEB
“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.”

I was Methodist before I was born. Mother and Daddy, Marjorie and Reid Wilson, grew up in Methodist families, Mother in eastern Georgia, Daddy in Johnson City, TN. Their responses to God’s call led both of them to Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. They married where Mother was working—in First Methodist Church, Elizabethton, TN. By the time I was born, Daddy was pastor of the Fall Branch Circuit near Kingsport. My sisters, Betsy, Donna, and Carol, and I grew up with loving service as the mode of living, not because of our being the parsonage family, but because that’s what Jesus wanted of all Christians.

Many pictures of life as a Christian flash through my head: Holy quiet times on Sunday evenings with the organ playing and people kneeling at the altar to pray, the ones sitting in the pews bathing them in prayer. Sunday School teachers welcoming us with smiles and lessons to learn about our Christian faith. Musicians and choir members practicing faithfully to prepare music, both to express their faith and to bless the hearers. Children and youth running and laughing because Christian adults loved and planned for them. Much delicious food prepared and shared by loving hands for potlucks, special meals, celebrations, and shut-ins. God’s people cheerfully scrubbing the nooks and crannies of their church buildings. People sharing the joy of new birth in baptisms, whether of an infant or an 80-year-old. People lifting the load of grief through belief in the resurrection and eternal life with Christ. People nailing, painting, and installing new bathrooms in the homes of strangers who needed hope and love, as well as energetic help. People giving generously of their time, energy, and money to be part of God’s work in the world. Congregations refusing to give up on loving persons until they guided them to Jesus and to participation in the Body of Christ.

I have been blessed by people of a variety of ages and personalities and backgrounds—in Tennessee, in North Carolina, in Colorado, in Washington State, in Virginia—serving their Living Lord together. People who, like the apostles, had fierce disagreements, learning to love Jesus and each other—and even their very imperfect pastor—with mercy and forgiveness even stronger than their anger and frustration.

My husband Bill Parker has been a delightful companion along this road, startling many into laughter by calling himself “the preacher’s wife.” He has found ways to serve in each congregation. He helps me laugh at myself and at life when I get way too uptight about the life of the church.

As I look toward retirement, it is with wonderment that it is coming so quickly, and wonder at how it will be. I am confident that “From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” (from vs. 2 of Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth)
Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.” Genesis 28:15 (ESV)

Pre-Service Music, 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. The Lake Junaluska Singers
Prelude Mr. Bryan K. Underwood

*Processional Hymns
  #155 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” DIADEM
  #327 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” DIADEMA

*Greeting and Prayer Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
As the congregation remains standing, the bishop greets them and they respond:
The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
The Holy Spirit is among us.
Move us, Holy Spirit!
Let us pray.
Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
you gave to your apostles and all your church many excellent gifts.
Come upon us gathered here to set apart those who will lead among us
by calling and equipping us to fulfill your desire
that we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF COMMON MINISTRY
AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The people remain standing.
The bishop, standing near a baptismal font, shell, or vessel of water, begins:

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are all made one with the death of Jesus Christ
and raised with him to walk in newness of life in the gift of baptism by water and
the Spirit. The same Spirit who enlivens us empowers us with many and diverse
gifts to serve as new creatures, renouncing evil, embracing and submitting to
Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and joining together as his body to serve as his
representatives in the world.
We all start here. The Spirit leads us all.
The bishop may scoop and pour water from the font, shell, or vessel and says to all:

Remember you are baptized and be thankful.

We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry.

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED OR RECOGNIZED

All but the bishop, candidates and their assistants may be seated.

The bishop remains near the center; by the font.

Bishop:

Who presents these candidates to be commissioned or recognized?

All Laity:

We have recommended them in our local congregations. We present them with our prayers and support.

Assistants clothe candidates with the robe.

Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

We have examined these candidates according to the standards of our Discipline and this annual conference of The United Methodist Church. We present them with our prayers and support.

