**REGISTRATION**

Lay and Clergy Members of the Conference are asked to pre-register online at [http://acregistration.holston.org](http://acregistration.holston.org) no later than **May 20, 2016**. After May 20, conference members will register online upon arrival at the conference site. Name badges and worship books will be distributed at the Registration sites. Please note registration sites and times below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 5</td>
<td>Reynolds Conference Center</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foundation for Evangelism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 6</td>
<td>Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 7</td>
<td>Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cokesbury vendor, exhibits, displays, and other resources are located in the Auditorium on the first floor of Harrell Center and along the sidewalk between Harrell Center and Stuart Auditorium.**

**Conference Services**

- **Chaplain** ................................................................. Terrace, Room 210
- **Child Care** (Children ages 6 months to rising 6th grade) .... Wilson Children’s Complex

**Pre-register by May 20 – mail form directly to Lake Junaluska:**


$10 per child per session - Sunday evening; Monday or Tuesday morning, afternoon, or evening; and Wednesday morning. Lunch must be provided or purchased for children staying through lunch hour.

- **Credit Union** .......................................................... Harrell Center, Room 202
  (Any banking services and discount tickets to attractions available during Registration hours)

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

- **Prayer Room hours: Room of Memory (adjacent to Memorial Chapel)** ..... 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

- **Shop the World Gifts** .................................................. Harrell Center, Room 202

**Conference Offices**

- **Bishop** ................................................................. Stuart Auditorium, behind Stage, 1st room on the left
- **Cabinet** ................................................................. Terrace, Room 316
- **Communications** ...................................................... Harrell Center, Room 103
- **Conference Secretary & Staff** ...................................... Stuart Auditorium

**Modified Meal Plan**

When you register, indicate the meals that you will NOT have in the dining room. *No credit from meal tickets will be given toward special meals.* All private meal functions will be charged separately by the sponsoring group or organization.

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**Hotel and Cottage Rental Check-in ~ 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 5**

Contact numbers at Lake Junaluska
Phone: (828) 452-2881; Fax: (828) 452-2225; Emergency: 911

*The cover photo credit for “hand lettering” by Rev. Suzanne L. Vinson*

[suzannelvinson.com](http://suzannelvinson.com)
Imagine…

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!

Ephesians 3:20 (The Message)

Always…

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

Hebrews 13:8 (CEB)

Engage…

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind…You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37, 39 (NRSV)

Bless

God is ready to overwhelm you with more blessings than you could ever imagine so that you’ll always be taken care of in every way and you’ll have more than enough to share.

2 Corinthians 9:8 The Voice

This is our fourth Annual Conference focusing on God’s vision for our Holston congregations:

~ Congregations who experience God’s love for all the world - Imagine.
~ Congregations who trust in God’s eternal and sustaining grace - Always.
~ Congregations who reach out to our neighbors to share the love of Jesus Christ - Engage.

And now…

~ Congregations who overflow with gratitude and joy that transforms the world - Bless.

When we consider God’s amazing and wondrous work in our lives, what more can we do than to overflow with blessings for others? As the hymn says, “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!”

This year’s Annual Conference session provides the opportunities to hear stories of those whose lives have been touched by grace, those who have been inspired by the opportunity to share grace with others, and those who seek to guide the Annual Conference into the future so that we might continue to bear witness to God’s grace in a mighty way.

As we gather representing the congregations of Holston, may our hearts be open to receive a fresh outpouring of grace so that we return to our homes renewed in our commitments to live as faithful and joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. We have more than enough love to share with a world longing for the blessing of God!

Grace and peace,

Dindy Taylor
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Bring your Bible, your Book of Reports, and your Worship Booklet to all sessions.

Bring your Change for Children offering Tuesday morning, Society of St. Andrew’s donations Tuesday morning, and the Mission offering Tuesday night.

Water will be available, so bring your reusable water bottle, too!
WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA

Dear Holston Annual Conference Delegates and Guests:

We are so pleased to welcome you back to Lake Junaluska once again for the Holston Annual Conference. Your loyalty to this place and its mission, “to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through the renewal of soul, mind, and body” is deeply appreciated. We hope you will take full advantage of the opportunities provided for you while you are here to experience that transformation and renewal for yourself in the midst of the important work of holy conferencing.

We have been blessed with many assets here at Lake Junaluska, and the greatest by far is our location. From the beautiful lake itself, the gorgeous centerpiece of our grounds, to the surrounding mountains and beyond we are situated as a gateway to some of the best outdoors that Western North Carolina has to offer. Right here at the lake we have 16 gardens, four miles of walking trails, a golf course, boat rentals, and dozens of areas for meditation. Just a short drive away you will find whitewater rafting, skiing, and easy access to two of the most visited national parks in the nation. Not every Annual Conference has the benefit of taking place on sacred ground with such easy access to the wonderful renewing power of God’s creation. It is our goal to help you make the most of it.

We sincerely want you to have a wonderful time with us at the 2016 Holston Annual Conference. We are here to serve you.

Peace and Grace,

Jack Ewing, Executive Director and CEO
Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.
1. What Is the Purpose of the Annual Conference?
Annual Conference is a yearly meeting of Holston United Methodists (lay and clergy) for spiritual renewal and business and ministry decisions; also, appointments and ordination of clergy take place.
The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.
John Wesley desired Annual Conference to be a means of God’s grace through Christian “conferencing.”

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

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

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

5. What Is the History of the Annual Conference?
The first Annual Conference was on Monday, June 25, 1744.
“The following persons being met at the Foundry – John Wesley, Charles Wesley, John Hodges, Henry Piers, Samuel Taylor, and John Meriton – after some time spent in prayer, the design of our meeting was proposed, namely, to consider:
• what to teach;
• how to teach; and
• what to do, i.e., how to regulate our doctrine, discipline, and practice.
But first it was inquired whether any of our lay brethren should be present at this conference, and it was agreed to invite from time to time such of them as we should think proper. ‘Twas then asked, ‘Which of them shall we invite today?’ The answer was, ‘Thomas Richards, Thomas Maxfield, John Bennet, and John Downes,’ who were accordingly brought in.’

John Wesley – Edited by Albert C. Outler, Oxford
The Holston Annual Conference of The Methodist Church was organized in 1824. There are history books by R. N. Price, I. P. Martin, Robert Hilten, and others.

6. What Rules Does the Annual Conference Use to Operate?

7. Who Comes?
Lay members, clergy, and members-at-large. There are an equal number of lay and clergy members. Lay members are elected at the charge conference of the local church/charge each year. Lay members at-large are elected annually at District Conferences. Other lay members are included based on positions and offices held within the districts and conferences as outlined in the Discipline.
8. **How Do I Participate?**
You must have an official name badge to vote.
You may speak any time the chair recognizes you.
Motions may be made from the floor at any time.
Attendance at all sessions enhances participation, as listening to issues and reports being discussed is beneficial to knowing what is going on.
Come prepared – read this Annual Conference Book of Reports.
A local church, district, an individual, or any official board, agency, commission, council, committee, or ministry team may submit a resolution to be voted on at Annual Conference.
These resolutions must be received by the Conference Secretary or Chair of the Committee on Resolutions by March 1.

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

10. **Where Do I Go to Register at Annual Conference?**
Lay and Clergy Members of the Conference are asked to pre-register online at http://acregistration.holston.org no later than **May 20, 2016**. After May, conference members will register online upon arrival at the conference site. Name badges and worship books will be distributed at the Registration sites. Please note registration sites and times below. For late registrations, go to:

   - **Sunday:** The Reynolds Conference Center in The Foundation for Evangelism -second building on the left inside the main entrance to Lake Junaluska.
   - **Monday–Wednesday:** **Susan Todd Lounge** on the second floor, lake side of Harrell Center

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

12. **Theme: Bless**

13. **Who Do I See for What and Where?**

   - See the Message Board at the back of Stuart Auditorium for messages. Additional Conference-related information can also be found at the back of Stuart Auditorium.
   - See Members of the Board of Laity (“Red Ribbons” designate the Board of Laity).
   - See Ushers.
   - See the Conference Secretary at the stage in Stuart Auditorium for general information.
   - Restrooms are located on the lake side of Stuart Auditorium and in Harrell Center on both floors.
   - Meals on Lake Junaluska grounds may be included as part of your room cost for certain accommodations or purchased separately at Terrace or Lambuth (please note Modified Meal Plan).
   - Lost and Found centers are located at the Information Center in the lobby of Stuart Auditorium and the Registration Desk in the Foundation for Evangelism (Sunday) or Susan Todd Lounge at Harrell Center (Monday through Wednesday mid-morning).

14. **Spiritual Needs**
The Chaplain is available to meet with you. You may call Rev. Laura Shearer at (865) 805-8929 to make an appointment for conversation. If you receive the voice mail, please leave your name and a number for a call back. The Chapel Room of Memories is open from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. for prayer. (Chapel is located next to Stuart Auditorium).
15. **Daily Guidance**
Conference worship daily – A Worship Book will be distributed at registration and should be brought to worship services.
Daily devotions and scriptures of your own choosing.

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

17. **Special Events/Fellowship Schedule**
Orientation as scheduled in this Book of Reports. Special breakfasts, lunches, and dinners (see listing in this Book of Reports and please note Modified Meal Plan).
Fellowship times are listed on the inside back cover of this Book of Reports.

18. **More Questions? How to Get Answers.**
Before Conference – call the Annual Conference Coordinator’s office in Alcoa at 865-690-4080 (toll-free at 866-690-4080) or call your district office.

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

20. **Making Sense of the Material Maze**
- Attend your District Pre-Conference Briefing or view the briefing online at ac.holston.org.
- Attend the Laity Orientation Session on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in Stuart Auditorium.
- Read this Annual Conference Book of Reports.
- Don’t hesitate to ask questions if there is something you don’t understand.
- Other option: Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

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

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

23. **Where to Stay (on or off the Lake Junaluska grounds)**
- Call Lake Junaluska for housing (828-452-2881 or 800-222-4930).
- Call or visit the websites of the Maggie Valley or Waynesville Chamber of Commerce for housing options nearby.
24. What If I Want to Make or Speak on a Motion?

There is a form in the back of this Annual Conference Book of Reports (page 204) for Motions and Amendments.

Many motions important to the Conference operation and program are functional and are voted on as a matter of course. Other motions invite debate. You may find you desire to speak on a motion or even introduce a motion concerning an issue on the agenda. The proper way to speak on the floor of the Conference is as follows:

a. Be recognized by the presiding officer (usually the Bishop) by standing at your seat, raising your hand, waving your program Book of Reports, etc.

b. When recognized, move to the numbered microphone designated by the presiding officer.

c. Give your name, identify your district, and give the name of your local church.

d. If you are making a motion in regard to a report on the floor (being discussed), state the motion with no verbal introduction, and say, “If seconded, I would like to speak on it,” and then when seconded give your comments and supportive details. Please remember to speak clearly!

(Note: Motions must be written out on the form provided in the Annual Conference Book of Reports, page 204, and must be turned in to the Conference Secretary on the stage after making your motion, even if not passed or seconded.)

e. If you are commenting on a report or motion on the floor (being discussed), then state if you speak in favor of or opposition to the motion and make your comments.

25. How to Get an Issue Before the Conference

Ask the chair to be recognized (See 24 above).

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

Voting will be held every four years for delegates to upcoming General and Jurisdictional Conferences. These elections take place at the Annual gathering held the year prior to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Nominations are submitted prior to Annual Conference and nominees published in the Book of Reports. Nominations may be made from the floor during the Laity Orientation session on Sunday afternoon. A nomination form must be completed and available upon nomination. Refer to the Book of Reports for voting instructions.

26. Buzz Words and What They Mean

• AC – Annual Conference
• BOLM – Board of Lay Ministry
• BOM – Board of Ordained Ministry
• Cabinet – The Bishop, District Superintendents, and, when appropriate, other conference staff. The Cabinet under the leadership of the Bishop is the expression of superintending leadership in and through the Annual Conference. Appointment Cabinet – The Bishop, Executive Assistant to the Bishop and District Superintendents; Extended Cabinet – The Bishop, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, District Superintendents, other conference staff, and Conference Lay Leader.
• CCFA – Conference Council on Finance and Administration
• CCYM – Conference Council on Youth Ministries
• CLL – Conference Lay Leader
• Connectional – A network of interdependent relations among persons and groups on local, regional, national, and international levels of The United Methodist Church.
• CRM – Camp and Retreat Ministries
• Certified Lay Minister – A lay minister that has received specific training and certification that will enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches and expand team ministry in churches.

• Conference Lay Leader – Primary representative of the laity of Holston Conference. Elected by the Annual Conference. Chairs Conference Board of Lay Ministry.

• Deacon – Deacons are ordained to a lifetime ministry of the Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice, to both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connect the two.

• Deaconess – A lay woman who, in response to God’s call and on recommendation of the General Board of Global Ministries, is commissioned by a Bishop to share faith in Jesus Christ through ministries of love, justice, and service. Deaconesses form a covenant community rooted in Scripture and informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope and global outreach. Deaconesses serve the church in any capacity not requiring full clergy rights. They are related to the General Board of Global Ministries. A lifetime commitment to mission is presumed.

• Diaconal Ministers – This consecrated lay ministry exemplifies the servanthood every Christian is called to live in both church and world.

• Discipline – (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 2012) “The Discipline is the book of law of The United Methodist Church. It is the product of the many General Conferences of historic religious bodies which now form The United Methodist Church.” It is published every four years, after each General Conference.

• DS – District Superintendent

• DT – Discipleship Team (to discern a vision and ministry direction for the Conference).

• Elder – Elders are ordained to a lifetime ministry of Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order. They are authorized to preach and teach God’s Word, to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and to order the life of the church for Mission and Ministry. They begin this calling as Provisional Members.

• General Conference – The legislative body of The United Methodist Church, composed of an equal number of elected lay and clergy delegates. It meets every four years and is the only body that can speak officially for the denomination.

• Home Missioner - Lay man who is the counterpart of the Deaconess (see above).

• Jurisdictional Conference – A regional conference held every four years and attended by elected delegates, an equal number of lay and clergy. The business primarily involves the election and assignment of Bishops.

• Lay Leader – A function in the local church, carried out through a position elected by the Charge Conference, and who serves as the primary lay representative of the members of the local church. The Lay Leader has specific responsibilities detailed in the Discipline. Districts and Annual Conferences also elect lay leaders to serve as the primary representatives of their lay membership.

• Lay Members to Annual Conference – Lay members are elected at the charge conference of the local church/charge each year, and lay members at-large are elected annually at District Conferences. Other lay members are included based on positions and offices held within the districts and conferences as outlined in the Discipline.

• Lay Missioners – Committed laypersons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and work in a team with a pastor-mentor to develop faith communities, establish community ministries, develop church school extension, programs, and engage in congregational development.

• Lay Servants – Laypersons who complete lay servant training courses to serve the local church or charge in any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. Local Church Lay Servant has completed the basic training course; Certified Lay Servant has completed the basic and one advanced training courses for lay servant.
• Lay Speakers – A lay speaker is a professing member of a local church or charge who is called and equipped to serve the church in pulpit supply by preaching the Word when the pastor is unavailable. The lay speaker will complete a course of study determined by the annual conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries.
• Local Pastor – A clergy person, serving under license, issued by the resident Bishop, who is authorized to perform all the duties of an ordained pastor, including the Sacraments, while assigned to a particular charge under the supervision of a District Superintendent.
• Ministry – The ministry of Christ is given to all Christians by virtue of their baptism (not reserved for clergy only).
• NOW – Nurture, Outreach, and Witness ministry areas
• Ordination – The act of conferring ministerial orders, presided over by a Bishop. The authorization of the church for the practice of the Word, Sacrament, and Order.
• PRC – Personnel Resources Committee (recruits, employs, deploys, and evaluates staff of the Conference).
• Quadrennium – The official four-year period beginning January 1 following each General Conference, during which The United Methodist Church implements General Conference legislation.
• SEJ – Southeastern Jurisdiction
• UMC – United Methodist Church
• UMM – United Methodist Men
• UMW – United Methodist Women
• Wesley Leadership Institute – A Conference initiative that creates educational opportunities for clergy through a Wesleyan perspective.

27. Fashion: What to Wear?
Casual clothes are fine for all occasions; always wear a smile. God loves you!

28. Youth
Each district sends two youth members to the Annual Conference session.
Housing for these youth is arranged in advance with the Conference Youth ministry office. Youth members and their chaperones usually stay on the grounds at Lake Junaluska. An orientation session is held on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for these youth. During this time, a complete schedule is provided. Youth-led devotions are held each evening at 10:30 p.m. for youth who are members of the Annual Conference and other youth who would like to participate.

29. Children (6 months through rising 6th grade)
Childcare is available during the week during all sessions at the Children’s Center on the grounds at Lake Junaluska. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. You may pre-register when you register for Annual Conference - a link is provided at http://acregistration.holston.org.

30. Etiquette
In Stuart Auditorium, please move toward the center of each section for seating, rather than taking up aisle seats. Avoid congregating at the entrances and exits, and avoid distracting conversations inside and outside the auditorium when Conference is in session.

Prepared by: Holston Conference Board of Lay Ministry
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016
JUNE 5-8 2016
Mary Virginia Taylor
Resident Bishop, Presiding
SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

Bless

God is ready to overwhelm you with more blessings than you could ever imagine so that you’ll always be taken care of in every way and you’ll have more than enough to share.

2 Corinthians 9:8 The Voice

SUNDAY – JUNE 5, 2016

2:00 p.m. Registration opens – Foundation for Evangelism Center
4:00 p.m. Laity Session – Stuart Auditorium
5:00 p.m. Clergy Session – Stuart Auditorium
5:45 p.m. Rehearsal for Communion Servers for Sunday Evening Service
5:45 p.m. Dinner served at Terrace Hotel and Lambuth Inn
7:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music
7:30 p.m. Opening Worship -
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, preaching and presiding

After worship Rehearsal for Monday morning Communion servers - Stuart Auditorium

MONDAY – JUNE 6, 2016

8:30 a.m. Morning Worship with Bible Study & Holy Communion – Bishop Richard C. Looney
Stand-Up Break

9:45 a.m. Hymn

Welcome from Lake Junaluska
Organizing Motions
Adoption of Agenda
Setting Bar of Conference
Election of Ushers and Tellers

Election of Conference Officers - Chancellor, Treasurer, & Secretary
MONDAY – JUNE 6, 2016 (cont.)

Report from Committee on Rules and Order
Blessing of Hands-On Mission Kits
State of the Church - Bishop’s Report
Conference Lay Leader Report
Committee on Congregational Development
Council on Finance and Administration Initial Budget Presentation
Holston Conference Foundation
Personnel Resources Committee
Committee on Nominations
United Methodist Men
United Methodist Women
United Methodist Publishing House
Closing Prayer for the Session

Lunch Break

2:00 p.m. Memorial Service – Reverend David Graves, preaching

Break

3:30 p.m. Hymn
Report from General Conference Delegation
Cabinet Report
Closing prayer for Session

Dinner Break

7:30 p.m. A Night of Inspiration with Inky Johnson
Meet and Greet with Inky Johnson

After session  Rehearsal for Tuesday morning Communion servers - Stuart Auditorium
11  HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY – JUNE 7, 2016

7:15 a.m.  5K Run/1 Mile Walk for Conference Mission Offering –
Outside of Stuart Auditorium

8:30 a.m.  Morning Worship with Bible Study and Holy Communion
           Bishop Richard C. Looney
           Stand-Up Break

9:45 a.m.  Conference Strategy Team Report
           Break

11:00 a.m. Retirement Recognition
           Explanation of On-site Mission Project
           Closing Prayer for the Session
           Lunch Break

12:00 p.m. On-Site Mission Project – Society of St. Andrew Crop Drop -
           Outdoor Gym

2:00 p.m.  Hymn
           Holston Conference Higher Education and Ministry
           Francis Asbury Award Presentation
           Emory & Henry College
           Hiwassee College
           Tennessee Wesleyan College
           Recognition of Wesley Foundations
           Board of Ordained Ministry
           Presentation of Local Pastors’ Licenses
           Board of Pensions
           Commission on Equitable Compensation
           Board of Trustees
           Commission on Archives and History
           Break
TUESDAY – JUNE 7, 2016 (cont.)

3:30 p.m. Discipleship Team

  Leadership Holston

  Witness Team

    Presentation of the Denman Awards

    Hispanic Ministry Team

    Appalachian Trail Chaplaincy

  Nurture Team

    Camping & Retreat Ministries

  Missions Team

  Outreach/Advocacy Team

  Stewardship Team

CFA Budget Presentation for Approval

Holston Home for Children

Asbury Centers, Inc.

Minute Question #85 “Where Shall Annual Conference Be Held?”

Interim Business Resolution

Omnibus Motion

Thank You and Acknowledgements

Closing Prayer for the Session

  Dinner Break

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service – Mission Celebration

After worship Ordination Rehearsal - Stuart Auditorium
WEDNESDAY – June 8, 2016

8:15 a.m. Ordinands, Provisionals, and Associate Members meet for pictures and line-up for Ordination Service - Chapel

8:45 a.m. Sponsors and Cabinet line-up for Ordination Service - Chapel

8:30 a.m. Pre-Service Music

9:00 a.m. Service of Ordination, Commissioning, and Sending Forth
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, preaching and presiding

Fixing of Appointments

Adjournment

Recessional
Looking for ...

- Conference Event Information and registration
- Grant applications
- Contact information for pastors and local churches
- Camp information
- Lay Servant Ministry Trainings
- Resources from Conference Ministry
- Off-line version of the Journal
- On-line version of The Book of Discipline
- Charge Conference Forms
- The Holston Conference Foundation
- Age-level ministry resources
- Health insurance and pension information
- Remittance of local church tithe
- The Call

And so much more!
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For news and information from
The United Methodist Church
Check out www.umc.org
ORGANIZING MOTIONS
FOR
2016 HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Roll Call:
I move that the online registration constitute the roll call and record of attendance. Excused clergy will be noted and recorded in the Journal.

Legal Limits for Voting and Business:
I move that the legal voting and business limits of the 2016 Holston Annual Conference be the stage area, sections one (1) through ten (10), and pews behind sections one (1)B and three (3) of the George R. Stuart Auditorium.

Agenda:
I move that the Schedule/Agenda as printed and included in the Annual Conference Book of Reports constitute the agenda for the 2016 Session of the Holston Annual Conference, subject to any necessary changes and/or amendments by the Chair.

Reports:
I move that reports found in the Annual Conference Book of Reports that do not require action and other reports submitted for information, subject to editorial corrections, be ordered to record and be published in the 2016 Conference Journal.

NOMINATIONS FOR USHERS/TELLERS
I move the election of the following Lay and Clergy members as Ushers/Tellers for the 2016 Annual Conference:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TELLERS:</th>
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<td><strong>Abingdon</strong></td>
<td>Barbara A Doyle</td>
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<td>Rosa Slavik</td>
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<td><strong>Big Stone Gap</strong></td>
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<td>Jacqueline S. McGowan</td>
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<td><strong>Chattanooga</strong></td>
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<td>Peggy Chappell</td>
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<td>RuthAnne G. Henley</td>
<td>Timothy Hale</td>
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<td>Ann D. Lambert</td>
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**Coordinator:** Rev. Tony Collins

~ Rev. Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., Conference Secretary
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016
12:30 p.m.  Black Methodists for Church Renewal Luncheon  Lambuth Inn
2:00 p.m.  Registration begins  Reynolds Conference Center, Foundation for Evangelism

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016
7:00 a.m.  Cabinet Breakfast  Terrace, Room 316
12:00 p.m.  Candler Alumni Luncheon  Foundation for Evangelism
12:00 p.m.  Ministers’ Spouses Luncheon  Long’s Chapel UMC, Waynesville
12:00 p.m.  Peace with Justice/Outreach/Advocacy Luncheon  Terrace, Room 316
12:30 p.m.  Deacon and Diaconal Ministries Luncheon  Lambuth, Saville
5:00 p.m.  Council on Finance and Administration - Q&A  Terrace Lobby
5:15 p.m.  Missions Dinner  Terrace Auditorium
8:30 p.m.  CCYM/Youth Night  Shackford Hall
8:45 p.m.  Meet and Greet with Inky Johnson  Outside Stuart Auditorium

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016
7:00 a.m.  Emory & Henry Alumni and Friends Breakfast  Foundation for Evangelism
7:00 a.m.  Extension Ministries Breakfast  Terrace, Room 316
7:00 a.m.  Holston UM Renewal Breakfast (reservations required)  Terrace Auditorium
7:15 a.m.  5K Run/1-Mile Walk to benefit Conference Mission Offering  Outside Stuart Auditorium
12:00 p.m.  Society of St. Andrew Crop Drop  Outside Gym
12:00 p.m.  Associate Members and Local Pastors Luncheon  Lambuth International
12:00 p.m.  Holston Retirees Luncheon  Terrace Auditorium
12:30 p.m.  Board of Higher Education Luncheon  Horton’s Home
6:00 p.m.  Duke Divinity Alumni Fellowship  Harrell Center, 2nd level porch
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ORDER
 STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF
 THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A couple of changes to the Plan for Organization of the Annual Conference are being offered this year.

