



Wednesday SCHEDULE

Stuart Auditorium

8:15 a.m.

- Ordinands meet at Chapel for photos, line up for service

8:45 a.m.

- Sponsors and Cabinet line up for service

8:45 a.m.

Pre-Service Music

- Lake Junaluska Singers

Service of Commissioning & Recognition and Sending Forth

- Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, preaching and presiding
- Fixing of Appointments
- Adjournment

MOMENTS



▲ The praise band from El Ministerio del Espiritu Santo in Sevierville, Tenn., leads Monday-morning worship



▲ United Methodists give up their lunch hour on Tuesdays to pack meals for Rise Against Hunger.



▲ Chaplain Michael Charles of the U.S. Army speaks for the United Methodist Endorsing Agency on Tuesday.

Sending forth to make disciples

Total offerings for Ishe Anesu, Change for Children, announced this morning



Provisional elders

◀ Left to right, back row: Ryan Beavers, Sean Hayden, Josh Swanson. Middle row: Monty Walton, Jason Ratliff. Front row: Rev. Mickey Rainwater (chair, Board of Ordained Ministry), Kaye Seay, Charlotte Williams, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor



Provisional deacon

◀ Left to right: Rev. Mickey Rainwater (chair, Board of Ordained Ministry), Stephanie Parrott, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor



Associate members

◀ Left to right, back row: James Brooks, Michael Vaughn. Middle row: Keith Hampson, Sherri Franklin. Front row: Rev. Mickey Rainwater (chair, Board of Ordained Ministry), Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

Behold!

Strategy plan, \$9.07 million budget approved

The 2017 session of the Holston Annual Conference met June 11-14 in Lake Junaluska, N.C. The theme was "Behold!" The presiding bishop was Bishop Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor.

Actions:

- The "Comprehensive Strategic Plan," which includes re-sizing Holston's districts from 12 to nine, was approved. The majority vote occurred after several presentations by the Strategy Team and a pre-vote discussion lasting 45 minutes.
- A 2018 budget of \$9.07 million was approved, reflecting a reduction from the approved 2017 budget of \$9.7 million. The 2018 budget provides a 2 percent raise for district superintendents and conference staff.
- A resolution calling for a four-week vacation policy for ministers was approved.
- A resolution calling for the church to work to eliminate racism and advocate against immigration policies excluding refugees "on the basis of their religion or national origin" was approved.
- A resolution calling for a moratorium on the practice of online communion was approved.
- The Denman Evangelism Award was presented to Erin Elizabeth Bowman (youth), Mt. Olivet UMC, Galax, Va.; Pasty Dalton (lay), Kodak UMC, Kodak, Tenn.; and the Rev. Stephen DeFur (clergy), Cokesbury UMC, Knoxville, Tenn.
- The Francis Asbury Award for leaders in higher education was presented posthumously to Bennett and Evelyn Horton, members of Church Street UMC, Knoxville.
- Bishop Dindy Taylor blessed 8,344 Hands-on Mission Kits valued at \$211,112 total for people served by United Methodist ministries in Zimbabwe and Liberia. The food, school, and health supplies were collected by churches in

recent weeks and are being trucked to the coast before shipping to Africa. (See box for district totals.)

- Taylor also delivered her State of the Church report. The Council of Bishops has called a special General Conference session Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Mo., she said. The General Conference will hear and act on a report from the "Commission on a Way Forward" during that session. The denomination has designated Sept. 24-30, 2017, for Holston Conference to pray for the special session.
 - During a "new business" session, a motion to end the leasing or purchasing of The Connexion in Sevierville, Tenn., was ruled out of order.
 - Also in the "new business" session, a motion requesting a written apology from Lake Junaluska Conference and Resort for its painful past with race relations was approved.
 - Also in the "new business" session, a motion was made requiring agenda items with votes for action to be scheduled at the beginning of a session rather than at the end of sessions before breaktime. (The intent is to allow more time for discussion.) The motion was approved.
 - The Board of Ordained Ministry presented licenses to 19 local pastors.
 - The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits report on page 180 in the "Book of Reports" was approved.
 - The Committee on Equitable Compensation report on page 61 of the "Book of Reports" was approved.
 - The report from the Task Force on Bullying and Harrassment of Clergy by Laity, on page 173 in the "Book of Reports," was approved.
 - Winners of a Tuesday-morning 5K to benefit Ishe Anesu Project in Zimbabwe: Robert Kariuki Nyaga and Lindsay Travis Bedford.
- For continuing reports on Annual Conference, visit ACNews.Holston.org. ■

TOTALS: HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT

Liberia

Abingdon: Health Kits
Goal: 400 / Actual: 780

Big Stone Gap: Health Kits
Goal: 400 / Actual: 429

Cleveland: School Kits
Goal: 400 / Actual: 556

Johnson City: School Kits
Goal: 400 / Actual: 812

Morristown: Food Buckets
Goal: 400 / Actual: 777

Tazewell: School Kits
Goal: 400 / Actual: 600

Zimbabwe

Chattanooga: Home Buckets
Goal: 400 / Actual: 887

Kingsport: Food Buckets
Goal: 400 / Actual: 694

Knoxville: School Kits
Goal: 400 / Actual: 643

Maryville: Food Buckets
Goal: 400 / Actual: 1,352

Oak Ridge: Health Kits
Goal: 300 / Actual: 421

Wytheville: Health Kits
Goal: 300 / Actual: 393

GRAND TOTAL KITS: 8,344
TOTAL VALUE: \$211,112



► Bishop Dindy Taylor congratulates the Rev. Richard Edwards and his wife, Sue, during Tuesday's Retirement Recognition.



◄ Rev. Timothy Hankins speaks about the resolution he authored, "Reaffirming Our Faithful Celebration of the Sacrament," which was approved.



▲ The Rev. Stephen DeFur (second from right) wins the Denman Evangelism Award on Monday. Also pictured, left to right: Bishop Dindy Taylor, Rev. Ray Amos, Rev. Rebekah Fetzer, and Rev. Nathan Malone.



▲ "Africana Live: Reflect, Reclaim, Rejoice," delights a Monday-night crowd in Stuart Auditorium. "A Night of Inspiration" was provided by the award-winning Central United Methodist Music Ministry of Atlanta, Ga.