We present these persons for commissioning as provisional members. We present them with our prayers and support.

- Ryan Beavers
- W. Ryan Ford
- Sean Hayden
- Jason Ratliff
- Kaye Seay
- Joshua Swanson
- Monty Walton
- Charlotte Williams
- Stephanie Parrott

Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry:

We also present these persons for Recognition as Associate Members.

We present them with our prayers and support.

- James Brooks
- Sherri Franklin
- Keith Hampson
- Michael Vaughn

Bishop: We rejoice in the Spirit’s work in our lives and the lives of these who come to serve and lead among us.

All: We will uphold them with our prayers and support.

Thanks be to God.

All but the bishop and candidates may be seated.
THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

The bishop and candidates stand facing one another.

The bishop examines the candidates for commissioning and recognition:

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
As commissioned and associate members,
you are to be coworkers with bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors, provisional members, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missioners, supply pastors, and all the people of God.
You are called
to serve rather than to be served,
to proclaim the faith of the church and no other,
to look after the concerns of God’s kingdom above all.
So we may know that you believe yourselves
to be called by God
and that you profess the Christian faith,
we ask you:
Do you believe that God has called you
to the life and work of set apart ministry?

I do so believe.

Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

I do so believe and confess.

Are you persuaded
that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
contain all things necessary for salvation
through faith in Jesus Christ
and are the unique and authoritative standard
for the church’s faith and life?

I am so persuaded, by God’s grace.

Will you be faithful in prayer,
in the study of the Holy Scriptures,
and with the help of the Holy Spirit
continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you do your best to pattern your life
in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you, in the exercise of your ministry,
lead the people of God to faith in Jesus Christ,
participate in the life and work of the community, and seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people?

I will, with the help of God.
Will you be faithful to The United Methodist Church, accepting and upholding its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending them against all doctrines contrary to God’s Holy Word, and committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you, and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

**I will, with the help of God.**

Will you, for the sake of the church’s life and mission, covenant to participate in the life of the order or fellowship into which you are commissioned or received? Will you give yourself to God through the order or fellowship, in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service under the rule of life set forth in the vows you take this day?

**I will, with the help of God.**

May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them, that the work begun in you by the Holy Spirit may be brought to perfection.

All: Amen.

*All may be seated.*

**Anthem**

The Lake Junaluska Singers

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**Scripture**

**Sermon**

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

*Apostles Creed*

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*All candidates may stand where they are as their orders are called.*
EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING

*Candidates for commissioning may rise.*

A provisional member is bound to the service of God appointed and supervised by the bishop, and guided by ordained and lay colleagues in the Board of Ordained Ministry,
as they continue to grow in grace and to practice and perfect their skills in the ministries to which they may later be ordained as deacon or elder. This is the way of life and work of a provisional member.

Do you believe that God has called you to continue your preparation toward ordained ministry in this way?

**I do so believe.**

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

*Candidates for recognition may rise.*

An associate member has made a full commitment of life and service to the itinerant ministry of The United Methodist Church as demonstrated through service and ongoing examination, formation, supervision, and reflection on the practice of ministry. You now pledge to go wherever you are sent, to serve however you are called, to exercise your ministry within and on behalf of the whole Church, to love all among whom you are placed, and to love God above all. This is the way of life of a clergy member in associate connection.

Do you believe God has called you to this way of life?

**I do so believe.**

EXAMINATION OF PROFESSING MEMBERS

*All professing members may rise.*

A professing member of The United Methodist Church has affirmed willingness to live out the baptismal covenant, professed the faith of the Church in the Triune God, pledged loyalty to Jesus Christ through The United Methodist Church, and promised to support the congregations and ministries of this Church through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Do you reaffirm these commitments, and promise to support these set apart ministers in their life and vocation among you?