The first is a change to the placement of the Native American Ministries group, which is being moved to Outreach/Advocacy. The changes would be accommodated by adopting the following replacements to the Plan.

**VI. a. Missions Team** Total Membership = 14: 12 elected members, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶ 633). Subgroups to be determined by Missions Team in consultation with Discipleship Team.

**VI. c. Outreach/Advocacy Team** Total Membership = 21: 12 elected members plus the five ministry area chairpersons of Religion and Race, Church and Society, Status and Role of Women, and Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns, and chairpersons or representatives of other groups related to Outreach/Advocacy. Cabinet Representative. (Discipline ¶629)

1. **Religion and Race Ministry Area** (Chair): Total Membership =13:12 elected members, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶643).
2. **Church and Society Ministry Area** (Chair) (Discipline ¶629).
3. **Status and Role of Women Ministry Area** (Chair) (Discipline ¶644).
4. **Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns Ministry Area** (Chair) (Discipline ¶642).
5. **Disability Concerns** (Chair) (Discipline ¶653).
6. **Strength for the Journey Team:** Total Membership =12: 9 elected, Cabinet Representative, Staff, Director Emeritus.
7. **Conference Representative to Holston Home for Children**
8. **Native American Ministries Team** (Chair): Total Membership = 7: 6 elected members, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶654).

After the Judicial Council Ruling of April, 2015, it becomes necessary to insert back into the conference structure the Committee on Investigation for Clergy Members of the Annual Conference.

At **VIII. GROUPS RELATED TO THE CABINET AND ORDAINED MINISTRY** please insert under item b. an item numbered 1. as follows:

1. **Committee on Investigation (Clergy)** Total Membership = 13: 4 Clergy, 3 professing members of the church, six alternates equally divided between clergy and lay professing members. (Discipline ¶ 2703.2 [2008]).

Number the Committee on Investigation (Diaconal) as item 2. under VIII. b., leaving language as is.

Under **PROCEDURES** of the Annual Conference, strike the fourth bulleted paragraph under item 2, which begins with “The year a person is elected . . .”
Amend rule 38 by replacement with the following language:

“Because of the vital need of the Annual Conference to carry out its mission in a timely manner, if any conference leadership group duly elected by the Annual Conference determines an action is needed to properly carry out the mission of the conference, especially when business of the annual conference was unavoidably overlooked during the conference session, or an issue is deemed vital and time is of the essence, such action is authorized to be taken by the elected leadership group after due consultation and/or necessary action of the extended cabinet acting on behalf of the conference and the resident bishop. Any action so taken will be recorded in the minutes of the cabinet and in the subsequent Journal, reported in an expeditious manner to the members of the Annual Conference, and further reported to the next annual conference session.”

~ Bradley H. Scott, Chair
~ Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., Conference Secretary
STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.” (2012 Book of Discipline ¶601).

Composition and Character is defined by (2012 Book of Discipline ¶¶602, 2)

Organization is defined by (2012 Book of Discipline ¶603)

Function is defined by the (2012 Book of Discipline ¶604-606)

I. CABINET
   a. Appointment Cabinet: Resident Bishop; 12 District Superintendents; Executive Assistant to the Bishop (Discipline ¶417-425).
   b. Extended Cabinet: Appointment Cabinet; Director of Clergy Services/Conference Secretary; Director of Connectional Ministries; Director of Administrative Services/Conference Treasurer; Director of Congregational Development; Executive Director, Holston Conference Foundation. The Conference Lay Leader shall be invited to attend meetings of the Extended Cabinet.

II. COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL, a service agency of the entire Conference. Total Membership = 15: 9 elected members, Cabinet Representative, Director of Communications, Information Technology Manager, Multimedia Coordinator, Print Media Specialist, Editor of The Call (Discipline ¶¶609, 646). Related to Council on Finance and Administration and Annual Conference.

III. COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
    Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, Cabinet Representative

IV. BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY
    Total Membership = 13: 11 elected members, 9 from the Young Adult Ministry, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶634). Related to the Discipleship Team and Council on Finance and Administration.
    1. Wesley Foundations
    2. Conference Colleges

V. BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY (Related directly to Annual Conference)
   a. The Conference Lay Leader is the elected leader of conference laity (Discipline ¶607.1).
   b. Total membership 25: 12 District Lay Leaders; presidents of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth; Resident Bishop, Conference Director of Lay Speaking; 2 cabinet representatives; 5 members-at-large; Conference Lay Leader. The Board may elect up to three associate Conference Lay Leaders from its membership, who may represent the Lay Leader with full voting rights in any group of which the Lay Leader is a member. (Discipline ¶631)
   c. The Conference Lay Leader shall be the chairperson of the conference Board of Lay Ministry (Discipline ¶607.3).
VI. DISCIPLESHEIP TEAM

Total Membership = 24: 12 elected members, Resident Bishop, Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry Chairperson, Conference Lay Leader, Director of Connectional Ministries, 5 Chairpersons of Ministry Teams with vote: Missions, Nurture, Outreach, Stewardship, Witness, 3 Representatives without vote: Appointment Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, Communications Advisory Council. (Discipline ¶630)

a. Missions Team

Total Membership = 15: 12 elected members, Chairperson of Native American Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶633). Sub-groups to be determined by Missions Team in consultation with Discipleship Team.

1. Native American Ministries

Total Membership = 7: 6 elected members, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶654).

b. Nurture Team

Total Membership = 16: 12 elected members, Representatives of the 4 Ministry Teams/Board with vote (Children’s, Council on Youth, Young Adult, Camp and Retreat), Cabinet Representative. Other representatives to be determined and named by Nurture Team in consultation with Discipleship Team.

1. Children’s Ministry Team

Total Membership = 11: 9 elected, 2 Ex-Officio: Cabinet Representative, Staff Resource Person.

2. Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Total Membership = 38: 2 youth per District, 1 adult per District, Coordinator of District Coordinators, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶649).

3. Young Adult Ministry Team

Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, 75% or 9 of which are age 18 to 35, representing a cross section of the annual conference, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶650).

4. Camp and Retreat Ministry Board

Total Membership = 19+: 16 elected members, Resident Bishop, Director of Connectional Ministries, Camp and Retreat Ministry Executive Director, 4 Site Directors, Chairpersons of 4 Site Boards

c. Outreach/Advocacy Team

Total Membership = 20: 12 elected members plus the five ministry area chairpersons of Religion and Race, Church and Society, Status and Role of Women, and Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns, Disability Concerns, and others related to Outreach/Advocacy as named by the Discipleship Team, Cabinet Representative, additional Ex-Officio members named by the Team in consultation with the Discipleship Team (Discipline ¶629).

1. Religion and Race Ministry Area

Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶643).

2. Church and Society Ministry Area

Chair (Discipline ¶629).

3. Status and Role of Women Ministry Area

Chair (Discipline ¶644).

4. Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns Ministry Area

Chair (Discipline ¶642).

5. Disability Concerns

Chair (Discipline ¶653).

6. Strength for the Journey Team

Total membership = 12: 9 elected, Cabinet Representative, staff, Director emeritus.

7. Conference Representative to Holston Home for Children

d. Stewardship Team

Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, Cabinet Representative
c. **Witness Team** Total Membership = 15: 12 elected members, Chairpersons of Committee on Small Membership Congregation Team and Hispanic/Latino Ministry Leadership Team, Cabinet Representative

1. **Small Membership Congregation Team** Total Membership = 10: 9 elected members, Cabinet Representative
2. **Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team** Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, Cabinet Representative

VII. **BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY** Total Membership = 47: 39 elected members [nominated by the Resident Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference]; The Board may adopt a policy to pull in others to use as interviewers as needed. Members may serve up to three four-year terms (Discipline ¶635.1.a). Director of Clergy Services/Administrative Registrar (both without vote); Chair, Order of Deacons; Chair, Order of Elders [nominated by the Board of Ordained Ministry and elected by Clergy Session]; Co-Chairs, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; Vocational Discernment Coordinator, 2 District Superintendents appointed by Resident Bishop. The Board shall select its own officers. (Discipline ¶635, ¶306-309)

VIII. **GROUPS RELATED TO THE CABINET AND ORDAINED MINISTRY**

a. **Administrative Review Committee** Total Membership = 3: 3 elected clergy in full connection and two alternate clergy in full connection, nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Clergy Session. (Discipline ¶636)

b. **Committee on Investigation (Diaconal)** Total Membership = 7: 4 diaconal ministers or professing members of the church, three clergy in full connection and 10 alternates: 5 diaconal ministers or professing members of the church and five clergy in full connection. Nominated by the Resident Bishop and elected quadrennially by the Annual Conference. (Discipline ¶2703)

c. **Order of Deacons, Order of Elders** (Discipline ¶306-309).

d. **Pastoral Counseling Center Supervisory Committee** Total Membership = 13: 8 elected members, Representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry, three (3) District Superintendents (none of whom shall be from any district where Counselors hold their Charge Conference), Director of Clergy Services. Related to Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry.

IX. **COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** Total Membership = 19: 15 elected members and 4 persons without vote: Resident Bishop, Conference Treasurer, District Superintendent chosen by the Cabinet, and Director of Connectional Ministries. The Council shall elect its own officers, except the treasurer who shall be the Conference Treasurer. (Discipline ¶¶611, 612)

X. **ADMINISTRATION**

a. **Board of Pensions** Total Membership = 27: 8 elected members each from Clergy, Laymen, Laywomen, Pensions Director, Chair of Joint Committee on Incapacity, Cabinet Representative. (Discipline ¶639)

b. **Board of Trustees** Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, Cabinet Representative; Ex-Officio, Resident Bishop. The Board shall elect its own officers. (Discipline ¶¶640, 2512-2550)

c. **Commission on Archives and History** Total Membership = 12: 9 elected members, Cabinet Representative, Historical Society Representative, Conference Archivist (Discipline ¶641).
d. **Commission on Equitable Compensation** Total Membership = 13: 10 elected members [an equal number of lay and clergy members], one District Superintendent and one Cabinet member named by the Cabinet, Conference Treasurer (Discipline ¶625).

e. **Committee on Episcopacy** Total Membership = 14: 3 elected clergy, 4 elected laymen, 4 elected laywomen, 3 members appointed by Resident Bishop, Ex-Officio Members are the lay and clergy members of Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. The Conference Lay Leader shall be one of the lay elected persons. (Discipline ¶637)

f. **Committee on Nominations** There shall be a Conference Committee on Nominations composed of the Resident Bishop, who shall serve as Chairperson, members of the Extended Cabinet, Conference Lay Leader, President of the Conference United Methodist Women, President of the Conference United Methodist Men, Chairperson of the Discipleship Team, Conference Secretary, a representative of United Methodist Youth, one lay person from each district chosen by the District Committee on Nominations, and additional lay and clergy persons for equalization of lay and clergy membership.

g. **Committee on Petitions and Resolutions** Total Membership = 11: 9 elected members, 1 member of the current Holston delegation to General Conference, and a Cabinet Representative (without vote). Committee members are elected for the quadrennium.

h. **Committee on Rules and Order** Total Membership = 13: 8 elected members (4 Lay and 4 Clergy) nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference, 5 Ex-Officio members with vote: Resident Bishop, Conference Chancellor, Conference Secretary, Cabinet Representative, and Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

i. **Episcopal Residence Committee** Total Membership = 3: Chairs or Representatives of the Committee on Episcopacy, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the Board of Trustees. (Discipline ¶638)

j. **Personnel Resources Committee** Total Membership = 17: 12 elected members, Conference Chancellor, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Chairperson of Committee on Episcopacy, Chairperson of Personnel Team of the Council on Finance and Administration, Resident Bishop (Ex-Officio).

k. **Program Committee, Annual Conference Session** Total Membership = 9+: Resident Bishop, Conference Secretary, Conference Lay Leader, President of United Methodist Men, President of United Methodist Women, Chairperson of Discipleship Team, District Superintendent chosen by the Cabinet, Director of Connectional Ministries, additional members appointed by Resident Bishop as necessary.

XI. **SUPPORT GROUPS**

a. **United Methodist Men** All men of local churches or charges chartered or unchartered within the bounds of the Annual Conference. (Discipline ¶648).

b. **United Methodist Women** All members of local units within the bounds of the Conference. (Discipline ¶647)

XII. **THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL TABLE** The membership shall include those staff persons, clergy, lay officials, and other persons deemed needed by the Resident Bishop to carry out the missions of the conference. Different connectional tables may be held for various missions.

**Purpose:** to assist in identifying Conference priorities and coordinating Conference ministries and emphasis.
XIII. TASK FORCES

Task forces must be formed with the approval of the Extended Cabinet and may exist for up to a period of four years to complete their work. At the end of four years, any task force must reapply if needed for an extension not to exceed four more years. If funding is required, task forces must apply to the appropriate body.

PROCEDURES

I. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

1. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall nominate all members of Conference boards, teams, councils, commissions, and committees including the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary, unless such nominations are otherwise provided for in the Book of Discipline or elsewhere in these Standing Rules. The Committee on Nominations, through the Conference Secretary, shall develop an annual instrument for the Charge Conference packet on which laity and clergy may indicate an interest in election to membership on a Conference or District Board, Committee, Team, Council, or Commission. The Committee on Nominations shall also nominate the Conference Lay Leader for election to a four-year term of office. When a term is complete or a vacancy occurs of the Conference Lay Leader, the Board of Lay Ministry may submit the names of one or more persons for consideration by the Committee on Nominations. The Conference Lay Leader is eligible to serve two consecutive terms of office. All persons elected at the Annual Conference will begin serving at the close of the Annual Conference. The Extended Cabinet shall fill all mid-year vacancies which shall be confirmed at the next meeting of the Annual Conference.

2. Election to Conference boards, teams, councils, and committees shall be for a term that corresponds to the quadrennium following a regular session of General Conference and concluding in the calendar year of the succeeding regular session of General Conference. Except where the Discipline of the Church or action of the Annual Conference provides otherwise, a person is eligible to serve no more than two consecutive quadrennial terms in the same elective office, subject to the further clarification herein regarding election for part of a quadrennium.

• Members of the Board of Pensions are elected for a term of eight years and are arranged in panels: one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy (Discipline ¶639). Members of the Board of Pensions shall not serve consecutive terms.

• Conference leadership groups shall be organized into the following descriptive categories: advocacy groups, agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils, ministry areas, and teams. No person shall serve as an elective member of two or more conference leadership groups within the same category; provided, however, that the limitation on joint membership shall not apply to agencies, committees, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, the Religion and Race Ministry Area, the Board of Directors of the Holston Conference Foundation, Inc., and the Board of Directors of Asbury, Inc.

• In the event a person is elected during a quadrennium as defined above, the person’s election shall be for the balance of the pending quadrennium. A person who is ineligible for re-election to the same conference office because of the term-limit provisions of this Rule may be elected to serve in another conference office. A person who is ineligible for re-election to the same conference office because of the term-limit provisions of this Rule becomes eligible for election to that office again after the passage of a full quadrennium.
• Members who fail to participate in the meetings and activities of a conference board, council, committee, or team may be removed and a successor named in the next report of the Committee on Nominations to the Annual Conference, unless the by-laws of the agency provide otherwise.

• The chairperson, majority of members, or Resident Bishop may call a meeting of any conference board, council, committee, team, or commission. The call of a meeting shall be coordinated with the Conference office and shall give the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Unless a meeting is called at the Annual Conference, in order to report to the Annual Conference, a three Day or greater notice should be given to members.

3. No person in the employ of a Conference agency shall be a voting member of a board, committee, commission, or council which supervises the work of the agency by which that member is employed.

4. The Resident Bishop may designate a person to represent the Bishop on any board, team, council, commission, committee, other position, or any occasion where the Bishop deems it necessary. The Resident Bishop or designated person may charge a council, board, committee, team or commission, or other conference entity to study or consider an issue that he/she believes is necessary to carry out the mission of the Conference.

5. There shall be a Committee on Nominations within each district, composed of the District Superintendent (who shall serve as Chair), District Lay Leader, District President of United Methodist Women, District President of United Methodist Men, a representative of the District Youth Council, the Chairperson of the District Leadership Team or other structure, and the District Lay representative to the Conference Committee on Nominations. Additional representatives may be added by the District Leadership Team or other structure to ensure adequate representation. These district committees shall serve as a resource group throughout the year to supply appropriate names of clergy and lay persons to the Conference Committee on Nominations for service within the Annual Conference.

6. Members of the boards of directors of Asbury Centers, Inc., Holston United Methodist Home for Children, and Advisory Board of Directors of the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge shall be nominated and elected by the respective boards and confirmed by the Annual Conference.

7. Members of the Board of Trustees of Holston Conference Colleges (Emory & Henry College, Hiwassee College, and Tennessee Wesleyan College) shall be nominated and elected by the respective Boards at their fall Board meetings and confirmed at the next session of Annual Conference.

8. The Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc. shall be governed by a board of not fewer than fifteen (15) directors elected by the Board of Directors and confirmed by the Holston Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. The Resident Bishop of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church, and the Conference Treasurer shall be ex officio members of the board with full voice privileges and voting rights. All elected directors shall serve for terms of one, two, or three years as determined by said Board.

II. MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

9. The lay members of the Annual Conference may be elected annually, or to four-year terms to provide continuity. Lay members shall serve at the meeting of the next Annual Conference following election.
10. The District Leadership Team or other structure, in consultation with the District Council on Youth Ministries or other appropriate group representative of youth throughout the district, shall elect members of the Holston Annual Conference. The young persons elected shall meet the requirements for election of all lay members as stated in The Book of Discipline, ¶32, which is one person from age 12 to 17 and one person from age 18 to 30. The names and addresses of the elected members shall be sent to the Holston Conference Secretary by January 15. If any elected youth is unable to attend the Annual Conference, the District Leadership Team may select a replacement member to attend by sending the name of the youth to the Conference Secretary. A per diem for these youth members shall be paid by the Annual Conference.

11. Each year there shall be elected an equal number of lay and clergy members to the Holston Annual Conference. Professing lay members representing each local charge are to be elected at the Charge Conference. Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses, home missionaries under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the Holston Conference, Conference President of United Methodist Men, Conference President of United Methodist Women, the Conference Treasurer, Director of Connectional Ministries and Associate Director(s), Director of Communications, Conference Chancellor, Chair of the Committee on Rules and Order, Chair of the Discipleship Team, Chair of the Personnel Resources Committee, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Executive Director of the Holston Conference Foundation, the Conference Lay Leader, and other members of the Conference Board of Lay Ministry not otherwise elected as members of the Annual Conference shall be members of the Annual Conference. The conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), and the remaining lay members that will be needed to achieve equalization are to be apportioned to the Districts on the basis of district lay membership, provided that the total number of lay members shall include youth delegates required by The Discipline, District lay leaders, District presidents of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, and Lay delegates and alternates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences for the Quadrennium. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. (Discipline ¶602)

12. The Conference Secretary shall notify each District Superintendent of the number of lay members to be elected not later than sixty days following Annual Conference. The additional persons apportioned to the Districts as lay members to the Holston Annual Conference shall be elected at each of the District Conferences upon nomination from the local churches and District Committee on Nominations. Where there is no District Conference, lay members shall be elected in a manner determined by the District Leadership Team or other equivalent structure. A prepared ballot of these nominees will be available for the election. Nominations may be received from the floor of the District Conference. A per diem for these members shall be paid by the Annual Conference upon requisition, where they are not paid by the local Church, the District, or some other source. The District Superintendents will be responsible for seeing that the members are elected and that their names and addresses are sent to the Holston Conference Secretary by January 15th of each year.
III. PROGRAM AND REPORTS

13. The Conference Secretary shall be responsible for Memoirs. A memorial service for clergy members, spouses of clergy members, and members of local congregations deceased during the year shall be held at each Annual Conference.

14. Proposed programs from boards, teams, commissions, committees, councils, and agencies that require Conference action shall be compiled and published and/or made available in electronic/digital format under the direction of the Annual Conference Program Committee and distributed to all lay and clergy members of the Conference at least thirty (30) days before the opening session of the Annual Conference. Reports from various committees, boards, teams, commissions, and agencies that are to be included in the Book of Reports are due at the office of the Conference Secretary by March 15.

Agenda items and reports not requiring action by the Annual Conference other than a vote to receive said item for publication in the Journal may be placed on a Consent Agenda. For any item or report to be eligible for placement on the Consent Agenda, it must have been distributed in the pre-Conference materials. Determination of items to be placed on the Consent Agenda shall be made annually by a committee composed of the Conference Secretary, the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Order, and the Director of Connectional Ministries. An individual item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a written request signed by twelve clergy and/or lay members of the Annual Conference and presented to the Conference Secretary prior to the first business session of the Annual Conference. When an individual item has been removed from the Consent Agenda, it shall be placed into the regular agenda at an appropriate time as determined by the Conference Secretary.

15. The Statistical Report (Table No. 1, Table No. 2, and Table No. 3) for each local church shall be due and submitted by the pastor at an announced place and date set by each District Superintendent, in consultation with the conference statistician and extended cabinet, said date to be no earlier than the close of conference books.

16. The Program of the Annual Conference shall be arranged by a Program Committee composed of the Resident Bishop, Conference Secretary, Conference Lay Leader, President of the Conference United Methodist Women, President of the Conference United Methodist Men, Chair of the Discipleship Team, and a District Superintendent. The Resident Bishop shall serve as chair and may appoint additional members to serve on the Program Committee. The Conference may make any change in the schedule necessary to facilitate its work.

17. There shall be a Conference Committee on Resolutions and Petitions consisting of nine persons elected for the quadrennium by the Annual Conference after nomination by the Committee on Nominations and one person who shall be a member of the current Holston delegation to General Conference (who shall be selected and appointed by the delegation). All proposed resolutions for the Annual Conference or petitions to General Conference, to be considered by the Annual Conference, shall first be presented to the Committee on Resolutions and Petitions by March 1. The Committee shall evaluate each proposed resolution for Annual Conference or petition to General Conference and recommend concurrence, non-concurrence or appropriate referral. Their recommendations and all materials must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary for the Book of Reports by March 15. Any resolution to Annual Conference or petition to General Conference proposed at the Annual Conference from the floor, that was not first considered by the Committee, must be referred, by a majority vote of the Annual Conference, to the Committee for a
recommendation, after which the Annual Conference may consider it. There shall be a Cabinet Representative appointed to the Committee (without vote). The Chair shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations. All petitions to General Conference submitted for consideration by the Annual Conference must adhere to the specific requirements published each quadrennium by the Petitions Secretary of the General Conference.

IV. PROCEDURES

General

18. In those districts scheduling a district conference, the membership shall include the local church lay leader; chair of the administrative council or administrative board and council on ministries; presidents of United Methodist Youth, United Methodist Women, and United Methodist Men; lay leader; Diaconal ministers and pastors serving within the district; and such other persons as may be determined by the District Leadership Team or other structures.

19. No clerical member of the Annual Conference shall leave the seat of the Conference without notifying in writing that member’s district superintendent, who will, in turn, report to the conference secretary.

20. The effective date for all clergy members of the Holston Annual Conference entering into voluntary retirement shall be at the close of the session of the Annual Conference at which their retirement is approved. No retirements may be voted for a projected date during the ensuing appointive year except by the joint recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Pensions in response to extraordinary and compelling circumstances.

21. The General Conference rules of order shall be used so far as they apply; otherwise, Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used.

22. Any and all proposed changes in the Standing Rules of the Conference made by the Committee on Rules and Order shall be printed in the Annual Conference Book of Reports as outlined in Standing Rule 14 and shall be presented for approval by the Annual Conference at the opening business session of the Annual Conference. Any other motion to amend the Standing Rules must be presented in writing, lay over one day, and be reviewed by the Committee on Rules and Order before a vote is taken, and such motion must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference. The Standing Rules of the Conference shall be printed in each edition of the Conference Journal.

Finance

23. There shall be a Conference Council of Finance and Administration. The Council of Finance and Administration shall submit its proposed budget and recommendations in the Book of Reports to the members of the Annual Conference for its consideration. Budget amendments and other recommendations made by the Council of Finance and Administration, but not included in the Book of Reports, may be considered at the Annual Conference. All requests for Conference funds or monetary obligations by any board, committee, council, team, agency, or other body shall first be submitted to the Council of Finance and Administration for consideration in the budget. Requests for funds must be submitted to the Council of Finance and Administration or Conference Treasurer by March 1. All requests for funds properly made in time, but not recommended in the budget by the Council of Finance and Administration, may be considered by the Annual Conference by amendment to the budget. Other requests for funds or obligations shall not be considered by the Annual Conference unless
first referred by majority vote of the Annual Conference to the Council of Finance and Administration for a recommendation. After receiving a recommendation, the Annual Conference may consider a proposed budget amendment. (Discipline ¶610-618)

24. The fiscal year of the Conference shall be from January 1st through December 31st of each year. The final day to receive payment on Conference apportionments shall be by the close of the business day of January 9th or the Monday following when the 9th falls on a Saturday or a Sunday.

25. The Treasurer of the Conference shall make final settlement and shall disburse all funds as designated after the adjournment of the Annual Conference. During the fiscal year, the Conference Treasurer shall make disbursements to various Conference Agencies at times and in manners approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and upon requisition of the proper officials of the Board and Agencies. (Discipline ¶618)

26. The District Superintendents shall receive equal salaries, plus allowances for travel and other expenses beyond the District served and for which no other financial arrangement has been made on requisition, from the fund designated for this purpose.

27. There shall be a Conference Board of Trustees. Any request for the sale, mortgage, transfer, or disposal of real estate or other assets owned by the Conference shall first be considered by the Conference Board of Trustees. The Board shall present its recommendations in the Book of Reports but can include additional property or assets or change its recommendation at the Annual Conference. Any other items not considered by the Conference Board of Trustees must be referred to the Conference Board of Trustees by a majority vote of the Annual Conference before action. After receiving a recommendation from the Conference Board of Trustees, the Annual Conference may consider the item.

28. Capital funds campaigns initiated by Conference agencies and institutions that involve the churches of Holston Conference must have the approval of the Council on Finance and Administration and the Annual Conference. Other fundraising campaigns which extend beyond district boundaries must have the approval of and be coordinated by the Council on Finance and Administration and the Annual Conference. In those instances where financial goals are to be assigned to the congregations, said goals, along with the proposed strategies for meeting those goals, shall be clearly identified prior to approval. Appeals arising within the Conference between Annual Conference sessions may be conducted only on approval of the Council on Finance and Administration. Approval of such appeals shall be communicated to local churches of the Conference.

29. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall be required to give thirty (30) days notice to all boards and agencies prior to the annual meeting for budgetary review for consideration of the annual budget of the Conference.

30. The Committee on Rules and Order and the Conference Secretary and Staff shall establish the policy for the publication of the Journal. Publication may include both print and digital publishing. The Journal shall be published under the direction of the Conference Secretary, who shall serve as editor. The Conference Secretary shall, with the approval of the Council on Finance and Administration, enter into a contract to publish the Journal. All materials to be published shall be in the hands of the Editor within fifteen (15) days after the adjournment of the Conference.
31. The Conference Secretary shall be responsible for the distribution of the Journal. The District Superintendents shall obtain the orders for the Journals from the pastoral charges, through pre-paid orders. Retirees may receive, upon request and without charge, a copy of the Journal for the year of their retirement. A clergy person, whose spouse has died, and Surviving Spouses may receive, upon request and without charge, a copy of the Journal that contains the memorial. Clergy and Diaconal ministers, who are retired or on incapacity leave, and conference claimants may receive, upon request and without charge, a copy of the Conference Directory. Requests must be made to the Office of the Conference Secretary from Staff. Other persons may place orders with payment through the Conference Secretary. Receipts of Journal sales shall be held in a carry-over account at the end of the fiscal year.

Reports and Motions

32. All motions presented to the Conference and amendments to any paper shall be in writing and placed in the hand of the Secretary immediately following the presentation.

Election Procedures for Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences

33. The Orders of Elder and Deacon shall make available to clergy members an option to withdraw their names from consideration to serve as delegates to General and Jurisdictional conference, so long as the eligibility of all members in full connection is not limited in any way. Any printed material to address this must be in the hands of the conference secretary prior to stated deadlines for the Book of Reports and Programs.

To ensure that qualified lay persons are identified for consideration as delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conference, persons may be nominated by local churches, District Boards of Laity, or the Annual Conference Board of Lay Ministry on a form to be developed by the Conference Board of Lay Ministry. The form shall ask the potential nominee to respond to the following items:

1. I agree to be a nominee for General and Jurisdictional Conferences.
2. I wish to be a nominee for the Jurisdictional Conference only.

Names of all nominees from local churches shall be in the hands of the District Board of Laity by February 15th of the year in which delegates are to be elected. The District Board of Laity shall review the nominations and determine their eligibility. The Board may add names of persons it deems to be candidates and shall deliver the list to the Conference Board of Lay Ministry by March 1st. The Conference Board of Lay Ministry shall complete the lists, add any persons it deems to be candidates, and provide the list by March 15th, along with biographical information, to the Conference Secretary for printing and distribution in the Book of Reports. The form for nominations shall include the name, address, occupation, local church and district, indication if individual is of ethnic constituency, current photograph, and a biographical sketch of no more than fifty (50) words provided by the nominee. In addition to this process, nominations may be made at the Orientation Session for Laity at the seat of the Annual Conference for presentation to the Conference.

Following the election of the lay delegates to General Conference and two lay delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, the chair shall then explain to the lay members that an additional list of names is now available indicating persons who have asked to be considered for election to the Jurisdictional Conference only, and they may now vote for these persons as well as any unelected person.
34. Ministerial and lay delegates elected to the previous General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.

35. Expenses of two alternate ministerial and two alternate lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, in order of their election, shall be borne by the Annual Conference at a rate not to exceed the per diem of delegates.

36. Each member shall be required to vote for no more than the number of delegates for that particular ballot, but ballots with less than the required number will be considered valid.

37. The names of all eligible clergy persons in the conference shall be printed on a ballot in alphabetical order. A voting number shall be assigned for each eligible clergy person. Clergy members shall vote by ballot until the required number of delegates are elected by a majority vote of the ballots cast. The number of votes a clergy member can cast on a ballot cannot exceed the number of delegates left to be elected. On the ballot that elects the last delegate, if one or more clergy receives a majority vote that exceeds the needed number to be elected, the highest vote total(s) will be used to determine the election. The other clergy person(s) with majority vote will be elected as alternate(s). Another ballot will be taken to elect alternate delegates. After that ballot, if not enough alternates have been elected, a floor vote of a majority of clergy present and voting may elect alternates in the manner specified in the motion.

38. The extended cabinet is authorized to complete any unfinished business of the annual conference that was unavoidably overlooked, but where action is needed to properly carry out the mission of the conference. Any such decision by the extended cabinet shall be recorded in the minutes of the cabinet and reported in the subsequent Journal. The extended cabinet is also authorized to take action on behalf of the conference at times between annual conferences where it is deemed a vital issue and where time is of the essence. Any such action of the extended cabinet shall be recommended by the Resident Bishop after consulting with lay and clergy leaders. The action of the extended cabinet shall be recorded in the minutes of the cabinet and reported to the next annual conference.
"Bless" is our theme for this year’s annual conference. This word/idea is drawn from II Corinthians 9:8, “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” Because we are blessed, we are able to share blessings with others.

Last year we were challenged to Engage. Through the Conference Mission Offering both last year and this, we have Engaged in order to Bless. The local churches of our conference both collectively and individually have worked diligently to bless others. These blessings have been expressed in many creative and positive ways:

- Reaching out to a neighborhood school by filling backpacks with food
- Tutoring those who struggle
- Reading to children who need one-on-one attention
- Caring for teachers who are overworked and need a boost
- Touching lives with the Gospel message in vibrant worship
- Conducting events to include and reach out to special needs children
- Knitting shawls and caps for cancer center patients
- Giving water at community events
- Hosting community groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous
- Feeding the hungry in church settings and otherwise
- Offering worship in storefronts, boat docks, jails, assisted living facilities, etc.
- Carrying prayer shawls to the sick and dying
- Opening a community center
- Initiating and continuing Recovery ministries
- Seeking and meeting needs whenever and wherever they arise

This year, much attention has been focused on General and Jurisdictional Conferences. We have also spent time and energy determining how best to organize our own annual conference. However, we still believe the center of our ministry with Christ (within our conference and within United Methodism) is in the local church. Significant relationships are made and built in the local church. The local church is fertile ground where ultimately we make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Through events such as Divine Rhythm, RezKids, Resurrection, Jubilation, Discovery, Youth Assemblies, and others, our local church members are strengthened in order to bless others. Our camps and Wesley Foundations reach children, youth, and young adults to supplement the work of Christ in the local church.

MissionInsight is a resource for each church to learn who their neighbors are. Through People Plots and other assets on the website, churches can understand the lifestyle groups that make up their immediate neighborhood. Tracking vital statistics has given churches the ability to see how their efforts are making a difference.
With sincere appreciation, we say thank you to our colleague, Meg Taylor, who completes seven years as a district superintendent to enter into the retired relationship. We, along with the churches of the Wytheville District, have been blessed by Meg’s devotion and faithful service.

Local churches in each district are working alongside the Risen Jesus in ministry and mission. Vital congregations are channeling Jesus’ love and reaching out to a broken, hurting world. As the district superintendents of Holston Conference, we partner with each local church in deep appreciation for their hard work and generosity. We see the Risen Christ alive and well in the local churches of Holston. We are grateful to serve alongside you. We echo the call to bless those in our communities.

~ Charles W. Maynard, Dean of the Cabinet

RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF THE
MOUNT OLIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RURAL RETREAT, VIRGINIA
WYTHEVILLE DISTRICT OF THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Mount Olive United Methodist Church, located in Rural Retreat, VA, Wytheville District of the Holston Conference, has served the community and the Conference, offering the grace and salvation of Jesus Christ since 1885; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Mount Olive United Methodist Church and the Superintendent of the Wytheville District agree that this church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized as stated in ¶201-204 of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012; and

WHEREAS, at a called Church Conference of the Mount Olive United Methodist Church on the 19th day of October 2015, members of Mount Olive met and voted unanimously to be discontinued as a United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, consent to discontinue has been granted by the Presiding Bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the Wytheville District Board of Church Location and Building, and all Disciplinary requirements have been met;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Holston Annual Conference, celebrating the ministry of this church, does hereby authorize the discontinuance of the Mount Olive United Methodist Church effective, June 6, 2016; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all members with known addresses will be contacted to have their membership transferred to Franklin Street United Methodist Church, Wytheville, Virginia; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all deeds and any balance of funds be turned over to the Trustees of the Holston Conference with the funds used to pay any outstanding debts to the Wytheville District and to offset the cost of maintaining the property until its final disposition; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that any furnishings or fixtures be distributed to any Wytheville District United Methodist Churches as needed at the discretion of the District Superintendent for use in the ministry of the churches; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all proceeds of the sale of the property be divided equally between the Wytheville District and the Holston Conference for congregational development.
RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF THE
PLEASANT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GRAYSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA (INDEPENDENCE MAIL ROUTE)
WYTHEVILLE DISTRICT OF THE HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church on the Spring Valley Circuit in Grayson County, Virginia, Holston Conference, has served the community and the Conference, offering the grace and salvation of Jesus Christ since 1889; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, having been on Preaching Station status for 4 years and struggling financially, has requested to discontinue; and

WHEREAS, at a called Church Conference, the Pleasant Hill UMC congregation met on the 6th day of February, 2016, and of the twelve members present, eleven voted to discontinue with one abstention; and

WHEREAS, consent to discontinue has been granted by the Presiding Bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the Wytheville District Board of Church Location and Building, and all Disciplinary requirements have been met;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Holston Annual Conference, celebrating the ministry of this church, does hereby authorize the discontinuance of the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church effective June 6, 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the remaining members with known addresses will be contacted to have their membership transferred to a United Methodist Church or church of their choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deeds associated with the property and any balance of funds be turned over to the Trustees of the Holston Conference with the funds used to pay any outstanding debts to the Wytheville District or Holston Conference and to offset the cost of maintaining the property until its final disposition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any furnishings or fixtures be distributed at the discretion of the District Superintendent for use in ministry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all proceeds of the sale of the property be divided equally between the Wytheville District and the Holston Conference for congregational development.

REPORT OF MERGERS FOR THE HISTORICAL RECORD

At the request of the congregations, Vine Grove United Methodist Church and Mt. Olive United Methodist Church, both of the Cleveland District, merged on November 1, 2015 to become the Vine Grove Mt. Olive United Methodist Church.

Members of the Sugar Creek United Methodist Church of the Cleveland District moved their membership on December 11, 2012 to merge with the Red Hill United Methodist Church.
Christ’s work in the Holston area by Methodists began sometime before 1783. Bishop Francis Asbury appointed the first preacher to take the Gospel message to the frontier beyond the Blue Ridge. The Methodist work in Holston has been organized in many ways since then. Circuits, districts, and conferences have come and gone in what is now called Holston Annual Conference. Bishops Francis Asbury and William McKendree’s strength was in sending preachers where the people were. Down through the years our structure and organization have attempted to do the same thing – send preachers where the people are. Since the last major adjustment in structure and organization took place in 1953, many shifts in population and lifestyles have occurred. As responsible citizens of Christ’s Kingdom, now is the time to evaluate and adjust how best to deploy the churches’ resources in reaching new people to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Building upon the growing recognition that the mission field in Holston Conference has undergone significant changes in the past 30 years, and with the guidance of recognized church consultant Tom Bandy at our last Annual Conference meeting, the leadership of Holston Conference has created a team of individuals representing diverse constituencies throughout the Conference to evaluate the current situation and find a more effective way to express a relevant vision for bringing people into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Strategy Team realized that to seek answers to how the Conference can more effectively meet our missional objectives, it had to focus on more than just one dimension to our mission as a church. There are many moving parts to our collective call to make disciples of Christ, so the Team had to more fully comprehend how the major components of this family – this body of Christ to which we all belong known as Holston Conference – work together. We discerned that there are 3 major components that must work cooperatively and progressively to accomplish the adaptation that is necessary to bring an innovative approach to the demands of our call to mission in today’s world.

Here are the 3 areas of Inquiry: Missional Objectives, Funding and Structure.

**Missional Objectives:** This is why we exist. But how do we do ministry in Holston Conference? We now live in a world that barely recognizes – or even cares about – our legacy, our traditions or our liturgy. Here is a way to view this in realistic terms: As many Holston Conference members drive to church, how often do we pass megastores with parking lots filled with cars?; coffee shops full of young people biding their time – or soccer fields busy with families and kids moving about?; country clubs with no slots available for a tee time? With so many activities and distractions that draw the attention of people from every demographic, how do we reach people in our mission fields who do not even recognize us – or the message we offer that makes it worth their time to spend a moment in worship to God?
But let’s turn the mirror on ourselves. Do we even recognize those who are in our mission field? Do we know their particular stories, their hurts, needs, and perceptions of the world that might differ from ours?

One of the most exciting tools we have at our disposal is the MissionInsight program that helps us discover many of the most unique and detailed characteristics of families and individuals living within the sphere of our influence. The Strategy Team has access to this data to help us envision how we can do a better job of identifying the people living within our communities and, therefore, how to do a better job of engaging them in relational evangelism.

**Funding:** We all know that it takes resources – financial and otherwise – to implement the ministries that help us meet our missional objectives. There has been an unfortunate trend in Holston Conference’s inability to raise a budget that fully meets these needs. A lack of resources restricts our ability to carry out the ministries we dream of accomplishing. The good news is that around 90% of our churches substantially meet the tithes for which they are responsible; but the remaining 10% that fail to fulfill these responsibilities account for a significant portion of the shortfall. This shortfall not only impairs our ministries, but it distracts us from our ability to focus on new, creative, and imaginative missional opportunities. The Conference Strategy Team has requested that we re-examine the ‘tithing’ system we now employ, to see if there is a more effective way or formula that ensures the collection of the financial resources we need to fund the ministries and missional objectives to which we are all called to participate.

But there is also a flipside to the collection of financial resources to fuel our missional objectives: spending. The Strategy Team is also examining ways to make sure that the resources we have might be spent more efficiently and effectively. The wise use of the resources to which our Conference is entrusted will not only make our efforts more effective, but it can also help ameliorate the negative impact of budget deficiencies. We are all called to be responsible stewards of the gifts God has bestowed upon us, and the judicious use of our budgeted funds to further the Kingdom of God in very intentional and productive ways.

And one of the major components that directly affects our efficient use of resources is our Conference structure.

**Structure:** How do we structure ourselves to do a more effective job of implementing our Missional Objectives while more efficiently deploying the resources we have in Holston Conference? The Conference Strategy Team has worked with Tom Bandy and MissionInsite to develop a vision for what a more agile, responsive, and productive Holston Conference might look like. Keeping in mind that the pace of change in today’s world allows us to merely keep up with the ground which is shifting beneath our feet, we are using data to determine how to create an administrative framework which efficiently uses our resources and strengthens our ability to meet the missional needs of our age.
Looking at lifestyle segmentation (which has dramatically changed both substantively and geographically over the past 30 years), the location of churches, population centers, economic strength, and diversity, we have considered modifying the boundaries of the districts of Holston Conference so that each district is strengthened to carry out its unique mission. The strategy is to ensure that the geographic area of each district contains a critical mass of population, economic breadth and sustainability, diverse lifestyle segmentation, and a manageable number of congregations. The result is the consolidation of the current number of 12 districts into 7 geographical areas that better reflect the identity of their mission fields. The objective is to better equip local churches and districts to be engines of ministry at the local level. And with the United Methodist General Conference vision that district superintendents become ‘chief missional strategists’ for their districts, the vision of fewer districts will help support this new role.

To be clear, the suggestion that Holston Conference modify the boundaries of its districts is not a final decision, but it is the discernment of the Conference Strategy Team as to how best structure our Conference to meet the needs of our missional goals.

**Discernment Process:** The Conference Strategy Team has reviewed data and demographic information to help determine how to balance the requirements of our missional goals with the interests of effective leadership and administration at the district level.

The first phase of our discernment process was to engage with various groups throughout Holston Conference to seek input on our vision. The feedback we receive is being evaluated and processed to insure that we are guided by the interests of those being most effected by potential changes. We are now in the process of concluding the feedback phase and have established a task force to make sure that we have collected and evaluated all of the feedback received in these sessions.

While that continues, the Conference Strategy Team has created a second task force whose focus is on making sure that the developments in this process are communicated to the Conference in an easily accessible way. One of the concerns we have heard expressed by many persons is the fear that the process will not be transparent or accountable. Acknowledging that there is a perceived lack of trust in the process, the Conference Strategy Team is endeavoring to address those concerns by providing updated information as it becomes available while continuing to receive input and feedback from individuals interested in the process.

A third task force has been created to examine the process and logistical challenges of moving through the stages of the process through implementation of the recommendations. This group will be identifying the expertise and resources to ensure that the vision of a Conference responsive to the needs of a changing world to more effectively deploy its resources to meet the missional objectives of the church can be implemented in a smooth and timely manner.
The process is important because it will lead us to an outcome that continues to be revealed as we search for God’s guidance in seeking to do a more effective job of making disciples of Christ in the beautiful mission field we know as Holston Conference.

The Conference Strategy Team solicits the prayers and support of individuals, groups, churches and districts as it embarks on this journey of discovery and bold vision for a Conference responsive to the realities of the Church in the 21st century.

The Holston Conference Strategy Team is comprised of the following members: Mike Eastridge, chair; Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Sandra Johnson, Charles Maynard, Jeff Wright, Rick Cherry, Mike Sluder, Rusty Taylor, Becky Hall, Don Hanshew, Micah Nicolaus, Leanna Robertson, Lori Sluder, Sue Weber.

Respectfully submitted,

~ Mike Eastridge, Chair
COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

“I Love to Tell the Story” we sing, and the story we love to tell is the story of the saving grace of God available in Jesus Christ. On the Archives and History Commission of the Holston Conference, we also love to tell the story of the part of the Body of Christ which is located along the rivers and among the mountains of the Holston Conference. It has been a good year for telling that story, and we are confident that even greater opportunities lie ahead in the year to come.

In 2015 the Conference Commission on Archives and History continued to work on designating and dedicating historical sites within the bounds of the Conference. The Thomas Amis House and the Henry Earnest Fort House were dedicated in April, 2016. The Amis House, the Ebenezer Church and Cemetery, and the Henry Earnest Fort House have been designated as Historical Sites by the Annual Conference and are registered as such by the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church. At an April 2015 event sponsored by the Holston Conference Commission on Archives and History and held in the Morristown District, the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, Alfred E. Day, was an honored guest. While here for a special event he was given a tour of other historical sites in Holston by Grady Winegar and Dr. Day reported he really enjoyed his time in Holston.

We also recently received the gift of the costumes and materials used by Dr. Ray Moore in his presentation of “A Visit from John Wesley,” along with six prints of John, Charles, and Susannah Wesley, Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury, and Henry Moore, which were done by Martha Moore, Dr. Moore’s wife. These will be kept in the Conference Archives, but any church wishing to display them or any individual wishing to use them for a John Wesley presentation should contact the Conference Archivist or the Chair of the Conference Commission on Archives and History. Ray Moore presented “A Visit from John Wesley” for decades in the Holston Conference and beyond. The Moores now reside in Kentucky near their son, and they very graciously donated these gifts to our Archives.

Honors have come to members of the Holston family in this past year. Bob George, who has served two terms as the Treasurer of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society and who also served as the Chairman of the Holston Conference Commission on Archives and History, was honored with a Life Membership at the 2015 meeting of the SEJ Historical Society. And, the Holston Conference Commission on Archives and History at its November meeting received with regret the resignation of long-term President of the Holston Historical Society, Rev. Roy Howard. Rev. Howard will be succeeded in this post by the Rev. Mr. Brad Scott. Meanwhile, the Conference Commission is announcing at this 2016 session of the Annual Conference the establishment of the R.N. Price Archives and History Award. Named for the prominent early historian of the Holston Conference, M.E. South, the Rev. Mr. R.N. Price, the award will be given to individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to preserving and promoting the history of Holston Methodism. We are pleased to announce that the first recipient of this award is the Rev. Mr. Roy Howard, the long-time President of the Holston Conference Historical Society and the Historian of the Holston Conference.
We want to highlight in this report, and pay tribute to, the contribution made to the telling of our history by members of the communities of our Conference Colleges. We are grateful to Emory & Henry College which houses the Holston Conference Archives, and shares the sponsoring of the Conference Archivist, Robert Vejnar. The Conference Archives addressed approximately 183 research requests in 2015. Your Conference Archives also continues to upload Holston related documents and photographs to the Digital Library of Appalachia (in partnership with the Appalachian College Association and Emory & Henry College), making Holston material available to researchers worldwide. In August 2015 the Conference Archivist began directing the work of an Emory & Henry graduating senior who is researching and writing the history of Smyth Chapel in Washington County. In addition to the Conference Archives being located in the Kelly Library of Emory & Henry, the College also helps to support and maintain the Holston Conference Cemetery, located adjacent to the Emory & Henry campus.

Finally, we also want to acknowledge the scholarship of two of our Conference College faculty members, the late Dr. Durwood Dunn of Hiwassee and Tennessee Wesleyan and Dr. Joe Reiff of Emory & Henry. Before his death last year, Dr. Dunn had completed work on a very important book, *The Civil War in Southern Appalachian Methodism*. That book tells the story of the Holston region on the eve of, and during, the Civil War. It will be the definitive work for years to come on this most important topic, and is an excellent complement to Dr. Dunn’s earlier volume, *An Abolitionist in the Appalachian South: Ezekiel Birdseye on Slavery, Capitalism, and Separate Statehood in East Tennessee, 1841-1846*. This past year saw the publication of Joe Reiff’s volume, *Born of Conviction: White Methodists and Mississippi’s Closed Society*. Like Dr. Dunn’s volume, *Born of Conviction* is a meticulously researched book, a 2016 nominee for the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Non-Fiction Book Award, and a very timely volume about Methodists facing a moral dilemma, *Born of Conviction* has been discussed by local churches and at gatherings of preachers in districts in the northern and the middle part of the Conference.