**I do, with God’s help.**

*Hymn of Commitment*  “Holy Spirit”  Torwalt and Torwalt

*Congregation is seated.*

*Provisional member candidates may stand.*

The bishop approaches them, with hands uplifted.

Bishop: Come, Holy Spirit.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Bishop: Come upon these, your servants.

**People: Come upon these, your servants.**
The bishop lays hands on the shoulders of each of the provisional member candidates for commissioning. Others may place hands on the candidate’s back or shoulder.

The bishop proceeds to each candidate in order and says:

Bishop: Come upon Full Name…

Ryan Beavers  Joshua Swanson
W. Ryan Ford  Monty Walton
Sean Hayden  Charlotte Williams
Jason Ratliff  Stephanie Parrott
Kaye Seay

After the bishop has named and placed hands on all, the bishop continues:

Bishop: Come upon them each and all, Holy Spirit.

People: Come upon them each and all, Holy Spirit.

Bishop: Send them among us to serve and continue to learn the way of life of the order into which they may be ordained.

People: Send them, Holy Spirit!

Bishop: In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

People: All glory and praise are yours, now and forever!

The newly commissioned provisional members extend their hands, palms up, toward the bishop.

Bishop: As you have placed yourselves into the hands of God

People: And as we have prayed for the Holy Spirit to empower you for your continuing growth in ministry among us,

Bishop: We now send you forth to announce the good news of God’s kingdom, and equip disciples of Jesus for ministry.

People: Lead us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The bishop then grasps the hands of each commissioned provisional member, saying to each, in turn:

Bishop: Full Name, serve and continue to learn among us.

Ryan Beavers  Joshua Swanson
W. Ryan Ford  Monty Walton
Sean Hayden  Charlotte Williams
Jason Ratliff  Stephanie Parrott
Kaye Seay

After each is named, the people respond:

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Each commissioned provisional member may receive a Bible as an instrument of office. Certificates of provisional membership may be presented at this time.

Persons who are newly elected associate members now assemble near the bishop.
Bishop: The Holy Spirit stirs among us!

People: And we are glad indeed.

The bishop then addresses the associate member candidates:

You have served among us faithfully as local pastors, demonstrating your commitment to accept and uphold the doctrine, liturgy and discipline of The United Methodist Church, under the appointment of the bishop. You have now fulfilled the requirements and been elected by the clergy session of this annual conference as associate members.

The bishop shakes the hand of each associate member, with these words:

Bishop: Full Name, we recognize you as an associate member in the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church.

James Brooks  Keith Hampson
Sherri Franklin  Michael Vaughn

As each one is named and received,
a certificate of associate membership is given.
When all have been recognized, the bishop says:

Bishop: We recognize you with joy, each and all.

People: We recognize you with joy, each and all! Thanks be to God!

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table and Peace

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to be at peace with God and one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader to people:
Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and people:
Glory to God. Amen.
The Peace
The peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you!

Signs of reconciliation and love may be exchanged.

Taking the Bread and Cup
*The Great Thanksgiving

All stand. The bishop lifts hands.

Christ is with us.

Yes, he is! Hallelujah!
The Holy Spirit is in this place!

Ignite our hearts!
Raise your hands! Lift your voices!

Father, we are yours!
We are yours, all yours, blessed Triune God, all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise, all our hesitations, all our grumbling, all our fears, we give it all to you, with all our bodies, and minds, and voices.

Yours, all yours!
Yours the blessing, yours the praise, from the unimaginable silence before creation, beyond the farthest reaches of time and space our instruments may ever find, from infinity to infinity, everlasting to everlasting, you are God, boundless in love and power.

We stand in awe, trembling in the light of your glory!
What are we that you should notice us? What are we that you should love us? What are we that you should call us into covenant with you, a covenant we continually broke, and you continuously sustained.