Our work is about the people and the places of the Holston region. It is vital work, whose significance is perhaps best expressed by Durwood Dunn: “I am a devout Christian and have always believed Methodism’s particular grace lies in the lives of its members – fine people I have known throughout my life.” Telling the story of those people is what we are glad to do, and we invite all Holstonians to join us in telling and preserving those stories.

~ David St. Clair, Chair
The Communications Advisory Council (CAC) supports the paid communications professionals of the Holston Conference. The council is made up of laity and clergy with media, public relations, marketing, and other communications-related training.

The CAC works to ensure that our conference communications efforts support the primary purpose of the church, telling the story of Jesus Christ. At the conference level, an important part of that communications work is to detail the best practices of local churches who live out the Great Commission in exceptional ways. The CAC encourages conference staff and communicators at all churches to continually ask themselves, “How is Christ made known through what I am saying and writing?”

One significant change in operations is the hiring of Claris/Teklinks to provide additional technical backup and support to Brent Sharp, our in-house information technology specialist. As the use of technology grows at conference headquarters, this additional support is necessary to maintain the communications infrastructure. The annual cost will be about $41,000. During this first year about $9,700 of this will come from funds already in the budget, with the remainder coming from accounts that have built up over the years from profitable sales of print materials, in particular, calendars. At the end of 2015, those two accounts totaled a little more than $132,000. Beginning with 2017, this increase in support has been incorporated into the IT budget.

The communications staff also put into place a new audio-visual presentation system in the first floor of the conference event center, in the process improving internet streaming services during meetings and other events. This center has enhanced the ability to produce videos important to the life of the conference.

Additionally, the team implemented new tools to streamline the work of the conference, including automated staff texting for urgent messaging and an online clergy profile database for use during the consultation process.

The staff continued to maintain professional excellence in coverage of important news events around the conference, sometimes providing important information to public media and at other times drawing from those sources to better inform United Methodists around the conference. Support for more traditional media continued, too, with Millie Meese creating original art and other design work for conference ministries and for churches needing logos and promotional materials.

The CAC also makes budget recommendations for conference communications. Not counting the aforementioned Claris/Teklinks contract, the 2017 proposed budget is essentially flat when compared to recent years, including the 10 percent across-the-board cuts mandated for 2016.

We continue to pray that God bless our efforts to communicate the message of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

~ Chuck Griffin, Chair
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The work of Congregational Development seeks to address the needs of our churches in several ways. We sponsor a Sermon Academy during the Lenten and Advent seasons. Pastors are invited to participate in this daylong event that focuses on the preaching opportunities during these two seasons of the liturgical year.

We also resource churches with Natural Church Development. This is a tool to help the local church assess where it is in relationship to the eight quality characteristics that make a church vital. Rusty Taylor and other trained coaches are available to help coach churches through this process.

Churches who contribute to the Conference Fair Share provide the resources that we have to make grants to help strengthen the ministry of those churches who apply for and receive grants.

Since our last report, grants have been awarded to Beth-Wiley Chattanooga, Central Knoxville, Shades of Grace Kingsport, Cokesbury Johnson City, St. Luke’s Chattanooga, First Whitwell, Ebenezer Knoxville, Seymour, Ebbing and Flowing Springs Kingsport District, Leonard Memorial Wytheville District, Hispanic Ministry Morristown District, Magnolia Avenue Knoxville, Out of the Box Hillsville. The grants that have been made by our committee take in the length and breadth of Holston.

We have an exciting new ministry called The ConneXion that began on February 1, 2016 when we leased a church facility at 1250 Middle Creek Road and Veterans Blvd. in Sevierville. This is an outreach ministry of our conference to the millions of people who visit the Great Smoky Mountains every year. We will have a vacation church on Saturdays at 5:30pm, concerts, conferences, and a host of other ministries that this site makes possible. If you wish to learn more about this ministry please email Rusty Taylor at rustytaylor@holston.org. We believe that the possibilities for evangelistic outreach are tremendous and we invite you to pray for this ministry. Help us make this site a hub for all who can be reached. When Jesus said the harvest is plentiful he was talking about places like Sevier County that have unlimited opportunities for us to share the Good News of Jesus.

It is with gratitude that we serve the Church by being a part of the Committee on Congregational Development and Revitalization. We ask for your continued prayers and support.

Respectfully,

~ Becky Hall, Chair
~ Rusty Taylor, Director of Congregational Development
COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Annual Conference Committee on Episcopacy is the group charged with the responsibility of working closely with the resident bishop and providing feedback on the various responsibilities of the bishop using the eight different categories provided by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. In our quarterly meetings this year, we have used part of the meeting time to focus on the last categories including: Appointment-making, Healthy Relationships, Initiatives of the United Methodist Church, and Strengths of the Connection. As we have met for these evaluations, we remember that the evaluation process is a holistic approach involving healthy conversation that addresses issues and hopes.

Bishop Taylor has placed her focus on building relationships with individual persons and groups. She sees herself in partnership with the laity. Her primary contact with the laity is at the Annual Conference session, and she would like to be in the laity session if possible during the Annual Conference. She has participated in gatherings of the clergy orders, extension ministry breakfast, and interaction with particular groups of pastors. There is a request from the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) for an opportunity to meet with the bishop which she would like to honor in the future. Bishop Taylor wants to be accessible to the entire conference but realizes that there are also limits on time.

There is a great intensity to her work especially around appointment time. It is a balancing act between the needs of the pastor’s family and the needs of the different churches. She and the Cabinet prayerfully work together to get the best fit possible. The consultation process, both formal and informal, occurs throughout the year to help more clearly identify the needs of the churches and the gifts of the pastors. Available resources, such as leadership profile tools, consultants, and information about skills needed for leadership in various sized congregations are used to aid the work of the bishop and superintendents. In addition, the Vital Signs information for each congregation is considered and gives an accurate understanding of the current ministry and trend of each congregation’s vitality and fruitfulness.

Mission work is an area that touches and inspires congregations large and small, and Bishop Taylor has a passion for both local and global missions and sees them as a priority. These missions range from our long-term and Spirit–fed partnership with The United Methodist Church in South Sudan, the annual collection of missions kits, and our response to the deep poverty within our own conference.

Bishop Taylor sees the goal of the Annual Conference is “to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” In order to do that, strong churches and strong pastors are needed. Resources are being developed to strengthen both churches and pastors.

There are many different layers of leadership in the Annual Conference. Bishop Taylor wants to build the sense that the whole Annual Conference is a team. She continues using the website and The Call to provide more opportunities for her to share her vision to the entire conference.

Our bishop is assigned to the Holston area, but she serves alongside twelve other bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. A bishop must balance the dual responsibilities of the Annual Conference and the General Church. Bishop Taylor is always present at these meetings and is respected across the connection.

We are thankful for our bishop and her leadership and will continue to keep her in our prayers as we work together to share the Good News to the world.

~ R. Steven Brown, Chair
COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

One of the drivers of a vital congregation is “effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership.” The Commission on Equitable Compensation views its work as one way to help make this “driver” possible in some of our local churches. It is our responsibility to recommend a minimum salary for our pastors. This amount is what we determine to be the minimum salary necessary to support a pastoral family. We do not determine pay increases above the minimum levels.

The purpose of equitable compensation is to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference. This will be accomplished by:

   a) Recommending conference standards for pastoral support;
   b) Recommending funds to be used in compensation supplementation;
   c) Providing counsel and advisory material on clergy support to district superintendents and committees on staff/pastor/parish relations.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will accomplish these objectives by:

   a) Performing an annual review and recommendations of minimum salary levels;
   b) Submitting an annual budget request adequate to fund equitable salary needs;
   c) Providing direction and oversight in the disbursement of this fund;
   d) Providing counsel and advisory support to the Cabinet and Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR EQUITABLE COMPENSATION SUPPORT

To be eligible for Equitable Compensation support, a charge should comply with the guidelines regarding fiscal responsibility and other policies of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation. These guidelines are as follows:

1. There shall be a Committee on Finance for the charge or for each congregation of the charge making application.
2. There shall be an educational program (approved by the District Superintendent) emphasizing specific stewardship goals of regular proportionate giving and tithing.
3. There shall be at least a simple income projection and spending plan for the congregation making application for a grant. A copy of that plan is to be attached to the application. No application will be considered complete until that plan is received.
4. The church/charge will have worked with the District Superintendent in reaching agreed upon goals related to its district and conference giving.
5. Requests shall be for a specific length of time, not to exceed four years. A specific written plan for getting off Equitable Compensation Support shall be submitted as a part of the application. The plan should be reviewed and updated at least annually to determine that adequate progress toward the ultimate goal is being achieved and celebrated. The total amount that
the charge can expect over the four-year period would be determined up front. (Example: Total amount = $25,000; year one - $10,000; year two - $7,500; year three - $5,000; year four - $2,500; year five - $0.) The charge must annually pick up the 25% decrease from the previous year plus any increase in the minimum salary for its pastor as set by the conference for the coming year.

6. There shall be an annual audit, and a copy of the most recent audit shall accompany the application. No application shall be considered complete without the most recent annual audit being provided.

7. If, due to unusual circumstances, a church requests to be granted funds under the “mission situation” classification, it must substantiate its request by clearly defining its distinctive mission ministry and convince the Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation that the situation is as deserving of mission support as are other critical mission needs.

APPLICATION AND DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

The district superintendent must submit an application for each pastor to receive funds. These forms are available from the Office of Administrative Services. The application must be presented at the Charge Conference, approved and signed by the charge conference secretary, the pastor, and the district superintendent. This requirement is waived on mid-year pastoral changes; however, the district superintendent must sign the application and process it accordingly.

Step 1: The district superintendent is responsible for the recommendation of pastors who are eligible for equitable compensation within his/her respective district. To determine eligibility the following items must be reported on the application form:

• Total compensation from the charge including salary, travel allowance, parsonage utilities, social security payment, pastor’s share of medical insurance premiums (including salary reduction, if applicable.)

• Contributions from all other sources at the national, conference, district, and local church levels.

• All other income from church sources.

Step 2: The district superintendent will submit applications to the cabinet representative to the Commission on Equitable Compensation for review by the entire cabinet. Once approved, the applications will be forwarded to the Conference Administrative Services Office for disbursement.

Step 3: The decision of eligibility for and distribution of equitable compensation funds is delegated to the cabinet, which will, insofar as possible, seek to follow the conference guidelines on equitable compensation. The Commission on Equitable Compensation and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration encourage judicious stewardship in the allocation of these funds.

Step 4: The district superintendent shall diligently guide those charges and pastors who receive support in his/her district toward self-sufficiency.
**Minimum Salary Recommendations for Full-Time Service by Conference Members**

We are aware that many churches are striving to become self-supporting and are on their way to accomplish this. Also, there are churches that are struggling to keep their full time pastors, and it is our desire that they succeed in this. After careful consideration the Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends a 2% increase to minimum salary requirements for 2017.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests a budget of $242,000 for Cabinet use.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Commission would like to once again remind all the churches and pastors of the Annual Conference that our recommendations apply only to those pastors that are receiving the MINIMUM salary. We do not make these recommendations with the assumption that all the churches of the Annual Conference will use our guideline of only a 2% increase. We realize, however, that many, if not most churches do use our suggestion as THE recommendation from the Annual Conference for all churches. We strongly believe that this is simply a basic increase that is needed at the lowest end of our salary scale. We strongly encourage those churches that are paying above the minimum levels that we have listed below to seriously and prayerfully examine their unique situation. If the situation merits it, and the church can afford it, then by all means consider giving an increase greater than the 2% that we are recommending for the Conference Minimum Salary levels.

**Categories to be Funded and Schedule of Minimum Salary Levels for 2017**

**For full-time service by Conference Members:**

- Full Member (M.Div.) or equivalent degree $40,988
- Provisional Member (M.Div.) or equivalent degree $38,651
- Associate Member $37,113

**For Service as Full-Time Local Pastors:**

- M.Div. $35,837
- Completed Studies $34,887
- Beginning Studies $30,244

Equitable Compensation will be based on the Pastor’s Support Worksheet. The Office of Administrative Services will send payments directly to the church treasurers rather than to the pastors. The treasurers are to include the funds in the pastor’s paychecks and account for them on the pastor’s W-2 forms. Equitable compensation supplements shall not be included in the pastor’s compensation line item on end-of-year reports.

**Charge Categories**

**Equitable Compensation Charge:** A charge in which the proposed equitable salary schedule is not fully paid by the charge, but which possesses the potential to become self-sustaining. Amount of funding will be reduced by 25% per year with the church becoming self-sufficient within four years. Funding beyond four years will be subject to a review by a joint committee of the Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation.
**Mission Aid Ministry:** A ministry, rural or urban, where the minimum salary level cannot be paid for by the ministry, either in full or in part; and where there is no realistic expectation of financial independence. It is the responsibility of the district, the pastor serving the ministry, and a representative of the related charge conference to justify the designation of such a ministry and why it qualifies for aid. The designation is to be reviewed annually.

**Cooperative Parish:** A cooperative parish is a group ministry made up of two or more charges for the purpose of enhancing ministry among churches in a specific geographical area. It is expected that any request for equitable salary funds in a cooperative parish shall meet the approved guidelines and standards for equitable compensation.

**Qualifications and Requirements**

For a pastor to receive an Equitable Compensation Supplement, he or she must be under Episcopal appointment as an approved full-time pastor.

A seminary or college student may be appointed full or part-time as a local pastor to a charge and will receive at least the appropriate minimum salary of the Annual Conference in accordance with paragraph 318.3 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. Students who qualify as a full-time local pastor will receive at least the appropriate minimum salary of the Annual Conference.

A local pastor may be considered full-time when he or she is in pursuit of a college or seminary degree, as long as the student is taking less than a full-time class load as defined by the school in which he/she is enrolled. He or she must reside within the geographical bounds of the charge.

Full time pastors who are also students and receiving equitable compensation will be expected to:

a) Work at least 2 1/2 days per week on site.

b) Work full-time each week the student is not in school.

c) Be absent from Sunday worship no more than three Sundays per year.

The charge/church receiving salary supplementation must pay at least 50% of the minimum salary, provide housing or a housing allowance for the pastor and offer Sunday school and other local church programs in addition to weekly worship services.

A charge not meeting this standard is not eligible for salary supplementation even if served by a student. Students serving a charge in this category will be classified as part-time local pastors and receive only the salary level paid by the charge.

Utility costs should be considered when making appointments. If the utilities are paid by the charge, this should be considered as part of the salary. The utilities should always be in the name of the charge/church and not the pastor. Each charge should provide for its pastor’s travel expenses in its budget and provide reimbursement at the standard IRS approved mileage rate for all properly documented travel expenses related to the performance of ministry within the charge.
STEPS IN BECOMING A SELF-SUPPORTING CHARGE/CHURCH

The Cabinet is responsible for the conserving of conference funds by ongoing efforts to move charges to a self-supporting status. It is recommended that each charge receiving supplemental salary establish the goal of reducing the equitable compensation supplement by 25% per year over a four-year period. The district superintendent will work with the charge to develop a plan and to monitor the implementation of the plan so that the goal of reducing equitable compensation by 25% per year over a four-year period will be realized. The Annual Conference should recognize those charges that succeed and move to a self-supporting status for their achievement.

The District Superintendent will establish and maintain communication with the appropriate charge leaders (i.e. the pastor, the SPPR chairperson, the treasurer, the lay leader, etc.) reminding them of the charge’s progress in reducing equitable compensation. This ongoing communication is intended to keep the goal before the charge and to help encourage and enable the charge to reach its goal.

In those situations, where this is not possible, it is the responsibility of the Cabinet to consider regrouping of charges, mergers, or the matching of ministerial leadership to the category of salary paid by the charge in order to provide service at minimum expense to the Annual Conference.

~ Terry Goodman, Chair
### Equitable Compensation Funds Distribution

**July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>DI</th>
<th>Salary Supp</th>
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<th>Cooperative Parish</th>
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**DISCIPLESHIP TEAM**

As has been true in the past, this year’s members and ministry leaders of the Discipleship Team have continued the Team’s goal to resource and connect the local church so that each might become a vital congregation. This dedicated group of laity and clergy on the Discipleship Team have met to discuss what is happening both in the local church and at the Conference level and to discern areas of engagement for the future.

The Missions Team continues to celebrate the number of new people engaged in missions each year and to celebrate the impact of the mission offerings to assist children in poverty. Additionally, the Mission Team has sought to develop a connection within each district to better distribute information to area churches about missions within the conference, and also to be a reporting agency back to the Conference about the areas of mission that are occurring within the local church. Districts and local churches are encouraged to engage in Mission Fairs and opportunities for multi-district and ecumenical events in order to engage and equip many for ministry in missions.

The Nurture Team celebrates the continuation of a powerful Camping ministry, especially in a time when many Conferences have surrendered this area of ministry. This age-level ministry along with other events, such as Resurrection, RezKids, Divine Rhythm, and Jubilation, continue to address, support, and recognize the various discipleship needs of each age group targeted by these events. The Nurture Team also celebrates the biennial event of the Worship Conference, which engages both laity and clergy in equipping churches to be more effective in worship experiences.

Likewise, the Outreach/Advocacy Team hosts the biennial Poverty Conference, designed to lead to better understanding of the impact of poverty upon adults and children and the church’s response to poverty. Working with various teams within this ministry area, the Team seeks to inform and equip congregations on issues relating to justice, immigration, and healthcare, as well as issues related to racial and gender equality. As such, conversation continues about the reformation of an African-American ministry team within the Conference. Many of these issues facing the Outreach/Advocacy Team have polarizing effects upon society, and the Team is working to engage more persons first in viable, honest, and loving conversation with the ultimate goal of promoting action as mandated by Scripture.

The Stewardship Team continues to host Stewardship events and to develop information for the local church on stewardship issues. Within this team, Bill Kilday and Roger Redding have developed a written guide, “Making Disciples through the Ministry of Finance,” which is available to assist local churches in Stewardship concerns. As financial concerns continue to impede opportunities for ministries within the local churches, the goal of this team is to continue to provide resources and education to assist churches to become the best stewards of their offerings.

Celebrating and encouraging individuals and churches to live out the commandment to reach others for Christ is the focus of the Witness Team. Each year this team along with the Conference celebrates the recipients of the
Denman Evangelism awards, and in so doing, seeks to engage and equip others for discipleship and outreach. It is in the overseeing and extending of grants that this committee desires to educate and inspire others to reach outward to win others to Christ. In addition to the awarding of grant monies, this team also offers a biennial Evangelism Conference to teach and inspire others in reaching out to new persons, and all churches are strongly encouraged to participate in this event.

Along with celebrating the work of the five area ministries that represent many other teams under their oversight, we celebrate that in the coming year we will offer for the first time an Academy of Spiritual Formation. This Academy is offered in order to help all who serve Christ to remember that we are first led not by the head but by the Spirit that rests upon us.

Finally, we continue to celebrate the work of Higher Education and Campus Ministries for reaching out to individuals for Christ at the post-secondary level; Leadership Holston which seeks to further train and equip both laity and clergy for ministry; and the continued efforts in communication to best reach and resource all members of Holston.

Though ministry may often represent many challenges, we celebrate that through the efforts of the Conference ministry teams and the local churches much is being accomplished in the name of Christ. We encourage all persons, whether laity or clergy, to remember and celebrate that to which we have been called, and I am grateful for and encouraged by the wonderful work of the many ministry areas which comprise the Discipleship Team.

~ Glenna Manning, Chair

**MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM**

Mission is the heartbeat of the Church. From its birth described in the Book of Acts, we receive our calling: “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Then as the story unfolds, we see what happens when a church forgets its calling to go into the world to make disciples. The mother church in Jerusalem lost its way early when the fellowship became more concerned for the care of its membership than spreading the Good News. The result was a struggling church in Jerusalem relying on Paul receiving offerings and generosity of other churches for support. It is an important teaching for the Church to avoid the trap of maintenance and to step out into mission.

This past year, the churches of the Holston Conference continued to be in mission both here at home and throughout the world. Last year’s Annual Conference Missions Offering, to address children and youth in poverty, collected $187,000 to encourage churches throughout the Conference to submit grant applications for new and existing ministries, serving economically challenged children, youth, and families. Grants for creative and engaging ministries were submitted by churches in every district within Holston Conference. Over $93,000 has been awarded in the first 2 rounds of grant applications, with two rounds of awards still remaining before Annual Conference. Every District within Holston has applied and received a Children in Poverty grant. Ministries have been developed and implemented to provide food and nutrition, camping scholarships, tutoring
and mentoring, community development and resourcing, and prenatal care for mothers struggling with addiction. These and many more outreach ministries have connected the local church to the community.

Another way Holston connects the local church with the community is through our Church and Community Workers (CCWs) assigned through the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM.) Holston is blessed with five CCWs: Koni Purscell serves the Big Stone Gap District; Brooke Atchley serves in the Tazewell District; Mark Stransky and Harry Howe are at Project Crossroads in and around Marion, VA. The Missions Ministry Team is also pleased to announce the new placement of Linda Stransky at the Jubilee Project in Hancock County, Morristown District. Thank you for your prayerful and faithful support of these missionaries and missions.

Local churches and Districts throughout the Holston Conference continue to be engaged in mission in Africa, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Turkey, India, and throughout the United States. These missions could not be possible without the devotion of the many missionaries, team leaders, and church leaders who have answered the call to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. Holston consistently commissions over 200 short-term mission teams that show the love of Christ to our neighbors both near and far. Let me remind our mission team leaders to register your team with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). Not only is UMVIM able to provide your team with valuable resources, but it strengthens our connectional system by enabling others to participate in and celebrate the missions efforts of the entire UMC.

The apostles of Acts used a relational mission model that spread the Gospel throughout the world. Short-term missionaries like Paul, Barnabas, and Peter were followed by long-term missionaries and church leaders like Timothy and Silas. It’s easier to focus on transactional missions, sending financial resources and relief supplies, but true transformation can only take place through relationships. The relationship between Holston and the people of South Sudan exemplifies this relational model for missions. Our Conference has been united for over ten years there, building lasting relationships for the transformation in one of the world’s newest nations. With God’s help, and through your generosity of over $2.6 million that has been received through Conference initiatives, special offerings and individual gifts, 45 missions teams have been sent with nearly 160 participants; 36 wells have been providing clean water; 23 pastors have been trained; and 7 permanent churches and 9 school blocks have been built. Through Grace Children’s Home and Greenland Children’s Home, 36 orphaned children have been given new hope. To God be the Glory!

But let us not grow weary. Currently, rampant inflation, tribal tensions within the government, and food shortages are threatening the nation and its people. The government is fractured, and valuable resources and financial aid are being directed towards the weapons of war instead of providing resources and relief for the people. Our friends are struggling. Now, more than ever, they need our continued support.

Building relationships is also the foundation for the Muslim Outreach Team (MOT). Two of our missionaries serving officially retired in 2014, but continue to maintain connections in Turkey. One of those missionaries recently completed
an Ottoman Turkish translation of the Bible. Rebecca S is pursuing her education in conflict resolution and peace studies. With tensions between the Muslim and Christian communities continuing, the MOT is planning educational events throughout the conference to foster deepening understanding. Your continued prayers and support are appreciated.

None of these missions would be possible without the leadership and devotion of the missionaries who give so much of themselves. Please continue to pray for all of those who serve the Lord through Holston related missions:

- Fred and Libby Dearing (South Sudan)
- Helen Roberts-Evans (Liberia)
- John and Denise Redmond (Czech Republic)
- Mike Feely (Henderson Settlement)
- Bruce and Emy P (Middle East)
- Rebecca S (Muslim Outreach)
- Peter Pereira (India)
- Bill Lovelace (Lithuania)
- Rukang and Fresie Chikomb (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Fran Lynch Baxter (Alaska Missionary Conference)
- Lyn and Sharon Foglemen (Mission Society/South Sudan)

But let us not forget that we are all called to be missionaries, sent into the communities where we live to make an impact for the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. One of the most powerful ways the people of Holston partner with God to change lives is through the annual Hands-on Missions project. Last year was another record-breaking year. Each of the 12 Districts and 887 churches helped us exceed our goal with 9,123 kits donated, valued at $225,679.76. Thank you to Jerry Russell for his leadership of this mission area and for your continued support and generosity.

Finally, Bishop Taylor has once again invited the churches and people of Holston to continue to demonstrate our heart for missions through this year’s Annual Conference Missions Offering. Our focus this year is to continue reaching out to our neighbors in Holston with an in-conference offering focused on Children and Youth in Poverty. Once again, the total amount of the offering received in June will be available for grant applications in support of new and existing ministries which address the needs of children and youth in poverty. We are asking that each member of each church give a gift of $10 to help us exceed last year’s offering of $187,000. We will easily exceed our goal if each member in each local church gives $10. We further continue to encourage and challenge each member to give of themselves, dedicating 10 hours of your time in 2016-2017 to address Children and Youth in Poverty in your community. A strong, dynamic, fruitful church does not turn inward but faces outward and serves the community. Imagine the lives that will be touched and changed.

~ Tom Hancock, Chair
DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRIES

Concerning response activities, the Disaster Response Team was deployed during February 2015 when heavy rains, snow, and flooding occurred in Wise and Wise County, VA. We responded with cleaning buckets at the invitation of the Wise County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director. The buckets were stored in the county jail storage area for distribution. The Wise County EMA Director informed us they could handle the situation and released us, but several days later the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Regional Coordinator called and requested our assistance again. Our focus shifted to Long Term Recovery (LTR). We requested and UMCOR sent a trainer to teach Case Management for LTR.

Presently, one year later, a local long-term recovery organization is in place, and plans are being made to assist the disaster survivors. Holston Conference Disaster Response Ministries has a person in place to manage the LTR Case Workers and the UMCOR grant funds to pay for the case workers and support staff working with the survivors.

This last year, we were blessed to receive a $10,000 UMCOR grant for tools for disaster response trailers, which are pre-positioned throughout the conference. We were able to equip four trailers with tools needed for disaster response.

Also during 2015 we trained 26 persons in Basic Early Response Training throughout the Conference. Additionally, we recertified 8 persons for another three-year period of response eligibility under UMCOR rules. We continue to work with the Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville and other Amateur Radio Clubs in the conference to maintain readiness for disaster communications if needed. We also attended the Annual UMCOR/SEJ Disaster Response Academy.

We appreciate all the support the members of the churches of Holston Conference provide us throughout each year.

~ Jim Fetzer, Coordinator

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (ESUMC), PRAGUE

I have learned many things in my short time of 18 months in the Czech Republic.

Trust

I have first learned that trusting in God is most important and most difficult in times of struggle and need. What I mean is that as a first-time pastor who brought his family to a foreign country it can be a difficult and lonely thing. There have been many times when I questioned my call and understanding of working in the Czech Republic—questioning God’s reasoning for sending me when I feel so alone and abandoned. In these moments I have learned to pray the best I can for trust, faith, and understanding. In these moments God has brought me reassurance through people visiting, an email from a friend, a conversation from a mentor, and just overwhelming peace. Unfortunately, this can go away as quickly as it comes, but regardless, the more I trust the better life seems to be.
Culture
I have learned that just because we do things a certain way in America that seems to be the most effective and efficient way, it isn’t always the way the rest of the world operates. I have learned patience more than I would like to admit. Setting expectations is a good thing, but learning to let things go sometimes is more important for the sake of building bridges and relationships. In this new culture I am the foreigner (I still struggle with this). For example, every time I drop off my daughter at school, I have to put these slipper things over my boots (which I didn’t do for the longest time because they won’t fit over my big American feet) to keep dirt from getting on the floor. However, at the same time, my daughter also walks in with dirty shoes like me, but she changes her boots to house shoes by walking on the same floors that I do. We both equally bring in the same amount of dirt, but it’s a respect thing. Since I have made the effort to put the slippers on even half way, I don’t get dirty looks any more. This is just one of many cultural differences. In short, respecting the culture when it doesn’t make sense is crucial to fitting in and gaining respect of the people. This is something I believe strongly that mission teams should understand before they go on any mission trip. Realize that you are the guest, not the savior for everyone’s problems.

Relationships Matter
In a land where going to church is odd it’s more important to get outside the walls of the church in normal situations with others. When locals ask what I am doing here and I tell them I am a pastor, they immediately roll their eyes at me and say, “Oh, you’re here to save everyone.” My response is, “No, I am here to tell them how much they are loved.” Usually, once they get past the shock that I am a pastor and a normal person, we have great conversation. However, none of these conversations would ever happen without getting outside the walls of the church.

ESUMC is needed.
I am amazed now that I am not in small town USA anymore of how BIG, but small, the world is. I am meeting people all the time from all over the world that come to church. We currently have maybe six different nationalities that come to church on a regular basis. The greatest thing is that we can meet together and have several things in common. First is that we speak English and can understand each other. Second is having Methodist church people come with a sense of comfort knowing what to expect. Third and most important, we have unity in Christ. ESUMC has been a place where many are able to come even if only for one Sunday passing through, or for a short semester abroad, or after having lived in Prague for 10-plus years to find a sense of belonging and fellowship with other believers. I have learned that just because you’re a long way from “Home,” with a fellowship of believers you can have peace, joy, comfort, and a sense of safety and belonging.

Please continue to pray for ESUMC as we find our place in Prague. Also continue to pray for the Czech nation that we will not only be able to minister to the ex-pats but also find ways to connect with the Czech locals

~ John Redmond, Pastor
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016 MISSION OFFERING

We’re doing so well we can’t stop now!

That good news is the reason this year’s Annual Conference Mission Offering will once again bless the children in our midst as we support Ministry with Children in Poverty in Holston Conference. Through this past year, our congregations have given generously to change the lives of children in poverty with a total of over $197,000 so far. Countless hours of service and outreach have been shared to develop relationships with these young lives and to bring new hope and possibility for their future. As Dr. Tammy Pawloski shared with us at the 2015 Annual Conference session, “Poverty matters. You matter more.” Thank you, Holston, for assuring that poverty does not have the last word for the children in our communities.

Through April, the mission offering funds have supported 36 grants totaling approximately $150,000 given to local churches for their ministry with children in poverty. As we continue working toward our goal of $685,000 or $10 per average worship attendance, we will have even more funds to support each other’s efforts to reach these young lives. Partnerships with schools, with other conference agencies, and with neighboring churches have proven beneficial to expand our efforts.

Our goal of 10 hours of service per average worship attendance also continues into the next conference year. The relationships developed through reading, tutoring, feeding, and encouraging are beginning to bear fruit. As we move through this second year, Holston’s churches will certainly continue to find ways to share of their time to connect with individual children and their families. You can learn more about our congregation’s gifts of $10 and 10 hours per worship attendance and find ideas for your church at waytogiveholston.org.

This year we will help more of our congregations take the first steps toward school partnerships. Each local church is asked to send a new children’s book with every lay and clergy member to Annual Conference June 5-8. These books will be collected and made available at Tuesday night’s Mission Celebration for local churches to take home and share as an opening gift to begin a school partnership with their neighborhood schools. Eight award-winning children’s books have been selected for us to provide. They will work well in any elementary school library. Your church is asked to choose their books from the following list:

• **Last Stop on Market Street** – Matt de la Peña
• **Waiting** – Kevin Henkes
• **Touch the Brightest Star** – Christie Matheson
• **Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World’s Most Famous Bear** – Lindsay Mattick
• Mango, Abuela, and Me – Meg Medina
• Extra Yarn – Mac Barnett
• Me, Jane – Patrick McDonnell
• The Night World – Mordecai Gernstein

Remember, we only need one book per lay and clergy member of Annual Conference. These books will be collected at the Susan Todd Lounge at the Harrell Center at Lake Junaluska by Monday, June 6, at 3:30 p.m. If your church decides to collect more books, we invite you to keep them to offer as a blessing to your local neighborhood school.

Thank you, Holston.

Let’s continue to bring it home as we engage in ministry
with children in poverty in the Holston Conference.
Together, we share to bless our neighbors.
Crop Drop
Tuesday, June 7, 12:00 PM
Location: Outdoor Gym
Annual Conference Mission Opportunity

On Tuesday, June 7, at 12:00 PM you will have the opportunity to participate in a Society of St. Andrew Crop Drop at the outdoor gym.

Everyone is invited to participate and we do ask that children please bring a parent(s) along.

We are asking for contributions of $5.00 (or more if you wish) to help off-set the cost of this important program. However, it is not required to participate in the crop drop process. Contributions can be made at the Information Desk of Stuart Auditorium, at one of the doors as you exit the Tuesday morning session, or at the crop drop site.

For more information about Society of St. Andrew please visit their website at www.endhunger.org

Sponsored by the Holston Conference Missions Ministry Team
Be a 5-Star Church
To qualify for the 5-Star Award, churches must:
1. Pay the apportionment in full and give at least $25 in categories 2 through 5.
2. Give to at least one International Advance
3. Give to at least one U.S. Advance
4. Give to at least one UMCOR Advance
5. Give to at least one Conference Advance

International Advance

A. Missionaries Assigned to Holston Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missionary</th>
<th>GSQM Code</th>
<th>Holston Project No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rukang Chiombi</td>
<td>14959Z</td>
<td>516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country: Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frenci Chiombi</td>
<td>3021434</td>
<td>777</td>
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<td>Country: Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Rev. Bill Lovelace</td>
<td>11872Z</td>
<td>054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country: Lithuania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Roberts-Evans</td>
<td>3021129</td>
<td>706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country: Liberia</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. Africa

1. HSHE ANESU Project/Market Place
   Zimbabwe
   Code: 13071A
   160

2. Africa University Scholarship
   Code: 3021028
   629

3. Imagine No Malaria
   Code: 3021590
   684

C. Mexico

"Give Ye Them To Eat" Hunger Program
   Code: 097629A
   074

D. Estonia

1. Baltic Mission Center
   Code: 016923-N
   055

2. Baltic Methodist
   Code: 15021B
   203
   Theological Seminary Scholarship ($1,500 per year)

E. Paraguay

New Horizon School
   Code: 302-1889
   421
Covenant Relationships

with Missionaries and Persons in Mission

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

United States Advance

A. Missionaries Assigned to Holston Conference

F. Henderson Settlement, Frank, Kentucky
   Code: 793253
   088

G. Hinton Rural Life Center, Haysville, NC
   Code: 731372
   042

H. Fram Lynch Baxter Program Support
   Code: 931520-335
   264

I. Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Kentucky
   Code: 773726
   010

J. Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, VA
   Code: 801600
   029

K. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, SEJ Jurisdiction, Birmingham, AL
   Code: 901875
   043

UMCOR Advance

A. Heifer Project International
   Code: 982418
   021

B. Heifer Project, Living Gift
   Code: 982532
   031

C. UMCOR Disaster Response in US
   Code: 901670-1
   026

D. UMCOR Emergency Relief (Around the World)
   Code: 982453-8
   050

E. World Hunger / Poverty
   Code: 982920
   016
Holston Annual Conference
Offering
Children in Poverty in Holston

Conference Advance

A. Persons in Mission assigned to Holston Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Rowe</td>
<td>Marion, VA</td>
<td>020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Purcell</td>
<td>Big Stone Gap, VA</td>
<td>701</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooke Ashley</td>
<td>Tazewell, VA</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred and Libby Deering</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
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<td>Bruce &amp; Em P.</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>098</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Stramkty</td>
<td>Marion, VA</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Stramkty</td>
<td>Sneedville, TN</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Ashby, Inc.</td>
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<td>091</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Muslim Outreach Team Project

1. Rebezkah S.      | 572         |

D. Campus Ministry and Wesley Foundations

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2. Radford                  | 127         |
3. UT Knoxville             | 308         |
4. UT Chattanooga           | 313         |
5. UVA at Wise              | 061         |

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2. Contact Concern of NE TN, Inc. | 413      |
3. Contact Helpline, Inc. | 183         |

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2. Blount Co              | 167         |
3. Holston                | 067         |

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2. Maryville District     | 542         |
3. Moutzin District       | 543         |

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   - Lookout               | 276         |
   - Undesignated          | 087         |
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     - Lookout             | 078         |
     - Undesignated        | 484         |
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Conference Advance

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   2. Angelic Ministries (KN)  637
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   4. Blue Monarch  813
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   6. CASA Corridor of East TN (CL)  611
   7. CASA of the Tennessee Heartland (OA)  455
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   9. COMPASSion Counseling  849
  10. Crossroads Medical Mission (AB)  364
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  13. Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. (IO)  666
  14. Gracelinside  828
  15. Interfaith Health Clinic (KN)  492
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   012

The Advance
Advancing hope in Christ's name

Holston Annual Conference 2017
www.holston.org
Greetings from the Nurture Team! We have the privilege of working with ministry areas in Holston Conference that are primarily age specific. The areas include children, youth, young adults, older adults, marriage enrichment, and camping and retreat ministries.

The role of our team is to encourage and support the conference staff as they work in these areas. In the following pages you will learn how Holston Conference is reaching out to minister to the least, the lost, and the lonely by offering them Christ. At the same time, our programs are nurturing the faith of existing believers so there are more workers to bring in the harvest.

We also celebrate a successful Worship Conference which happened in April 2015. The event offered attendees the opportunity to delve into the process of worship planning using Barbara Day Miller’s POWR model. Breakout sessions covered a wide variety of topics meant to touch on areas that most churches have opportunities to improve in, such as how to start a new worship service, what radical hospitality looks like, how to use visuals in worship, and ways to give new life to our familiar holy days. The event will happen again in the spring of 2017. Watch for more information to be available this fall.

We appreciate your support of these ministries. People of all ages are coming to know Christ by participating in these programs, and for that, may we always give God the glory.

~ Leanna Johnson, Chair

For fifteen years, the people of the Round Mountain Charge in Bastian, VA, have been providing hot breakfasts to thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Pastor Alan Ashworth received so many expressions of appreciation from hikers who came to these breakfasts that in 2012 he envisioned a bold, innovative ministry that would involve commissioning someone to hike the entire 2100-mile AT as a Trail Chaplain representing Holston Conference. A steering committee was organized, and the next year our first AT Chaplain, Josh Lindamood, set out from Springer Mountain, GA.

Josh was followed in 2014 by Dave Smith and in 2015 by Bert Emmerson. These three chaplains returned from their long trek excited about the opportunities to share the love of Christ with those they met along the way. Sometimes the need was for assistance with a physical injury, sometimes it was a spiritual issue that needed to be addressed, and sometimes the most pressing need was simply the chance to share hurts or joys with a person who would listen.

At the Ministers’ Convocation in February, Chuck Jones, our 2016 AT Chaplain, was commissioned. Chuck set out from Springer Mountain, GA, on March 15, eager to represent the people of Holston in this challenging but effective ministry. You can follow Chuck’s progress at www.facebook.com/AppalachianTrailChaplain.
This ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals, churches, or groups within churches. Checks made payable to Holston Conference with AT Chaplain on the memo line should be mailed to Appalachian Trail Outreach Ministry, PO Box 203, Bastian, VA 24314.

~ Bob Hayes, Vice Chair

**Camp and Retreat Ministries**

“Sharing the Love of Christ in the Glory of God’s Creation!” This continues to be the mission of our Camp and Retreat Ministries as we participate with the local churches of Holston in “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”

The camp setting is like no other in its unique opportunity to help people, particularly children, connect with God’s love in forming a lifelong faith. During our overnight summer sessions, campers are given the opportunity to make an expression of personal faith. The results are breathtaking. 218 campers made first-time faith commitments, and 691 campers made reaffirmation commitments to their faith. In addition, the overwhelming majority of campers share that they experienced God’s love while at camp. Many seeds of faith have been sown.

Holston Conference Camp and Retreat welcomed two new camp directors in 2015. Mr. Tony Lea became the 6th Director of Camp Wesley Woods. He has quickly made a very positive impact on our ministry. With strong fiscal responsibility and with a deep commitment to ministering in the name of Christ, Tony has developed a strong team-oriented operation. A significant foundation is being set upon which vibrant ministry will begin to thrive again.

Rev. Jeff Wadley became the Director of Buffalo Mountain Camp in 2015. His assignment was to help the Camp Board and the people of the Johnson City and Kingsport Districts realize their dreams to successfully recover from the devastating floods at Buffalo Mountain Camp and to establish a new ministry operation at a new site. A new site has been purchased adjacent to Bays Mountain Park just outside Kingsport, TN. Extensive plans are underway. The camp will be named Camp Bays Mountain. Some off-site programming will take place in the summer of 2016, with the goal of being on site for the summer of 2017. Jeff has provided excellent leadership in these formative stages and is building a new foundation upon which many will encounter Christ’s love for years to come.

2015 was a very strong year of ministry at Camp Dickenson. They experienced an increase in summer campers and an increase in retreat ministry participants. Michael Snow is leading a steady operation that is ministering to the southwest Virginia area of Holston. Along with Michael, the Camp Board has steadily been addressing the facility needs and are providing well for their camp guests.
The Board has just completed a new residence for the director and is currently working diligently to fund a multi-purpose center to serve the worship and recreational needs for all seasons of ministry.

Camp Lookout continues a strong operation as well under the leadership of Don Washburn. Don, a fixture in the camping ministry of Holston, began his 20th year in May. The ministries of Camp Lookout have reached full capacity. The Camp Lookout Board has an in-depth plan for next steps and a campaign in the Chattanooga and Cleveland areas to support it. Thanks to a $250,000 gift from the Johnson Family Foundation, Cleveland, TN, the Board has a strong foundation on which to build.

The staff and volunteers of the Camp and Retreat Ministries are grateful to Holston Conference for the generous support for ministry and are proud to serve all who come our way in the name of Christ.

Total person’s served in 2015: 12,822

~ Ed Terry, CRM Board Chair
~ Randy Pasqua, CRM Executive Director

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

We continue to see growth in awareness of child safety in Holston Conference. Creating and then reviewing your Safe Sanctuaries Policy yearly continues to be one of the best ways a church can move toward providing a safe environment for God’s children. District-based trainers are available to assist you in this process, or you can contact the conference office for assistance.

None of us wants to think of, let alone plan for, a crisis in the life of a child. We want the lives of children to be carefree, fun, and happy. The reality though is that kids can and do face hurts every day. By being prepared and ready to help, we can help children cope, recover, heal, and grow after a crisis. The Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley joined us in August 2015 for two LEAD Kids workshops that helped us learn ways to guide children during these times.

Dr. Hadley has developed a new program entitled “A Time for Children.” The program proposes to partner with Denominational Annual Conferences and/or local congregations providing a three-part approach to helping congregations become places where children and families grow closer to God and where the spiritual needs of the whole child and family are met. The program has been considered by the Cabinet, and the Children’s Ministry team hopes to be able to offer this program in the future.

~ Gaye King
Associate Director of Connectional Ministries

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES (CCYM)

I chose to run for YSF chair for one main reason: I wanted to be on the front lines to see where the money raised by youth was going. Being a part of the decision-making process for the grants was one experience I will not soon forget.
Multiple organizations wanted and needed our money desperately to continue their ministries. It was really eye-opening to see all of the wonderful outreaches that the Holston Conference is a part of. Picking the “winners” for our grant money was meaningful to me because I felt like I really was making a difference with the money that was raised. Here was evidence that kids can really change the world for the better! I cannot wait to hear good things back from the youth church in Africa or the backpack program in Saltville.

~ Sally James, YSF

I attended Discovery last March, and I have never been the same again. Discovery is a weekend event where youth come together to discern their call to ministry, whether it be full time or other forms of ministry. Youth receive guidance and learn about different types of ministry from adult speakers, mentors, and small groups. I went with one of my best friends, and neither of us knew what to expect. All that we knew for sure was that we needed an event like this. Discovery assured me of my call and gave me a support group of some amazing mentors and legendary friends to have my back. It taught me to take my calling one day at a time and to put my relationship with God above all my fears. Discovery also assured me that ministry on CCYM was God’s next step for me, and here I am writing this report as CCYM Chaplain. That is testimony enough to the importance and effectiveness of this event.

~ Aaron Miller, Chaplain

Resurrection 2016 was amazing. Despite the fact that most of the conference was covered in a foot of snow, there was still a great amount of youth worshiping at Rez. This year was a little different from usual because we changed locations. Resurrection ’16 was held at the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge, which provided better parking and an overall better experience for everyone. Not only did Chris Tomlin lead worship Saturday night but City Harmonic surprised everyone by leading worship on Sunday morning. Resurrection 2016 was a huge success, and it created high hopes for next year!

~ Carson Stanfield, Vice President

Assembly is what other youth call “Resurrection on steroids,” a week-long camp where youth can go to worship the Lord and have fun while doing so. While youth are there, they have family groups. There is a reason we call them “family groups,” and that reason is they become part of a family with the other youth in that group, along with everyone else attending assembly. Everyone that comes to Assembly can see God working in the youth and see His grace flowing in their hearts. Assembly is one of the memories that I will never forget from the events I have attended with the Holston Conference.

Youth in Mission has been an amazing thing for me to participate in. It has opened my eyes to see the needs of people in my area and beyond. Last year, we went to Grundy, VA, where we met a lot of great people within our conference. This event allows youth to serve God and put their faith into action. YIM is going to Cincinnati, OH, this year, and I can’t wait!

~ Olivia Kelly, President

The Holston youth are open to many opportunities. These events allow us to go deeper into our faith and explore what God can provide for us. These events allow youth to find their calling into ministry or find Jesus Christ and accept Him
into their lives. These events help prepare youth for leadership for tomorrow and today. Thank you, Holston Conference, for allowing us to go out and change people’s lives.

MARRIAGE MINISTRIES
Again in 2015, two Marriage Enrichment Retreats were held for couples where one or both are clergy. Each couple, along with five or six other couples, had the opportunity to enjoy time together and to explore areas of their relationship. Through couple time and group discussion a setting was provided to promote enrichment and reaffirmation of marital commitments.

This ministry has been fortunate to acquire the services of Carson Springs Conference Center, located just outside Newport, TN, as the site for each of the two weekends. The center provides comfortable lodging and meeting areas along with excellent food service.

Those who have attended previously and the leadership couples urge the churches across the Holston Conference to encourage their pastors to take advantage of at least one of the weekends that are provided free of charge to the couples attending. You can help by providing childcare, if needed, and pulpit supply so that the couple can remain at the retreat until the closing just before noon on Sunday.

Thanks goes to the Nurture Team of the Holston Conference who through their budget seeks to support the needed funding for the retreat. Special thanks also are due to Ginny and Pete Rowlett who because of their interests, gifts, and graces have been instrumental in the initiation and implementation of this retreat for over a decade. Their contribution of time and talent has been the life-blood of this effort on behalf of clergy and marriage. The Rowletts can be contacted for information and registration for the retreat at bee.rowlett@gmail.com or by phone at 865-966-9776. In addition, they will be leading a Leadership Training Workshop during the summer. For further information about leader training, please contact the Rowletts.

~ Rev. Reed Shell

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES
Older Adult ministries continue to be an important part of the ministries in Holston Conference. Many of our districts have an active district-based ministry and plan programs throughout the year to minister to the needs of older adults in their area.

Jubilation – our conference event for older adults – celebrated our 15th year in April 2015 with a sellout crowd. The 2016 event was a continuation of the popular theme of 2015 - “Our Story.” A number of our districts used this theme for their district-based programming in 2015/2016.

As we all age, we are reminded that we all have a story to tell . . . and if we don’t tell it, how will the children learn? Engaging and supporting older adult ministry in Holston Conference is one of the best ways to help our children in that process.

~ Gaye King
Associate Director of Connectional Ministries
OUTREACH/ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Our mission is to examine and raise consciousness about issues of justice, mercy, and kindness in the midst of our complex and constantly changing world. The current economy has had an impact on our budget, but we are still striving to develop and encourage ministry opportunities for members of Holston Conference.

Arising from one of the Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church, we offered the fifth regional Poverty Conference on August 28-29, 2015, at First United Methodist Church in Marion, VA. It was organized by Koni Purcell, a Church and Community Worker, who serves on the O/A team. The theme was “Ministry WITH the Poor: Serve, Learn, Act.” Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball was the keynote speaker.