Mercy! How full of mercy!
How can we but praise you, joining our voices with the song of angels and saints, with seraphim and martyrs, with the living creatures in heaven and all creatures of the earth, on land or in rivers, oceans, streams, and skies, with strangers and family in every generation, singing:

Sung Response
Byrd, Hindalong

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy, you are holy, holy! The Universe declares your majesty, You are holy, holy! Lord of Heaven and Earth. Lord of Heaven and Earth.

Jesus Christ who comes in our God’s name, you are worthy, worthy! Lamb of God for all creation slain, You are worthy, worthy! Hosannas now we sing! Hosannas now we sing!
You are holy, O God!

Holy!

You are worthy, O Christ!

Worthy!

Worthy in your birth! Worthy in your living!

Worthy in your loving! Worthy in your serving!

Worthy when you preached good news that God’s kingdom has drawn near and gathered disciples, then and now, equipping and sending us, one and all, to learn and show the world what life in God’s reign means: healing for the sick, new life for the dead, cleansing for the lepers, freedom for the possessed, justice for the oppressed, beauty for the lilies, care for the sparrows, new birth, new life, new creation breaking in for all.

Worthy! Worthy! Worthy above all!

The bishop may lift the bread, or extend hands toward the bread.

Worthy too, the night we betrayed you, when you took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to your disciples.

Worthy when you told them, “This is my body broken for you. Remember me.”

We remember.

The bishop may lift the cup or extend hands toward the cup.

Worthy when you took the cup, praised God and shared it, and worthy when you said, “This is my blood of the new covenant for you. Remember me.”

We remember.

The bishop lifts hands.

We remember, and we praise you with our lives and these gifts of bread and wine, proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Come upon us, Holy Spirit.

Come upon us, Holy Spirit.

Come upon these gifts.

Make them be for us Christ’s body, Christ’s blood.

Make us one body in Christ enlivened by his blood.

One in heart, one in mind, one in you, Holy Spirit, as you move us to pray for the church and the world:

That we may proclaim the gospel boldly:

Hear us, Lord.
That we may offer your healing for all who are sick, and people who are torn and weary:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That we may be channels of your mercy over all your works, in earth, and sky and sea:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who this hour have been set apart for specialized ministries may lead, learn, and teach among us with wisdom and compassion:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That many dead and left for dead may be raised, and death itself vanquished:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are unclean may receive your cleansing grace:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are possessed, oppressed, distressed, depressed, and downcast may be set free at last.

**Hear us, Lord.**

*The bishop resumes leading the prayer:*

Even so, come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit, this day, and every day until that day when we eat it new at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

**All blessing and glory, thanksgiving and power, wisdom and honor and might, be yours, Holy Triune God, now and forever. Amen!**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,*

*hallowed be Thy name.*

*Thy kingdom come,*

*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread;*

*And forgive us our trespasses*

*as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,*

*and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Breaking the Bread**

*The presider breaks the bread and lifts the cup.*

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

*The bishop serves the deacon first,*

*who then serves the bishop and the other servers.*

**Worship Music during Communion**

*The Lake Junaluska Singers*  

*When all have received, the deacon put the Lord’s Table in order.*
Thanksgiving after Communion

The bishop leads the people to pray:

Thank you, God, for uniting us with Jesus in this holy mystery. We are no longer our own, but yours. So send us all, and put us to leading and serving in your mission wherever we go. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Anthem
The Lake Junaluska Singers

Distribution of Appointment Books
The ushers will provide appointment books for lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference.

Question of Clergy Character
The Reverend Mickey W. Rainwater

The Fixing of Appointments
Bishop Taylor, District Superintendents, and District Lay Leaders

*A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition #607
All pray in unison

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
Exalted for thee or brought low by thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
To thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou are mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*Hymn of Commitment #99 “My Tribute” MY TRIBUTE

*Dismissal with Blessing
The bishop blesses the people:
The grace of Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always.