Our Creation Care Team sends suggestions for service to the District Superintendents for distribution to the local churches in the monthly district newsletters. This team also encourages wise use of resources by bringing your own mugs and water containers when appropriate to meetings. That small gesture can make a big impact in conserving resources. The report for the Creation Care Team follows the O/A report.

On immigration and refugee issues, we continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform at both the national and local levels. We also stay connected locally to our immigrant neighbors in celebration and struggle. We are connected to the excellent work of the Hispanic Ministry Team and are partnering with them in growing Immigrant Welcoming Communities. In addition, two from the Conference participated with the General Board of Church and Society at the Dry Bones Retreat at the Iowa Conference Wesley Woods Camp.

Along with the General Board of Church and Society, we advocate for reform of our criminal justice system, particularly when bills are introduced in Congress to reduce sentences for nonviolent offenses, provide more oversight of private prisons, and develop a deeper understanding of Biblical and restorative justice.

With the Virginia Conference and the United Methodist Men, we are bringing the Disciple Bible Study program into the Virginia State prisons, a number of which are located in Holston Conference. There are plans for the program to be offered in Tennessee and north Georgia prisons in the future.

Strength for the Journey is represented on the Outreach/Advocacy team. In Fall 2015, they offered a retreat which was very well attended. This team has submitted a report which follows the O/A report.

We have been working toward better understanding of substance abuse issues and want to recognize the contributions of a number of churches in the Conference in their ministry to people who struggle with dependency on substances. We also advocate for adequate health care for all people, recognizing that we contribute our best when we have access to good medical treatment.

At the Peace with Justice luncheon at Annual Conference in 2015, Outreach/Advocacy presented Sheila Michel, the Holston Peace with Justice Coordinator, who spoke on her vision of Peace with Justice and the work of TORCH, a ministry with the homeless in Oak Ridge which she began. We were also
represented at the Peace with Justice Gathering in New York City at the United Nations in April 2015.

Our ministry team also offers support to the Virginia Chaplaincy Service, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and grants to address issues around HIV/AIDS. Through the Committee on Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and Religion and Race, inclusive participation at Annual Conference is monitored and reported for 2015 and again this year.

We encourage members to be involved in Welcoming Congregations (a ministry with immigrants and the people of God), the Caring for God’s Creation event which has been relocated to Atlanta, and the upcoming Peace Conference.

We also continue to encourage every pastor to share God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action from the Council of Bishops with his or her congregation.

~ Susan Montgomery, Chair

CREATION CARE

“We, as United Methodists, cannot remain silent while God’s people and God’s planet suffer.”

“We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it.”

“We cannot have peace on the earth until we have peace with the earth.”

-- Call to Hope and Action, 2009 United Methodist Council of Bishops

Holston Creation Care continues to promote environmental stewardship within our churches, conference, and throughout the world. Our Father mandated us to be caretakers of His creation and not the dominating masters we have become. God’s creation suffers; thus, God’s children suffer by the ways we misuse it.

Holston Creation Care continues to follow our denomination’s Caretakers for God’s Creation four criteria: 1) Raising awareness and becoming an integral part of promoting in annual conferences, church agencies, and local church life; 2) Supporting, equipping, and empowering ministry, and providing training and resources to clergy and laity; 3) Promoting joyful stewardship through sustainable living; and 4) Creating a sense of URGENCY for God’s voice for the earth through public policy engagement and advocacy.

During 2015, Holston Creation Care engaged and supported in the following:

• Continued to assist churches in developing their own Creation Care Ministries
• Continued to partner with Holston’s Outreach/ Advocacy Ministry Team
• Participated in various district and conference workshops and events
• Attended the 2015 Caring for God’s Creation conference in Decatur, GA (formerly held at Lake Junaluska)
• Supported with presence and prayers at the 2015 Climate March in NYC and also the COP21 Paris Climate Talks
• Continued to be an advocate and faith partner, supporting Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light (TN IPL), participating in meetings, vigils, and
discussion. Creation Care chair continues to be on TNIPL’S Executive board and also the greater Knoxville chapter Executive board

• Continued to be a strong advocate and supporter of Holston Camping ministries (more in 2016)

• Worked with conference and global UMW to be an alongside partner with their 2016 UMW Focus on Climate Justice and their “13 Steps to Sustainability.” This will be a primary focus for 2016 Holston Creation Care.

We want to know what your church and district are doing to spread environmental stewardship in your corner of God’s world. If you or your church want more information on speakers, brochures, events, etc., contact Brenda Haymore mollysmom40@comcast.net, Gaye King gayeking@holston.org, or Rev. Mike Sluder mikesluder@holston.org.

~ Brenda R. Haymore, Chair

GRACEINSIDE: VIRGINIA’S PRISON CHAPLAIN SERVICE

Grace is a gift you share over and over again. Within Virginia’s prisons, your impact is being felt more now than ever before! Your hand of grace is extending to our incarcerated brothers and sisters to help heal deeply broken wounds. Through grace, you are following the teaching of Jesus Christ to “visit those in prison,” and you are restoring people, families, and communities.

Unique among all of the states, the chaplains in Virginia’s state prisons are NOT state employees. They are OUR employees, supported by “the people in the pews.” Currently, we have 32 chaplains serving in 35 state prisons. As members of our GraceInside family, you ensure that those in prison have the opportunity to attend worship, participate in spiritually-based classes (Bible study, grief group, baptism class, etc.), and spend one-on-one time with a chaplain. These chaplains serve as Christian pastors inside the prisons, seeking to tend the sheep in their care. They coordinate, organize, and lead religious services and activities for all seeking hope. In the words of one ex-offender:

“If it hadn’t been for you, I would never have made it. You saved me. You really saved me.”

In 2015, GraceInside increased our impact by adding more ministry service hours for the chaplains serving in our unique mission field. More men and women moved toward healing. And with your help, we’ve come to see that the more grace you give away, the more grace there is! More than 30,000 men and women had the opportunity to interact with a chaplain because of YOUR support and care. As many as 14,000 inmates are released each year back into our communities. You make the prisons and our Commonwealth a safer place in which to live and work.

We know we still have much work to do. For example, at Augusta Correctional Center, our part-time chaplain serves 1,350 men. Everyone from the Warden to the religious volunteers to the inmates wants and needs their chaplain to be full-time. (The American Correctional Association says that there should be a full-time chaplain for every 500 inmates, warranting almost THREE full-time chaplains for Augusta alone!) Our goal is to find support for our chaplains to
minister full-time so that more lives can experience the gift of grace. Currently, six major facilities need full-time chaplains—right now! Men and women are waiting to hear that they matter to God.

It starts with one heart in prison, impacted by grace...overflowing to others...to families...to neighborhoods...to churches...to communities...to our Commonwealth. One heart changed because YOU believe in the value of GraceInside. Together, lives are changed forever. Every. Single. Day.

~ Rev. J. Randy Myers, President

STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. — John 14:27 (NIV)

Peace is something that is often difficult to find in our lives, and it can be even more elusive if we are dealing with circumstances that come from our own or from others’ perceptions of worth as children of God. HIV/AIDS carries a stigma that can easily interfere with finding peace.

Strength for the Journey provides a setting apart from difficult situations for HIV/AIDS campers to search and discover God all around them. In the beginning of the HIV crisis, it was a death sentence. New protocols in medications have changed all that, making opportunities for living with HIV/AIDS for much longer periods of time more the norm. As people of faith, we want to give opportunities for them to find “life” abundant in the relationship they share with the Creator. It is in their journey during the week at camp that God’s strength is affirmed for them. This journey takes them through worship, workshops, prayer, camp, exercise, fellowship, and fun. A “safe” environment, with dedicated volunteer leaders, SFTJ offers an opportunity to turn back to God even if circumstances at home make that difficult.

2015 saw our campers enjoy a true “mountain top” experience. 35 campers came together with capable and enthusiastic staff to journey together in sharing the peace of God through worship, workshops, crafts, reflection, and many other activities with one another. We ended the week with a renewed feeling of “Emmanuel” and, hopefully, sent campers off the mountain with a new understanding of how much God loves them and needs them to be a part of God’s Kingdom.

The power of God was truly evident all around us, especially to those who need strength for their journey.

We express much gratitude to the Holston Conference, as well as to all those people and churches who donate their time, monies, and energy to this effort. The journey continues, and we are grateful to be able to help others find strength to find their way.

~ Tim Kobler, Chair
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The theme of this year’s Annual Conference is “Bless.” The blessings we have received enable us to offer extravagant blessings to others.

This report of the Stewardship Ministry Team is related directly to the work of the Holston Conference Foundation and the Director of Stewardship, the Rev. Bill Kilday, who until his retirement in December 2015, was a member of the Foundation Staff. Our Stewardship Ministry Team is grateful to the Foundation for providing leadership to the Stewardship Ministry of the Annual Conference.

Our Stewardship Ministry Team is especially grateful for the Rev. Bill Kilday, our Director of Stewardship for the Holston Conference since July 2004. We are very thankful for his inspiring leadership, dedication, and faithfulness in the areas of ministry and faithful stewardship to all the churches of the Holston Conference. His weekly “Offertory Moments” have helped many pastors and churches across the conference. His leadership of the Stewardship Ministry Team has helped to offer many educational opportunities and Stewardship events for the pastors and laity of our Holston Conference. May God richly bless the Rev. Bill Kilday as he is (for the second time) enjoying retirement with family and friends.

Our Stewardship Ministry Team met during the months of September and October to brainstorm and to analyze the needs of our Annual Conference regarding faithful stewardship. One of the ideas proposed would be for our team to put together financial and stewardship seminars to assist congregations that are receiving financial aid from the Conference. A second idea proposed would be to send a survey about financial health/stewardship to the pastors throughout our conference.

Roger Redding, Director of our Holston Conference Foundation, gave a report from the Lilly Endowment National Initiative which he received at a meeting of United Methodist Foundations. This meeting was hosted by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the General Board of Higher Education. The Lilly Endowment National Initiative had surveyed the financial health of United Methodist pastors across the nation. The survey analysis said that the individuals who are currently being or who have recently been ordained for ministry are entering ministry with a very high debt-load from their educational expenses, and the salaries of the churches to which they are appointed are less than this debt-load can match. The study also reported that 70% of Clergy spouses handled the finances of the Clergy households. The study indicated that with the debt-load of Clergy from educational expenses, many ministers lack confidence in effectively leading churches for their financial health. The conclusion is that looking forward the graduate education for ministers will require coursework in stewardship ethics for individuals and for churches. This is to equip ministers in setting the example and to give confidence to leading churches in healthy financial stewardship.

From those ideas, reports and brainstorming conversations, Rev. David Jackson proposed the idea of the Center for Faith and Learning at Emory & Henry College to have Stewardship Education for Pastors as part of its curriculum and continuing education offerings. Emory & Henry invited the Stewardship
Ministry Team to meet on its campus in November. We met with faculty and staff representatives from campus to further brainstorm and tentatively plan this offering as a joint partnership. We tentatively planned a pilot program event during May 2016 for both first-time clergy and their mentors, to be held on Emory & Henry’s campus. However, when the Stewardship Ministry Team met in January, Emory & Henry said that they would like to postpone this event until Fall 2016 or Spring 2017. We are still working toward that possibility.

We also sent Rev. Terry Goodman to attend The First National Horizons Stewardship Academy of Faith and Money, in Irving, TX, in April. Rev. Goodman has been nominated to be our new Chairperson of the Stewardship Ministry Team.

We also sent a liaison from our Stewardship Ministry Team to meet with the creators of the Way to Go, Way to Give Holston videos that are sent to the churches.

The Ministry of Church Finance Booklet along with other Stewardship information is on our conference website.

Again, much gratitude to Roger Redding, Director of the Holston Foundation, Rev. Bill Kilday, Director of Stewardship, and Rev. Mike Sluder, Director of Connectional Ministries, for their leadership in the area of faithful stewardship.

As Christ has taught us to give, we continue to seek ways to celebrate extravagant generosity and healthy financial stewardship through education and special events which enable us to offer the blessings we have received to become blessings for others.

~ Debbie Stokes, Chair

**WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM**

Reaching people for Christ is the single most important mission of the church. It is also a way in which we can truly be blessed and be a blessing to others. There are many ways that we can do this, but none of them can be done apart from the Holy Spirit, the love of Christ in our hearts, and the presence of God in our lives.

How do we bridge the gap between providing a great community service or mission through the local church and truly offering them Christ? This has been the goal of the Witness Team this past year through providing thousands of dollars in grants, sponsoring our 2016 Holston Evangelism Conference, and sharing the inspirational stories of our current and past Harry Denman Evangelism award winners.

Here are just a few specific ways that we have been blessed:

State Street UMC in Bristol, VA, was awarded a grant to help families of children with special needs a safe, enjoyable place to worship and attend Sunday school as a way to reach out to their community.

Seymour UMC was awarded at grant to fund a Bible-based recovery ministry.

Oakland UMC in Galax, VA, was awarded a grant to reach its community for Christ by partnering with Oakland Elementary School to help children in need.
Cedar Bluff UMC in Cedar Bluff, VA, was awarded a grant to offer material and spiritual support to those in need in their community as a way of offering them Christ.

In 2015, we had three incredible recipients of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award: Clergy – Rev. Kristen Ann Burkhart of Mt. Zion UMC in Afton, TN (Morristown District); Laity – Marcy Hall from East Ridge UMC in Chattanooga, TN (Chattanooga District); and Youth - David Goodman from Trinity UMC, Big Stone Gap, VA (Big Stone Gap District).

Finally, this is worth sharing and celebrating. From our Vital Signs statistics for 2015, Holston Conference had a total of 1,727 professions of faith. This is also a challenge to win more for Christ.

On behalf of the Witness Team, we want to thank all of you in your areas of ministry for your work in reaching others for Jesus Christ.

~ Ray Amos, Jr., Chair

HISPANIC/LATINO LEADERSHIP TEAM

During this past year, the Hispanic Ministry Team has helped to fund ministries in seven locations in the Holston Conference. These ongoing and new ministries are intended to strengthen the witness that we have among Hispanic and Latino communities throughout the Holston Conference.

We have about 40 leaders from these Hispanic congregations who are participating in INFORM classes. The purpose of these classes is to “equip Christian, Hispanic/Latino laypersons with the basic knowledge, skills, and experiences such that they would serve their churches and society in a creative, holistic, and relevant manner.” Completion of this program can lead to certification as a Lay Servant in the church.

We are also helping to provide opportunities for a spiritual retreat for the Hispanic pastors within our conference in cooperation with the Walk to Emmaus. Pastors will be sponsored as pilgrims in the walk with the hope that they will find refreshment and love through the agape of God's people.

Youth are being encouraged to participate in events, such as Resurrection, Youth Assembly, Discovery, etc. Also, we are working with Emory and Henry College to make sure that young Hispanic/Latino persons are able to go to the Defining Moments program to explore the possibility of working in ministry.

In addition to these items, the Hispanic Ministry Coordinator for the conference, Arturo Reyna, is available to help any church begin a conversation on how to establish relationships with Hispanic/Latino persons in your community. New opportunities for ministry are appearing all of the time.

In a time when our world is struggling with how we are to live together in the world, it is time for the Church of Jesus Christ to offer a welcoming, loving presence in our communities that will help us to see beyond the outside of our neighbors and into their hearts.

~ Tony Collins, Chair
## Churches of Excellence in Evangelism

### Abingdon District

**GOLD**
- Pleasant View

**SILVER**
- Addilynn Memorial
- First, Marion
- Hunt Memorial
- Lebanon Memorial
- Shady Grove
- Sinking Springs
- South Bristol
- State Street
- Three Springs
- Weaver

**BRONZE**
- Abingdon
- Anderson Street
- Blackwell’s Chapel
- First, Bristol
- First, Mountain City
- Grace
- John Wesley
- Roberts Chapel
- St. John
- Trinity
- Virginia Avenue
- Wallace

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Reynolds Memorial
- Washington Springs
- Wharf Hill

### Big Stone Gap District

**BRONZE**
- Culbertson’s Chapel
- East Stone Gap
- Fort Gibson
- Hales Chapel

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Mt. Vernon
- New Hope
- Nottingham
- Rye Cove
- Slant

### Chattanooga District

**GOLD**
- Christ
- Pikeville
- Pleasant Grove

**SILVER**
- Cokesbury UMC, White Oak
- First-Centenary
- Signal Crest
- Wauhatchie

**BRONZE**
- Chapel Hill
- New Salem
- Red Bank
- Stanley

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- East Ridge
- Fairview
- Payne’s Chapel
- Wesley Memorial

### Cleveland District

**GOLD**
- Allen Memorial
- Broad Street
- First, Cleveland
- Keith Memorial
- St. Paul’s
- Vine Grove

**SILVER**
- Burkett Chapel
- Calhoun

**BRONZE**
- Carlock
- First, Dayton
- Mt. Carmel

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Apison
- Benton
- Black Fox
- Englewood
- Evensville

- Mt. Zion
- Piney Grove
- Pleasant Hill

- First, Copperhill
- Jones Chapel
- Mars Hill
- Pleasant Grove, Etowah
- Red Hill
- Spring Creek
- Wesley Memorial, Etowah
### Churches of Excellence in Evangelism (cont.)

#### Johnson City District

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>McFerrin</td>
<td>Middlesettlements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td></td>
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#### Knoxville District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOLD</th>
<th>SILVER</th>
<th>BRONZE</th>
<th>HONORABLE MENTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beulah</td>
<td>Christ</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Albright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Street</td>
<td>Cokesbury</td>
<td>Emerald Avenue</td>
<td>Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebenezer</td>
<td>Colonial Heights</td>
<td>Middlebrook Pike</td>
<td>Martins Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain City</td>
<td>Kodak</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Mt. Wesley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Life</td>
<td>Piney Grove</td>
<td>St. Mark</td>
<td>Sulphur Springs</td>
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#### Maryville District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>SILVER</th>
<th>BRONZE</th>
<th>HONORABLE MENTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>Cedar Bluff</td>
<td>Axley’s Chapel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckner Memorial</td>
<td>Eden</td>
<td>First, Gatlinburg</td>
<td>Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First, Madisonville</td>
<td>Fairview</td>
<td>Friendsville</td>
<td>Martins Chapel</td>
</tr>
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<td>First, Pigeon Forge</td>
<td>First, Maryville</td>
<td>Burnett Memorial</td>
<td>Mt. Wesley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seymour</td>
<td>First, Sevierville</td>
<td>Fox</td>
<td>Sulphur Springs</td>
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<td>St. John</td>
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<td>Loudon</td>
<td>Union Temple</td>
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<td>Wears Valley</td>
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</table>

| Middle Creek | Pleasant Hill, Philadelphia | |
| | (Roane) | |
| | Tuckaleechee | |
| | Webb’s Creek | |
### Morristown District

**GOLD**
- First, Dandridge
- First, Morristown
- Ottway
- Shady Grove
- Trinity, Morristown

**SILVER**
- Baileyton
- Cedar Grove, New Market
- Liberty Hill
- Mt. Pleasant, Greeneville
- Mt. Zion, Afton
- Pine Grove
- Shiloh, Rutledge

**BRONZE**
- Antioch
- Bruner’s Grove
- Bybee
- Centenary
- Chestnut Hill
- First, Jefferson City
- First, Newport
- George Street
- Hardin’s Chapel
- Hunt’s Chapel
- Mary’s Chapel
- Mt. Hebron
- Mt. Zion, Dandridge
- Mulberry Gap

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- New Market
- Oakland
- Whittenburg
- Woodlawn
- Beth Car
- Caton’s Grove
- Christ
- Ebenezer
- First, White Pine
- Grant
- Hartman’s Chapel
- Hills Union
- Jones Chapel

### Oak Ridge District

**GOLD**
- Central, Lenoir City
- First Farragut
- Kingston
- Luminary

**SILVER**
- Bradbury

**BRONZE**
- Bell’s Campground
- Cawood
- Good Shepherd
- Hansard’s Chapel
- Haven Chapel
- Memorial, Clinton
- Rocky Top

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Sinking Springs
- St. Mark
- Kathleen Memorial
- Red Oak
- Salem
- Zion

### Tazewell District

**GOLD**
- Bland
- Cedar Bluff

**SILVER**
- Bethany
- Coleman’s Chapel

**BRONZE**
- Christ First
- Ebenezer
- First, Bluefield
- First, Narrows

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Main Street
- Pocahontas First
- Bailey
- Hales Chapel

### Wytheville District

**GOLD**
- Fairlawn
- Flat Rock
- Glenwood, Galax

**SILVER**
- Asbury, Galax
- Atkins Memorial
- Bethel, Radford
- Cecil’s Chapel
- Cold Springs
- Falling Branch
- First, Independence
- First, Pulaski
- Grove
- Little Wilson
- Max Meadows

**BRONZE**
- Mt. Olivet, Galax
- Randolph Avenue
- Sidney
- Ashby, Rural Retreat
- Belspring
- Bethany, Independence
- Bethel, Wytheville
- Camp Bethel
- Central, Radford
- Dublin
- Evergreen
- First, Hillsville
- Gladeville
- Glenwood, Barren Springs
- Marvin

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Mountain View, Dublin
- Mt. Ephraim
- Out of the Box
- Rural Retreat
- Thornspring
- West End
- Willis
- Bethany, Max Meadows
- Blue Springs
- Bridle Creek
- Crockett’s Chapel
- Draper
- Ebenezer
- Forest, Ivanhoe
- Fort Chiswell

### Additional Honorable Mentions
- Love’s Memorial
- McCampbell
- Mt. Carmel, Greeneville
- Mt. Pleasant, Talbott
- Parrottsville
- Pleasant Valley
- Seashorn’s Chapel
- Sulphur Springs
- Talley’s Chapel
- Trinity, Greeneville
- Watkins Chapel
- Weems Chapel
- Wesley’s Chapel, Greeneville
- First, Oneida
- Harriman
- Oakdale
- Well Spring
- Kathleen Memorial
- Mt. Zion, Bland
- King’s Grove
- Longview
- Morgan’s Chapel
- Mt. Olivet, Pulaski
- Mt. Pleasant
- Mt. Zion, Elk Creek
- Parrott
- Rockford
- Savannah
- Speedwell
- St. Paul
- Summerfield
- Trinity, Pulaski
Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities during Annual Conference:

**Prayer Room**

**Room of Memories (adjacent to Memorial Chapel)**
7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**5K Run/1-Mile Walk**
7:15 a.m. – Tuesday, June 7. Support the 5K Run/1-Mile Walk to benefit the Annual Conference mission offering: Children in Poverty within the Holston Conference.
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES

2017 Apportionments

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) is recommending the continuation of an income-based approach for funding the Conference budget for 2017. The Holston Conference currently has an apportionment formula that requires churches to submit 10% of their undesignated income to the Holston Conference to pay for non-benefit-related ministries that assist us in Offering Christ to our area and to the world. There are four exclusions to the amount that is included in determining the amount subject to the tithe:

1. Tuition based income (day care, mother’s day out, etc.)
2. Pass through donations sent to unrelated organizations (Advance specials, 5th Sunday offerings, UMCOR, etc.) The amount received matches the amount sent directly to the unrelated organization.
3. Endowment gifts (principal only unless earnings are also donor designated and actually used for such purpose.)
4. Designated funds from donor-designated gifts or capital-related gifts. Designated Funds are not related to operating expenses of the Church. The balance sheet should contain any remaining amounts on hand at the end of the fiscal year.

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

Causes Beyond Those Included in Conference Budget

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

District Superintendents

A. The salary of the district superintendents for 2017 will be $95,010 which is the amount paid in 2016. CFA voted to approve the salary annually using no particular formula.

B. The itemized cost of travel for district superintendents in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed upon requisition to the Office of Financial Services at the IRS recommended rate. Beginning in January of 2016 and continuing for 2017, the district superintendents have requested to be reimbursed at the rate of .50/ mile as a means of addressing the 10% budget reduction request.

C. Actual moving expenses for incoming district superintendents shall be paid from the Cabinet Fund upon requisition to the Conference Treasurer.
D. Direct invoicing costs for the Cabinet shall be paid by the Cabinet budget and the District Superintendent shall be responsible for funding the pastor’s share of the insurance.

E. Adequate funding shall be provided by the districts for the office expense of superintendents.

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

Office of Financial Services

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

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

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

D. The Holston Conference Treasurer shall pay General Church and Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionments at a rate determined after the books close at the end of the year. Deficit spending will be charged against these apportionments.