*Recessional Hymn of Praise #363 “And Can It Be?” SAGINA

A deacon dismisses the people, using these or similar words:
*Dismissal of the People*  
The Reverend Glenna Manning

Go in peace

to love and serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

**We are sent in Christ’s name.**

**Thanks be to God!**

*Going Forth*

*Postlude*  
Mr. Underwood

*Please stand as you are able.*

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**Worship Participants:**

Mary Virginia Taylor, Resident Bishop, Holston Area,  
The United Methodist Church

*Director of Liturgy and Assisting Deacon for Bishop Taylor*  
The Reverend Glenna Manning, Concord UMC, Oak Ridge District

The Reverend Mickey W. Rainwater, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry,  
Maryville District

*Music Leader*  
Mr. Wesley Rouse, Fairview UMC, Maryville District

*Organist*  
Mr. Bryan K. Underwood, State Street UMC, Abingdon District

*Musicians*  
The Lake Junaluska Singers, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina  
Mary Wannamaker Huff, Director  
Kathy Geyer McNeil, Associate Director

**Thank you:**

**Bibles:** Bibles presented to those being commissioned were provided by their home districts.
Historic Examination of Full Membership in the Annual Conference

Those being ordained this morning answered the following Historic Questions during the Clergy Session on Sunday afternoon of Annual Conference.

1. Have you faith in Christ?
2. Are you going on to perfection?
3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
4. Are you earnestly striving after it?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and His work?
6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
7. Will you keep them?
8. Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?
9. After full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
10. Will you preach and maintain them?
11. Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
12. Do you approve our Church government and polity?
13. Will you support and maintain them?
14. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
15. Will you visit from house to house?
16. Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
17. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
18. Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
19. Will you observe the following directions?
   a. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
   b. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience’ sake.

2016 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 336
The acts of ordination and commissioning, as well as consecrating and certifying, are anchored in the sacrament of baptism and the ministry of the baptized. These sign-acts are based on what is already implicit in baptism and rest upon the essential ministry given to all Christians in baptism. Within the church community, there are persons whose gifts, evidence of God’s grace, and promise of future usefulness are affirmed by the community and who respond to God’s call by offering themselves as ordained and licensed ministers.

There are four categories of persons who have responded to God’s call and are set apart for ministry.

**Recognition of Associate Members** – These persons are full-time local pastors within the annual conference who are a part of the itinerant ministry of the church and are available on a continuing basis for appointment by the bishop. These persons must have reached 40 years of age, have served four years as a full-time local pastor, must have completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry in addition to the studies for license as a local pastor, have declared their willingness to accept continuing full-time appointment, and other requirements for licensing and election as an associate member.

**Commissioning** – This act may be compared with the experiences of the early church in Antioch when the Holy Spirit instructed the community to “set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2) The act of commissioning relates persons to the annual conference as provisional members. These persons are being sent for service within the annual conference. Provisional members may be preparing for service within the annual conference.

**Deacons in Full Connection** – These persons are ordained for the purpose of leading the Church in servanthood in the church and the world and to embody the interrelationship between worship in the Church and service to God in the world. Deacons are non-itinerant clergy called to ministries of word, service, compassion, and justice. They are members of the annual conference in full connection and become members of the Order of Deacons. The ministries of the deacon are symbolized by the Bible (Word) and the basin and pitcher (service).

**Elders in Full Connection** – These persons are ordained for ministries of word, sacrament, and order. They are itinerant clergy subject to annual appointment by the bishop to lead the gathered community in the celebration of the sacraments and the guidance and care of the church’s communal life. Elders are members in full connection of the annual conference and become members of the Order of Elders. The ministries of the elder are symbolized by the Bible (Word), chalice and paten (Sacrament), and *The Book of Discipline* (Order).
Intentionally Left Blank
1. **Who IS eligible to vote on proposed constitutional amendments?**
   Clergy members (elders and deacons) in full connection (¶ 602.1.a) this includes clergy on sabbatical leave, voluntary leave of absence (¶ 353.7), family leave (¶ 353.7), transitional leave (¶ 353.7) or medical leave (¶ 356) Lay members of annual conference (¶ 602.6) Diaconal ministers and active deaconesses are lay members of annual conference and as such have the right to vote (¶ 33, Article II of Constitution)

2. **Who IS NOT eligible to vote on proposed constitutional amendments?**
   Provisional deacons and elders (¶602.1.b, Book of Discipline.) Associate and affiliate clergy members (¶602.1.c, Book of Discipline.) Full-time and part-time local pastors (¶602.1.d, Book of Discipline.) Clergy on Honorable Location (358.2) or Administrative Location (359.3) Lay Observers, Alternate Lay Members not certified as sitting for an absent Lay Member

3. **May an annual conference amend a proposed constitutional amendment?**
   No. Members may debate a proposed amendment, but they cannot amend it. The only voting option is to vote yes to approve the amendment or no to reject it. Each amendment has already been approved by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, and every annual conference will be voting on the identical amendment.

4. **What determines whether a proposed amendment is made to the Constitution?**
   A constitutional amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in all annual conferences (¶59. Article I). The vote, after being completed, shall be canvassed by the Council of Bishops, and the amendment voted upon shall become effective upon their announcement of its having received the required majority (¶59. Article I).

All citations are from *The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline* Rev 4/13/17
On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, 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 women's and girl's equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

AND

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509 Yes, 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, ¶4, Article IV, amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “all persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition”. After “because of race, color, national origin,” delete “status,” and add “ability”. At the end of the paragraph, add “nor shall any member be denied access
to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 would read:

The United Methodist Church is 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 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. 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, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – III

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 767 Yes, 22 No (Calendar Item 111, DCA pp. 2105). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III, (2016 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III) amend by addition as follows:

After the first sentence, add, “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.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference 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 conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central 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 conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central 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.

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – IV

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 621 Yes, 15 No (Calendar Item 468, DCA p. 2217). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division Three, ¶ 46, Article I, amend by addition, as follows:

To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 would read:

The bishops shall be elected by the respective 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 conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.
On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes, 79 No (Calendar Item 446, DCA p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division Three, ¶ 50, Article VI, amend by addition, as follows:

After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that 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.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 would read:

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 bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.

The 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 jurisdictional conference 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 conference.

These provisions shall not preclude that 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.
Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments  
The United Methodist Church  
Voted General Conference May 2016  

I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.

II. (¶ 4) Adding “gender” (meaning male and female) to the Constitution affirms and protects The United Methodist Church’s commitment to gender equity throughout our worldwide connection. “Gender” is the disciplinary term for fair treatment of women and men (e.g., ¶16). The addition of the proposed final clause allows gender-specific groups like United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.

III. (¶ 34) The provision in ¶ 13, Article I. 2, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences,” is unduly vague. The addition of this one sentence to paragraph 34 of The Book of Discipline helps clarify that General Conference delegates shall be elected by the body of annual conference instead of simply being appointed by the bishop. Bishops appointing delegates without delegates being properly elected has been a practice in some central conferences.

IV. (¶ 46) As is the case for the jurisdictions, episcopal elections in the central conferences should be held in the regular sessions of those conferences, except when unexpected vacancies occur because of the death or early retirement of one or more bishops.

V. (¶ 50) Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work, referencing ¶ 50 of the Constitution. This legislation follows Judicial Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from General Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide oversight of its members.
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BALLOT

Date: _________________________________

2016 General Conference of The UMC: Proposed Constitutional Amendment I

YES

No

2016 General Conference of The UMC: Proposed Constitutional Amendment II

YES

No

2016 General Conference of The UMC: Proposed Constitutional Amendment III

YES

No

2016 General Conference of The UMC: Proposed Constitutional Amendment IV

YES

No

2016 General Conference of The UMC: Proposed Constitutional Amendment V

YES

No