E. The Holston Conference shall maintain a cash flow reserve policy equal to 90 days of estimated expenditures.

Policies for Boards, Commissions, and Agencies

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

B. All requisitions for any funds shall be submitted on approved vouchers and shall bear the signature of the properly authorized representative of the board, commission, team, agency or staff.

C. The standard travel rate for attendance at meetings of conference boards, teams, commissions and agencies shall be the recommended IRS rate for charitable travel (currently 14 cents per mile) and an additional two cents per person per mile for others traveling in the same vehicle for the same board or agency. The travel rate for paid staff employed by the conference shall be the IRS recommended rate per mile per car or actual cost of public transportation, for travel related to the performance of duties of their office(s).
D. Every district office shall annually submit to Holston Conference Council on Finance and Administration a complete financial report for the previous year showing sources of funding, uses of such funding, and balances in all cash and investment accounts. Such financial reports shall have been reviewed or audited by an independent person prior to submission to Holston Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

Recommendations to the Local Churches

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

B. Charges of the conference shall pay the moving expenses for incoming pastors.

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

D. Church treasurers are reminded that The Book of Discipline 2012, ¶624, requires payment of Ministerial Support items, including minimum salary, in the same proportion as the pastor’s salary is paid. The primary responsibility rests upon the pastor to ensure full payment of the tithe apportionment.

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

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

G. CCFA expects each local church to conduct an annual stewardship campaign and to provide year-round awareness and teaching opportunities to share information about giving and tithing as part of our Wesleyan heritage. CCFA has partnered with the Conference Stewardship Team and the Conference Foundation to provide information, materials, and speakers to assist the local church in performing an annual stewardship campaign and to support stewardship education. We believe that it is vitally important to the spiritual health of our local churches that they have dialogue around the importance of giving and generosity as part of our overall faith development. CCFA is prepared to assist them in this matter.
H. CCFA further encourages the local churches to support all of our conference-related institutions, including Emory & Henry, Hiwassee, and Tennessee Wesleyan Colleges, Holston Home for Children, and Asbury Centers by promoting gifts, grants, and bequests from our members.

I. CCFA additionally encourages the local churches to promote “Fifth Sunday Offerings” in support of Holston Home and the annual “Mother’s Day Offering” in support of the Circle of Friends Endowment for Asbury Centers.

Miscellaneous Recommendations

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

B. The publishing of the 2016 Conference Journal has been contracted with United Graphics, Inc., of Knoxville Tennessee. The price of the 2016 Journal will be determined at a later date. An electronic version will be available online at Holston.org

C. The conference will continue the policy by which any church’s administrative board or council wishing to withhold its proportionate share of the National and/or World Council of Churches payment may do so by communicating this action in writing to the conference treasurer. The treasurer will then notify the church of the amount designated for this cause in the local church tithe and will direct all receipts proportionately to the other causes.

D. The conference will reimburse the members-at-large for a per diem amount of $45 per day (as dictated by the 10% across-the-board budget cut approved by the Annual Conference) with a maximum of 3 days and mileage, for the 2016 Annual Conference. We believe serving as an at-large delegate to Annual Conference is another way for lay members to serve their church. At-large members of the annual conference are elected to equalize the number of lay members with those clergy who are not serving in the local church or are retired (See ¶ 32. Article I, in The Book of Discipline 2012).

The Holston Conference Council on Finance and Administration reminds all churches and agencies of the annual conference that the IRS requires a FORM 1099-MISC for every person receiving non-employee compensation of $600 or more per year. IRS Form W-9 is used to obtain the information for filing the Form 1099-MISC. Also, all churches should be issuing W-2 statements for all employees that are employed by the church. Each church should take great care to insure that they are meeting all of the requirements as outlined by the Internal Revenue Service to maintain the tax-exempt status

~ Terry Muse, President
~ Jeff Lambert, Vice President
~ Rick Cherry, Treasurer
REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Thank you, Churches of the Holston Annual Conference, for joining in our connection by sending in your tithe. We are grateful to each church for their giving. Through our tithe and second mile giving, we are able to equip the ministries of local congregations and to support multiple ministries that are an expression of our commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The majority of Churches have been very faithful and committed to the Tithing Formula. Our conference budget is based on every church fulfilling their commitment to tithe in full. Annual Conference ministries experience financial strain whenever congregations are unable or unwilling to meet the tithe commitment.

The Annual Conference and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) have worked very hard to make necessary changes to live into the tithing formula. In recent years, this has included reduction of conference staff positions through attrition, maintaining current salary levels in 2016 and 2017, and reducing ministry budgets. In addition, superintendents have chosen to reduce their per mile reimbursement rate and to provide additional personal funding to offset meeting expenses. These are some examples of how we continue to look for ways to be resourceful in our ministry spending and to generate additional ministry dollars.

It is disturbing to hear from some members that there is a perception that churches have had to make adjustments in staff, pay, etc. but that the Annual Conference has not had to make changes. We seek to be good stewards of the funds available for our connectional ministry. At the current time, the vast majority of our giving through the tithe along with the receipts from direct invoicing for health insurance and pension costs is used to provide pastoral leadership for our congregations and to support our ministries shared through the General Church ministries of The United Methodist Church. With the remaining funds, we are involved in ministries that connect our children, youth, and adults in a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, we support missions work in our local communities and around the world, and we work to strengthen our existing congregations and to develop new places for ministry.

The Council on Finance and Administration encourages you to learn about our shared ministries through the resources found at www.waytogiveholston.org. There you will find a collection of videos and bulletin inserts that tell some of the wonderful stories of the results of our ministries. You will also find resource information for our ongoing second mile giving to ministry with children in poverty. Please help us share these inspirational stories in our congregations. Thank you, Holston Conference! You’ll never know how many lives you have changed. Way to go! Way to give!

After reviewing the 2015 Year End Statistics, I would like to share with you some of my findings.
664 churches in the Annual Conference paid between 96% and 100% of the calculated Tithe
230 churches in the Annual Conference paid less than 96% of their calculated Tithe
32 churches paid $0 for 2015 (this excludes preaching stations)
If all 894 churches in the Annual Conference paid 100% of the calculated Tithe, we would have received $10,236,078 in 2015.
The 2015 Approved Budget was $10,463,448.

The vast majority of our congregations have shown their commitment to connectional ministries by giving at 100% year after year. For the past several years, we have committed to funding our conference and general church ministries in full. This has resulted in deficit spending which has been supplemented by the use of earnings from our financial reserves and from the reserves themselves. CFA is committed to moving the conference to a balanced budget. As you will recall the Annual Conference approved a 10% budget reduction in 2016. For 2017 the proposed budget represents an additional 4% reduction. The commitment is to honor the historic collection rate from our congregations and to preserve and restore our financial reserves.

It is the commitment of the CFA and my office to help better equip the local churches of The Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to do ministry. It is our core value. District Superintendents work very hard to help local churches pay these tithes. Everything we do on a daily basis is based on that principle. I want every member, in every church, in any position, to feel like they have a valuable resource at their hands when questions arise.

Together through our connection, we can change the lives of people and transform the world in the name of our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Rick Cherry, Conference Treasurer
### HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE
### BENEVOLENT GIVING COMPARISON

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3000 - Peace With Justice</td>
<td>$3,225.60</td>
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<td>6000 - Conference Initiated</td>
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<td>7200 - World Service Special Gifts</td>
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<td><strong>Total Benevolences</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,680,586.65</strong></td>
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<td>MORRISTOWN DISTRICT</td>
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| DISTRICT TOTALS - 2015:    | 164,076 | 1,995 | 70 | 185 | 1,068 | 866 | 374 | 599 | 481 | 733 | 438 | 2,284 | 163,535 | (725) |
# Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

## Proposed 2017 Budget Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2013 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2014 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2015 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Modified** Budget</th>
<th>2017 Requested Budget</th>
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<td>Cabinet</td>
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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

### 2017 Budget Requests

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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### 2017 Budget Requests

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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
#### 2017 Budget Requests

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2017 Budget Requests

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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
#### 2017 Budget Requests

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<th>2017 Requested Budget</th>
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### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
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Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2017 Budget Requests

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### Board of Higher Ed & Campus Ministry

**General and Administrative**
- Meeting, Meals, Travel Expense: $951.43 / $2,500.00 / $1,350.00 / $1,350.00
- BHE/ Ministers Retreat: $507.69 / $0.00 / $0.00 / $0.00
- Campus Ministry Opportunities for Students: $275.00 / $5,000.00 / $4,500.00 / $4,500.00

**Sub-total General & Administrative**: $1,734.12 / $7,500.00 / $5,850.00 / $5,850.00

### Wesley Foundations

**Programs**
- ETSU: $22,797.00 / $22,797.00 / $20,520.00 / $20,520.00
- Radford University: $23,047.70 / $22,797.00 / $20,520.00 / $20,520.00
- UT Chattanooga: $23,029.20 / $22,797.00 / $20,520.00 / $20,520.00
- UT Knoxville: $22,797.00 / $22,797.00 / $20,520.00 / $20,520.00
- UVA College at Wise: $22,797.00 / $22,797.00 / $20,520.00 / $20,520.00

**Sub-total Wesley Foundation Program**: $114,467.90 / $113,985.00 / $102,600.00 / $102,600.00
### 2017 Budget Requests

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>2015 Budget Annual</th>
<th>2016 Budget Annual</th>
<th>2017 Requested Budget</th>
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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2017 Budget Requests

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<th>2016 Budget Annual</th>
<th>2017 Requested Budget</th>
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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2017 Budget Requests

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2017 Budget Requests

#### CONFERENCE OFFICE

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**subtotal Conference Offices** | $263,933.45 | $239,624.00 | $230,556.00 | $230,556.00 |
Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

2017 Budget Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2017 Budget Requests

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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
#### 2017 Budget Requests

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# Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

## 2017 Budget Requests

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<th>2015 Budget Annual</th>
<th>2016 Budget Annual</th>
<th>2017 Requested Budget</th>
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2015 Five Star Churches and 100% Tithe Churches

We want to thank the churches who qualified for the Five Star Award. (To qualify, churches must pay the conference tithe 100% and pay at least $25.00 in each of the four Advance mission categories).

In addition, we would like to thank all the churches who paid their 100% tithe. Those churches are also recognized below.

### Five Star Churches Abingdon District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address Code</th>
<th>Name of Church</th>
<th>Address Code</th>
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<td>410204</td>
<td>Lebanon Chilhowie</td>
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<td>Roberts Chapel</td>
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<td>Addilynn Memorial</td>
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<td>Lebanon Glade</td>
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<td>Seven Mile Ford</td>
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<td>Aldersgate Bristol</td>
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<td>Meadowview</td>
<td>410864</td>
<td>Shady Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beech Grove</td>
<td>410693</td>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>410795</td>
<td>Sinking Springs</td>
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<td>Brumley Gap</td>
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<td>Abingdon</td>
<td>410534</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
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<tr>
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<td>410044</td>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>410556</td>
<td>St John Mt City</td>
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<td>Chilhowie</td>
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<td>New Cove</td>
<td>410972</td>
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<td>Ridgedale</td>
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### Five Star Churches Big Stone Gap District

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<td>410374</td>
<td>Greenwood</td>
<td>410886</td>
<td>Union</td>
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<td>Charles Wesley</td>
<td>965916</td>
<td>Lakeview</td>
<td>411117</td>
<td>Valley View</td>
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<td>Mahanaim</td>
<td>410066</td>
<td>Virginia Avenue Bristol</td>
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<td>Davis Memorial</td>
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<td>Mary’s Chapel</td>
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<td>Washington Springs</td>
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<td>Doe Valley</td>
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### 100% Tithe Churches Abingdon District

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### 100% Tithe Churches Big Stone Gap District

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<td>Dryden</td>
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<td>McClure’s Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holston View</td>
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# Five Star and 100% Tithe Churches (Cont.)

## Five Star Churches Chattanooga District

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## Five Star Churches Cleveland District

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## Five Star Churches Johnson City District

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<td>416358 Wesley Memorial</td>
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## Five Star Churches Chattanooga District

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<td>413231 Haveron’s Chapel</td>
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<td>412588 Lookout Mountain</td>
<td>412726 St Elmo Chattanooga</td>
<td>413402 Wildwood</td>
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## Five Star Churches Cleveland District

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### Five Star Churches Kingsport District

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### 100% Tithe Churches Kingsport District

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### Five Star Churches Knoxville District

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<td>Hopewell</td>
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FIVE STAR AND 100% TITHE CHURCHES (Cont.)

Five Star Churches Morristown District

420225 Asbury
420271 Bales Chapel
966022 Bethel
420076 Bogart’s Chapel
966396 Boyd Chapel
395211 Bradburn Hill
420566 Bybee
420486 Carter’s Chapel
420464 Carter’s Station
420145 Caton’s Grove
420670 Cedar Grove Rutledge
420123 Chestnut Hill
420247 Christ
420214 Economy
396135 Edward’s Chapel
420167 First Dandridge
420305 First Jefferson City
420407 First Morristown
420544 First Newport
100% Tithe Churches Morristown District

420338 Antioch
420010 Baileyton
418995 Beth Car
420384 Centenary
420101 Chestnut Grove
414793 Dotson’s Campground
420065 First Bulls Gap
419988 Fowler’s Grove
420327 George Street
420657 Hunt’s Chapel
420178 Jones Chapel

100% Tithe Churches Oak Ridge District

414851 Bell’s Campground
414703 Bradbury
415558 Cawood
415104 Central Lenoir City
414884 Concord Knox
414920 Dutch Valley
415321 First Oak Ridge
415148 Good Shepherd
414964 Grigsby Chapel
966374 Haven Chapel

Five Star Churches Oak Ridge District

414714 Heiskell
415002 Jacksboro
415343 Kern Memorial
415046 Kingston
415013 LaFollette
413630 Luminary
414760 Martel
415274 Midtown Valley
966363 New Century
95308 Oakdale

100% Tithe Churches Oak Ridge District

415376 Mayes Chapel
414827 Memorial Clinton
415172 Miller’s Chapel Union
41986 Harriman

415761 First White Pine
41262 Glendale
39538 Grant
420293 Hardin’s Chapel
419222 Harmon’s Valley
419294 Harned’s Chapel
396374 Hartman’s Chapel
42080 Mt Hope
419330 Mt Pleasant Tallbott
414838 Mt Pleasant Thorn Hill
420191 Mt Zion Dandridge
419396 O & S Chapel
419512 Oven Creek
396352 River Hill
420806 Russellville

415977 New Market
420236 Noe’s Chapel
419317 Oakland
420588 Panther Springs
420602 Parrottsville
420646 Pine Grove
419944 Romeo
420156 Seashorn’s Chapel
420726 Strawberry Plains
420828 Talley’s Chapel
420351 Trinity Morristown
420373 Weems Chapel
965962 Woodlawn Newport
420098 Zion
420681 Rutledge
420704 Sneadville
419192 Watkins Chapel
420590 Wesley’s Chapel
420043 Wesley’s Chapel
418916 Whittenburg
415445 Rockwood
415081 Rocky Top
414736 Rugby Road
415480 Sinking Springs
415503 Solway
415525 Sunbright
415398 Thompson Chapel
415126 Trinity Lenoir City
414895 Valley View
415627 Well Spring LaFollette

415228 Mt Hermon Knox
415183 New Tazewell
### Five Star Churches Tazewell District

<table>
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<td>422394 Ezelle</td>
<td>Eggleston</td>
<td>Tazewell</td>
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<td>421925 Bethany Ceres</td>
<td>420910</td>
<td>421801 Fairview</td>
<td>Bluefield</td>
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<td>420908 Boyd’s Chapel</td>
<td>420852</td>
<td>421413 Midway</td>
<td>Eggleston</td>
<td>Tazewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>420965 Brown’s Chapel</td>
<td>421721</td>
<td>421696 Steelesburg</td>
<td>Shady Grove</td>
<td>Bland</td>
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### 100% Tithe Churches Tazewell District

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BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry exists for the specific purpose of providing general oversight and care for campus ministries and institutions of higher education, including schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools.

Therefore, this board relates to the three United Methodist institutions of higher education in the Conference:

- Emory & Henry College
- Hiwassee College
- Tennessee Wesleyan College

The board also supervises and administers the ministries on these colleges and on the Wesley Foundations of the campuses of state-related universities within the bounds of Holston:

- East Tennessee State University
- Radford University
- University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- University of Virginia, Wise

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Grace and peace to you from the Office of Spiritual Life at Emory & Henry College! During the 2015-16 academic year, Associate Chaplain Sharon Wiley Wright and I have worked together to support a growing and vital Spiritual Life ministry designed to offer grace, acceptance, and accountability to all of our students.

In August, before most students arrived on campus, the leaders of our student organizations gathered for leadership training led by the Rev. Nicole Hill Krewson and Associate Chaplain Wright. The purpose of this time together was for the leaders to build community and leadership skills, and to determine the best ways to welcome new students to campus. On Sunday during New Student Orientation, all of our Spiritual Life organizations gathered in the dining hall for a meet-and-greet with new students in order to introduce them to our ministries so that they would know we are here to walk with them on their spiritual journey. The Emory United Methodist Church also welcomed many students in worship that day. Our fall kick-off event featured a t-shirt tie dye party and an ice cream social followed by a concert by the Christian artist David Dunn. We welcomed off-campus groups to this event as well.

Each week our campus community has opportunities to gather for worship. Encounter, our contemporary worship service, moved from the traditional Sunday evening time slot to Monday evenings. This new schedule and the intriguing themes addressed drew a larger crowd than in the past few years. Emory United Methodist Church welcomes a number of students to its Sunday
morning services and to its new worship experience, “Gathering Around The Table.” Several guest Christian bands led programs throughout the year. The Association of Religious Diversity also led several interfaith devotions and prayer services.

Campus Christian Fellowship welcomed new and returning students to its beginning of the year picnic on the lawn of Memorial Chapel. Weekly CCF meetings continued throughout the fall and spring semesters with fun game nights, special guest speakers who have shared their faith stories, and a few special occasion meals cooked in the Chapel kitchen.

Our Spiritual Life House, now located in Damer, continues to be an important campus ministry. The students living in the community are committed to developing strong Christian relationships among residents, participation in campus Spiritual Life groups, as well as reaching out to the campus community with events such as Bible studies and spontaneous acts of hospitality, fellowship, and support.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets on Thursdays for a lunch meeting. The group continues to be facilitated by student leaders from our sports teams, including football, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s basketball, softball, baseball, and cross country. Participants also include persons who are not involved in athletics at Emory & Henry, but who have participated in High School and wish to continue this connection in college. Additionally, FCA holds men’s and women’s Bible study meetings each week.

Kerygma’s year began with a retreat at Camp Dickenson in September. Regular biweekly meetings have included persons whose commitment to their faith visibly influences the way they approach the vocations to which they have been called, whether professional church workers or laity within the church. Students shared stories of experiences in which God is working in their lives. Several seminaries also made visits to campus to talk with this group, and Kerygma sponsored a visit to Candler School of Theology.

Expedition meets on Thursday evenings to discuss topics that some people would consider “the harder questions.” This group provides an open format where students can talk candidly about topics important to their faith. Guest speakers are often invited to share their input on particular topics. A new program sponsored by Expedition is “Real Reel.” Each Friday evening, a group of students gathers at the Chapel to eat supper, watch a movie, and discuss important themes in the film and how these things relate to their lives.

In January, our annual MLK Day Celebration examined the theme “Race and Mass Incarceration.” During five days of events to honor Dr. King’s legacy, programming focused on learning about the prison system in the United States and addressed questions about the proportionately high percentage of persons of color who are incarcerated in our country.

January also included two weekends at Holston Conference youth and young adult events. The first of those weekends, four of our students and Chaplain Briggs beat the snow to Pigeon Forge for Resurrection. They joined together to help recruit students to Emory and Henry and to promote the Defining Moments program. On the last weekend of January, a group of students traveled with the chaplains to participate in Divine Rhythm.
During Spring Break, a team of eight students and four faculty/staff traveled to Costa Rica as a part of a study abroad class, Cross Cultural Christian Mission. The group worked with Rice and Beans Ministries to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to experience Costa Rican culture.

Chaplain Briggs served as the director of “Defining Moments,” a program funded by a grant through the GBHEM’s Young Clergy Initiative. This partnership with the Holston Board of Ordained Ministry and the CCYM has worked to identify and nurture young people who are considering a call to ministry. Support from across the conference contributed to the success of the first year of this initiative that has the potential to change the face of young clergy in ministry throughout our denomination. High school students and young adults were led by young clergy mentors who instructed them in several spiritual disciplines, talked with them about the meaning of baptism and communion, and discussed a variety of ministry opportunities with them. The pilot year (2015-16) has been funded by the YCI grant, and the College is committed to at least two additional years in order to help build the proper foundation for a program. The 2016-17 program will begin this July. Anyone in Holston is welcome to nominate potential participants and/or to apply to be a part of this program that we hope will strengthen individual church leadership as well as the culture of nurturing call within the bounds of Holston and beyond. (www.discernmycall.com)

Now having completed my eighth year as the Chaplain at Emory & Henry, I realize how many opportunities I have had to nurture young people who will become the leaders in the church. Associate Chaplain Wright and I are grateful to have the support of our Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry as we strive to serve God in this place that we hold so dear and that works daily to transform the lives of each student.

~ Mary K. Briggs, College Chaplain
www.ehc.edu/spiritual-life

HIWASSEE COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Greetings from the office of Campus Ministry at Hiwassee College! The 2015-2016 year has been an exciting year! Each Wednesday morning, students and faculty gather at 11:00 AM for a time of worship in Chapel. A parade of speakers have challenged everyone with messages. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor; the Rev. Dr. Adam McKee, Superintendent of the Oak Ridge District; the Rev. Mike Sluder, Director of Connectional Ministries for the Holston Conference; the Rev. Asa Majors, pastor at Bethel-Vonore; the Rev. Dr. Al Bowles, retired clergy and current Hiwassee Board of Trustees Chair, were among the many speakers. Our on campus praise band has provided inspiring music and leadership for the Chapel worship service. These chapel services are conducted in the Hiwassee Performing Arts Center which offers good audio/visual technology.

In addition to a small study group for students, other opportunities for growth as a disciple of Jesus are available. This spring a student mission trip ministered to two families in Knoxville. The group worked with Operation Front Porch through the Knoxville Leadership Foundation and the Rev. David Ault in home repair on two homes in Inner City Knoxville. This mission trip had an impact on the community and upon the students who participated.
We have continued to work improving the Chapel Service and continue to look for ways to reach the Hiwassee College community with the Gospel message. We are excited to see how God leads us as we seek to fulfill our calling to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

We are thankful for all the ways the Holston Conference supports our ministries at Hiwassee College. May God richly bless each of you in the same way that God blesses us.

**TENNESSEE WESLEYAN COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Campus ministry at Tennessee Wesleyan College is focused in two primary areas: the weekly meetings of the three main campus ministries groups (Wesleyan Christian Fellowship, Baptist Campus Ministries, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and the weekly Chapel services.

While meeting separately each week, the three campus ministry groups continue to work closely together on a variety of projects, including assisting freshmen and their families on “move-in” day, and by participating as a combined group in Lip Sync, the annual Homecoming talent show. In addition, FCA sponsored a short-term mission trip to the Czech Republic in May 2016 for the purpose of Bible distribution.

This year our weekly Chapel service took place on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel, located on the third floor of Old College. Making this service even more attractive was the fact that each service could also be used as a required Convocation credit, so some students chose to use this service to fulfill all of their five required credits.

Several faculty spoke at these services, including Dr. Augustin Bocco, assistant professor of Foreign Languages; Dr. Sean Hayden, Philosophy professor; and Dr. Sam Roberts, retired Philosophy professor and past chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy. Guest preachers included Rev. Jacob Reedy, associate pastor at Middlebrook Pike UMC; Rev. David Graybeal, pastor at Keith Memorial UMC; Rev. Pat Tipton, youth director at First UMC, Rogersville, and pastor at Kincaid UMC; Rev. Wayne Williams, pastor at First United Presbyterian Church in Athens, TN; and Rev. Adam Love, a TWC and Candler Seminary graduate, and pastor at Kingsley UMC. Other guest speakers included David Scott, former women’s basketball coach at Oak Ridge HS and member of the TWC Athletics Hall of Fame; Cat Fields, former devout Buddhist and now an even more devout follower of Jesus; Don Washburn, Director of Camp Lookout; and Chris Lee, a TWC graduate currently serving as the Contemporary Worship Music Director at First UMC, Maryville.

Dr. Russell Richey, Dean emeritus of Candler School of Theology and William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Church History Emeritus, Emory University, spoke for the Spring Religion and Heritage Day Lectures on February 29 – March 1, 2016. His Monday address was entitled, “The United Methodist Hymnal: Mapping the Christian Journey,” and his Heritage Day address was entitled, “Her Colleges: Shapers of American Methodism.”

A significant event for our campus ministries team was the participation of eleven students in the Urbana 2015 Student Missions Conference held in St.
Louis, MO, during the week of December 27-31, 2015. This event is held every three years and is one of the largest gatherings of college students specifically focused on Christian missions. Dr. Dover and Dr. Bocco accompanied these students as they considered God’s call on their lives on the TWC campus, in the Holston Conference, and in service to the global church. The immediate results of this event included the creation of several inductive Bible studies in the TWC dorms and at least one student planning to do short-term missions work in the summer of 2016.

TWC Campus Ministry once again sponsored the Prayer Room during the Resurrection 2016 weekend, and five TWC students participated with the Young Adults of Keith Memorial UMC in the Divine Rhythm event in late January in Gatlinburg.

The continued support of the Holston Conference for campus ministry at TWC is both deeply appreciated and understood to be a vital part of the ongoing ministry at TWC.

~ Christopher Dover, Chaplain

THE ETSU WESLEY FOUNDATION

This past year ETSU Wesley Foundation board invested much time and resources into capital improvements at the Wesley Foundation building and the Wesley parsonage now known as the Wesley House. With the help of the Holston Conference Trustees and Holston Conference, the three supporting districts (Johnson City, Kingsport, and Morristown), and our board, we were able to address the moisture issues of the Wesley building and restore the parsonage for residential usage by our Wesley students who serve as disciple leaders for our ministry. Special thanks go to Butch and Joyce Jones who oversaw the completions of both projects. We set a goal to raise $70,000. The two projects together cost a little over $70,000. I am happy to report that we were able to raise $82,000 for completion of both projects. There is still some more work to be done on the outside of the parsonage, but we are well on our way to completion. Presently, we have three students living in the Wesley House and serving as Disciple leaders for our ministry. With three more spaces to be filled, we anticipate that we will have all six openings filled in the fall 2016.

Some other highlights from the year include:

• Averaging 70 in attendance for our Tuesday night worship service throughout the fall and early spring semesters.

• The annual barbeque and auction netted $9,649 this year. Since 2001, we have raised $329,740 through our annual barbeque and auction!! Thank you for your support and continued support for the next one! Also, special thanks to Sam and Sharon Barnett for cooking and donating the delicious barbecue!

• Our board gave $12,500 toward the Capital Campaign for the two building projects. This is outstanding!

• Presently we are planning a fundraising banquet for April 8, 2016, called the Generous Portion. I am writing this report in February, so I do not have a total to report. We are hoping to receive $6,000 to $12,000 for our
operating budget. Special thanks to Chris Jacobs, our Assistant Director, and Jessica Sanders, our office manager, for leadership and directing this event.

- Our regular worship service is on Tuesday night. We have a meal that is served at 6:00 p.m. followed by praise music and worship with word and communion. Special thanks to all of the churches that prepare and serve these meals to the students.

- Our leadership team consists of five interns. Each intern has a ministry focus that supports the ministry of ETSU Wesley. The five areas of focus are Local Missions, Fellowship, Hospitality, Campus Outreach, and Recruitment. Each group serves in their area of focus in ministry throughout the semester.

- Our discipleship ministry continues to grow and develop. This model is built on teaching, mentoring, and discipling in small groups consisting of three students and a disciple leader. Every other week the group receives a spiritual lesson on a biblical theme. Every other week the students are given one-on-one time with their D-group leader pursuing spiritual and personal goals. These groups are called Grow Groups. Students in Grow Groups can also choose to lead a group teaching the same lesson that has been taught to them. This line of ministry models after the mission of The United Methodist Church of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

- We have continued with our fall ministry to freshmen and new transfers and gearing up for this coming fall. We had another great group of “Freshley Wesley” this year!

- For our mission trip we went to Motown Missions located in Detroit, Michigan. It is based at Metropolitan United Methodist Church. This church at one time in the 1950’s was the largest United Methodist Church in the world. We did home repair, prepared community gardens, and participated in the “Greening of Detroit” by planting trees.

- A fantastic worship band led by Chris Eger and Matt Sanders.

- 22 attended Divine Rhythm 2016!

- Participated in the Shepherd’s Breakfast, Crumbly House, and Relay 4 Life and other local missions in the Johnson City area. We raised over $500 for Relay for Life for Spring 2015.

- Had a Super Bowl Party where we took up canned goods to give to a local food pantry on campus.

- From the Annual Auction and Barbeque we have given out 10% of the profits to local ministries, such as Buffalo Mountain Camp, Coalition for Kids, Habitat for Humanity, and other ministries. We have given a total of $27,541.30 throughout the years since 2001!

- The Bedford Transou Book Scholarship Fund was established in 2004. This book scholarship is available to ETSU Wesley Alumni who actively participated in the Wesley Foundation while completing their
undergraduate studies at ETSU. Eligible candidates are those who are going to seminary or pursuing other Christian related postgraduate studies. Since 2004, the Bedford Transou Book Scholarship Fund has given out $21,668.52 in book scholarship support! Donations to this important fund are still being encouraged and accepted.

- Chris Jacobs, the assistant director, and Jessica Sanders, the office manager, are doing outstanding work for the Wesley Foundation. Both bring many gifts to the ministry and both are serving in our new discipleship ministry.

Our mission statement continues to be:

"Reaching and encouraging students to grow deeper in their relationship in Christ through community, discipleship, missions, and servanthood”

I am so thankful for this wonderful opportunity to serve as Director of ETSU Wesley! Once again thank you to all the people who support us, especially ETSU Wesley Alumni, and the Johnson City, Kingsport, and Morristown Districts. Please pray for us as we continue to work with God in the building of a culture of discipleship here at Wesley and on the campus of East Tennessee State University.

~ John Ousley, Director

THE RADFORD WESLEY FOUNDATION

Home, hospitality, and relationship remain at the heart of our ministry at the Radford Wesley Foundation. Living Christian hospitality individually and corporately has once again been a goal for our community during 2015-16.

This place of ministry offered by Holston provides opportunity for spiritual growth and development through worship and study. Almost every Monday after our Noon Devotions a student, staff, or faculty member pulls me aside to tell me of a significant event in their life. Each time they close with words to this effect: “Your words hit home with me today. I know God brought me here to hear what you had to say.” We all know the words are not of my doing, but what God has to say through me. Someone finds resolution to an ongoing problem because God speaks through me. Someone else’s troubled relationship is restored because this time the story of forgiveness and redemption hits home with them. A student feels the love and hospitality of the 887 Holston congregations who believe that every student’s life matters matters enough to
provide sanctuary, ministry, and love through the many people who work and volunteer through collegiate ministry.

During this academic year Wesley involved and engaged students in ministry and programs that would have been otherwise cost-prohibitive. We took 10 young adults to Holston’s Divine Rhythm in Gatlinburg, TN. Hotel and transportation costs alone would have prevented most of our students from attending. Hearing and seeing how the students responded to the Word, music, and community of the weekend led me to thank God for your faithful sponsorship. Last January we were able to help a student who had a detached retina over Christmas break. Following repair surgery in her hometown, she was able to start Spring Semester on January 18th. The following weekend she had to have the surgery repeated in Roanoke. Her mom, who is on disability, was able to make the trip to be with her daughter but had no place to stay except her daughter’s residence hall. Wesley secured motel accommodations here in Radford and in Roanoke near the hospital. A safe, clean place to stay before and after surgery in the middle of an ice storm meant the world to these women. There is no doubt that receiving shelter, nourishing food, and transportation while in crisis in an unfamiliar city lessened their anxiety and allowed them to focus on the crucial issue of the young woman’s vision.

Being accepted on a college campus is no small matter. Statistics show that being alone with no sense of connection is one of the top reasons students leave college during the first semester. Connection with other students, acceptance, and a place to be welcomed are key elements of the ongoing hospitality at the Radford Wesley Foundation. Our students work to find ways to openly and passionately affirm those who may not readily find a niche or whose lives may be complicated by special circumstances or whose backgrounds may set them apart from the majority of students. Currently, we have a self-proclaimed atheist sharing in our ministry. God’s touch on this young man is already evident as he now converses about issues of faith and occasionally shares in program discussions with the group. Our prayer is that he will hear God speak through one of us and fully commit himself to a life in Christ.

This is but a part of our story…our story of God working through your United Methodist presence on the campus at Radford University…our story of God using ordinary people and places to do extraordinary things as only God can…our story of lives being powerfully and permanently changed because someone cares enough to listen, to challenge, to question, to pray, and even to cry with students who are in the midst of these years of temptation and rebellion and transition and examination and discernment. Many students are offered a place by your generosity and commitment to ministry for and with college students. Our students may or may not be from Holston, but they are entrusted to us for ministry during their years of higher education within our bounds just as we entrust our students to collegiate ministries outside of Holston.

~ Martee Buchanan, Director
THE WESLEY CENTER AT UT CHATTANOOGA

The story of our ministry includes the Physical Therapy students who wanted to share their Christmas with a family who could use the help. Those students came to the Wesley Center for help in locating those families, and we were able to get them connected with East Ridge Cares For Kids. The two families selected probably received much more than they expected, and the students even included gift cards for Wally’s so the Moms could take their children out for a nice Christmas dinner. Those same students have now come back to us this semester, asking if they can use the building for a weekly PT student Bible study. We are in a great position to help students participate in the story God is telling.

This spring we returned to Epworth By The Sea for our end-of-the-year Mission Trip to South Georgia. Students from the Wesley Foundation at UVA Wise joined us on this trip along with some friends from Tennessee Wesleyan.

Students and alumni have been sending us “selfie videos” for both recruiting and fundraising, so watch our Facebook page for those. If you are an alumnus of the Wesley Center and would like to make your own selfie video about what the Wesley has done for you, please check out our fan page on Facebook. You can find it by searching for the Wesley Center @ Chattanooga.

The participants, the Board of Directors, and the staff of the Wesley Center thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to sharing more stories of our young adults in the future.

~ Keith Moore, Director

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT UTK

Greetings to you from your Wesley Foundation at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville! This has been a year of wonderful growth in our 94th year of campus ministry at UTK. We have welcomed many new first-year and graduate students into the life of the Wesley Foundation who have become active student-leaders in this community. We seek to be a home away from home by providing a welcoming and nurturing environment on the university campus. Through worship, fellowship, study, and service we seek to build an open and diverse Christian community.

Our weekly programs include worship, two free meals, Bible studies, and other small group gatherings. Our worship times have been lively and joyful times to gather and see what God is doing. We also enjoy fellowship times through our Friday Night Stuff program, and other community outings. We continue
to expand our ministry to graduate students, which is helping us to increase
the number of student participants. Our strong resident program has helped to
make the Wesley Foundation home for eight UT students who help to make it a
welcoming environment for all.

We have forged new partnerships with three local churches to help meet the
growing needs of our community. We have partnered with Central United
Methodist Church to provide a student intern who is in the process of discerning
a call to ordained ministry. With a growing need for recovery ministry, we have
joined with Church Street to form Recovery Downtown, which provided a time
of healing worship and powerful small group studies to help participants take
important steps toward recovery in its many forms. We also celebrate a growing
relationship with First United Methodist Church to provide a student intern for
community ministry and to partner-up on new opportunities for reaching our
community.

Our Board of Directors continues its focus on our long-range goals and how to
bring our facilities into the 21st century. We continue to prioritize projects and
develop plans for fundraising and endowment development.

We are thrilled to be a recipient of a grant from The Lilly Endowment to develop
and launch a new program in their Theological Exploration of Vocation Initiative.
This five-year plan helps students to better understand their gifts and graces
and how to implement them in faithful ways in their communities. Through
service learning, reflection, internships, and mission events, the students in our
community can better discern who they are designed to be and what God is
calling them to do.

Our students have been planning fundraising events and exploring ways to
become active volunteers in community service agencies in the Knoxville area.
We have worked with Lost Sheep Ministry, Stop Hunger Now, Second Harvest
Food Bank, Knox Area Rescue Ministries, F.I.S.H. Food Pantry, and area local
churches to provide helping services to the community.

I am excited to see the many ways that God is working in the lives of these young
people and look forward to seeing them help usher in the realm of God. Let us
continue to lift them up in prayer, and strive to work together to support them
as they seek out their calling in life and faith. We thank you for your prayerful
support!

~ Rev. Tim Kobler, Director

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT UVA-WISE

This year has been a year of transformation at Wesley. Wesley is a conduit
through which the lives of students, faculty, and staff are changed by God.
Our student leaders insist the Church is a vital part of their lives and exemplify
a strong commitment to following Jesus. I have been fortunate to glimpse
transformation of the world through these disciples! Wesley remains committed
to engaging and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ to nurture their faith, to
reach out and serve, and to tell the Christian story to those around them.

Wesley is an open and inclusive community of worship. Through seeking to be
like Jesus, participants in Wesley ministries extend hospitality towards all those
in the UVa-Wise community. During the fall a student reported at the conclusion of a book study that he was “now doubting [his] atheism.” Another student pursued candidacy for ordination and is now providing pastoral leadership at a local church. A diverse group of students, faculty, and staff began meeting for mid-week theological discussions. Outreach to the campus, Wise community, and opportunities for longer service-oriented trips were offered and participated in. Wesley held weekly worship services throughout the year. Faculty and staff women met weekly at Wesley to pray for each other, the campus, and community. The development of Christian leaders who give attention to ministries of compassion and justice is at the heart of Wesley ministries.

The Wesley Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan to ensure Jesus remains the focus of why The United Methodist Church has a presence at UVa-Wise for many years to come. The Plan focuses on three major areas: ministry, administration, and finance. Ministries are being developed and continue in the areas of nurture, outreach, witness, and leadership development. Nearly 100 students attended the opening event for the academic year, and many more were reached through the wide variety of ministries at Wesley. Wesley joined other collegiate ministries from Holston Conference to increase the opportunities to grow and serve. Ministry is partnered with administration and finance.

In the area of administration Wesley celebrates that I have now served 13 years as director in a field where consistency is often only found in the campus minister. I am currently the only full-time, professional campus minister serving at UVa-Wise. Volunteers have made an impact at Wesley through cooking and serving meals, participating in service and outreach opportunities, and leading studies and/or worship. Thank you to those of you who have given of your talents and time to serve at Wesley! I celebrate our connection and partnership with local churches in mission and ministry. We serve Christ better together. Work will be completed in the coming year to engage alumni. If you are an alumnus of UVa-Wise (or then Clinch Valley College), please let me know so I can invite you to our upcoming alumni reception.

In the area of finance Wesley celebrates that with your generous help we have Raised the Roof! In November 2014 a capital campaign began to replace the original Wesley roof after over 40 years. With God all things are possible. On August 18, 2015, Wesley had a note burning ceremony because the roof had been fully funded (over $72,000) through the extremely generous support of individuals, churches, and groups. THANK YOU! In just over 18 months God provided a new roof for Wesley which means lives will continue to be changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ for many more years. The Board has begun work on Funding the Future at Wesley so that many more lives are touched by the ministry of The United Methodist Church at UVa-Wise.

As students, faculty, and staff embody a faith that transforms the world I find myself excited about the future of The UMC. I can’t wait to behold the wonders of what God has in store in the upcoming year. How will the Holy Spirit move on our campus? Who will respond to the call of Jesus Christ? Please pray with and for Wesley so that disciples can be made for the transformation of the world.

~ Rev. Beth Tipton, Director
BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY REPORT

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” ~ Ephesians 3:14-17 (NIV)

The Conference Board of Lay Ministry is comprised of the twelve District Lay Leaders, Conference Presidents of United Methodist Women, Men, and Youth, the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, 5 members-at-large and Cabinet representatives. I am privileged to serve as the chairperson of this hard-working group as part of my responsibilities as Conference Lay Leader. I am pleased to offer this report of our activities since the last Annual Conference session.

Extended Cabinet: One of the most enjoyable and enlightening parts of my job as Conference Lay Leader is serving as a member of the Extended Cabinet (Book of Discipline (2012), ¶ 607). I appreciate the diligent efforts of Bishop Taylor, the District Superintendents, and the Conference staff to shepherd the resources of Holston Conference so that the Gospel message is proclaimed and lives are transformed. It is an honor to work alongside these servants of the Kingdom and to call them my friends. I can report, without reservation, that the commitment to laity and clergy working together as partners in ministry is strong within our conference leadership structure, and I pray that we serve as good examples of the concept of partnership ministry for all the congregations in our annual conference.

Lay Servant Ministries: At last year’s Annual Conference session, we celebrated the first group of persons to be recognized as Certified Lay Speakers following the changes made to that office by action of the 2012 General Conference. The Board is grateful for the continued work of our Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Jon Pursley, as he provides guidance to the district directors and others involved in this important ministry to help them navigate the Book of Discipline’s requirements for training and deploying lay servants and lay speakers. We have a strong network of lay servant ministers across all of our districts, and training events occur regularly throughout the year. I encourage you to contact your district office and consult the calendar of events on the Holston website for more information about these training and service opportunities.

Prayer Ministries: The Board, in partnership with the Chaplain of the Annual Conference session, is providing prayer resources and opportunities for meditation, reflection, and prayer at Lake Junaluska during the Annual Conference session again this year. Last year, we celebrated the creation and consecration of over 10,000 pocket prayer shawls by members of Holston congregations. As a result of this God-sized response to the invitation to show prayerful support for the work of lay and clergy members of the annual conference, we offered the gift of a prayer cloth to every member, guest, and visitor of the annual conference present at Lake Junaluska last June. Lay and clergy members took approximately 7,500 of the cloths back to their home churches to be used in a variety of ways and, hopefully, to inspire new and innovative prayer ministries in their communities. Throughout the course of the past year, other groups have requested some of the
remaining prayer cloths for use in mission trips and spiritual enrichment events. As I am writing this report, we are in the process of packaging the last group of cloths to be shipped to Portland, Oregon, and distributed to the 864 delegates to the 2016 General Conference. When all is said and done, this simple ministry of our conference will have touched the lives of thousands of people in our communities and around the world. Thanks be to God!

As I interact during the year with lay and clergy from across Holston by visiting congregations and districts, attending meetings and training events, and working together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, I hear stories of ministry that inspire and encourage me. So many of the new and different ways God is helping us be the Church are led and staffed by laity.

Thank you for doing instead of just planning; thank you for serving instead of waiting to be served; thank you for loving all your neighbors, according to the teaching of Christ. May God continue to richly bless your faithful labors on behalf of the Kingdom.

~ Del Holley, Conference Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Since the 2015 Annual Conference, Holston Conference United Methodist Women have been busy doing the work of living out our Purpose. The United Methodist Women of Holston Conference met and exceeded our pledge to Mission Giving. Our 2015 pledge amount was $281,547, and Mission Giving was $281,688.40.

We assembled on July 16-18 for our “Mission U” at Central United Methodist Church in Lenoir City, TN.

Study Leaders Anne Travis, Brad Scott, and Nancy Hobbs led the Spiritual Growth study entitled “Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God.” Mike Feely and Becky Hall led the geographic study entitled “Latin America.” Rev. Brian Burch led the Social Action study entitled “The Church and People with Disabilities.” Carol Alley and Sharlene Spaulding led the children’s study entitled “Latin America.” Music leader was Dr. Trevor Smith.

Our Social Action Workshop on August 8 was held at First United Methodist Church in Sevierville, TN. Subjects discussed were Creation Care and the saving of our earth. Program participants were Brenda Haymore and Rev. Kathleen Stone from the UMW National Office. The meeting was attended by more than 120 women, and a hands-on mission project of backpack kits filled with school supplies for UMCOR Sager-Brown were brought by the multitudes.

Our 42nd Annual Meeting/Officer Training was held at Lake Junaluska, NC, September 18-19, 2015. Keynote Speaker was Rev. Rhonda Hobbs. Trevor Smith served as music leader and Gail Morris accompanist for this event. The attendees were blessed with a mini concert by Trevor Smith and Gail Morris. Mollie Vickery from the United Methodist Women’s National Office installed the new officers for 2016. Officer training for district officers was conducted following the business session of the annual meeting and included UMW 101 led by Mollie Vickery. The United Methodist Women are preparing for the celebration of “Legacy of 150 Years” which will be held in 2019. A video was
presented on the legacy of UMW, how it began and progressed to the present time.

United Methodist Women’s Special Mission Project for 2015 was “Big Stone Gap Church and Community Project.” The twelve districts in the conference contributed $7,355.00 to this project.

During 2015 Spanish-version Bibles were ordered along with interpretation equipment and recorded Bibles on audio devices for ladies who do not read. A very successful Hispanic Ministries Retreat was held again at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in May, especially for Hispanic-speaking women, youth and children. The women were blessed by being able to shop and take home cleaning supplies, personal items, and other supplies furnished by UMW districts in the conference. Requests have been made of the Hispanic Ministries for Bilingual Bibles for youth, some of which have been provided. Another project being pursued is Bibles for Hispanic males.

The Sisters in Service (SIS) Event was held March 14-15, 2015, at the River Plantation Convention Center in Sevierville, TN. The theme for the event was “Best Yes – Redirecting Our Life’s Choices.” Kim Mink, Director of Family Ministries at Concord United Methodist Church in Knoxville, was the retreat leader. The attendance at this event continues to grow, and with publicity furnished at Resurrection and Divine Rhythm, several ladies were attracted to attend.

The Spiritual Enrichment Experience was held at Lake Junaluska on April 25-26. Rev. Amy Probst, Pastor of First Farragut United Methodist Church, was the keynote speaker for this event. Music Leaders were Tawana Teague and Frederica Cook of the Abingdon District, who were joined by Tina Morgan, liturgical dancer from the Cleveland District.

This year the United Methodist Women have concentrated on how they can combat Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence, protecting our women, young and older, who are victims of these horrible crimes. Some districts/units have been attending forums on this matter, and we are all committed to working toward helping our country to protect these victims. Many units have adopted the “Umbrella” approach with signs displayed at their churches, district events, and more important at events where this crime is most prevalent.

Our goal every year is to help MISSION come alive for Women, Youth, and Children of Holston Conference. We are working to structure our programs and activities in ways that will attract young women and teens to become members of this great mission-oriented organization. We strive to live according to Jesus’ command to us: “Whatever you do for one of the least of these children of mine, you do for me.”

~ Lynice Broyles, President
Holston Conference UMW
The 2015 Holston Conference Secretaries Association annual conference and business meeting was held on September 17-18, in Alcoa, TN. Workshop topics included Exploring Adobe Acrobat, Membership and Church Rolls, Finance – Online Tutorials, and Office Safety. Rev. Randy Pasqua (Executive Director, Camp and Retreat Ministries) and Don Washburn (Director, Camp Lookout) led us in worship and communion.

For our mission project, we sought to help children in crisis. When police officers respond to emergency calls, there are often children involved. To help comfort the children, officers keep such items as teddy bears, children’s books, and blankets in their cruisers. We asked each participant to contribute one or more of these items, which were then donated to the Alcoa and Maryville Police Departments.

The Holston Conference Secretaries Association (HCSA) has been a chapter of PAUMCS, the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (under the GCFA umbrella), for several years. During this year’s business meeting, members voted to become an inactive chapter of PAUMCS, but we will continue to hold a ministry and training event for administrative staff in Holston Conference.

The goals of the Holston Administrative Professionals conference and retreat, as the event shall now be known, remain the same:

- To improve job quality and performance;
- To promote individual growth and personal development;
- To increase understanding and knowledge of new technologies;
- To deepen spiritual understanding and enrichment.

The conference and retreat will be organized as usual except for the absence of a business meeting.

We would like to thank our pastors for supporting and financing the professional development of their ministry assistants through participation in our annual training event. The 2016 Holston Administrative Professionals Conference and Retreat will take place September 28-30, 2016, at SpringHill Suites in Chattanooga, TN. For more information, please email karenwright@holston.org.

~ Karen Wright
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Nominees are printed to be elected by the 2016 Annual Conference. Cabinet representatives will be appointed by the Resident Bishop and shall begin service following the close of the 2016 Annual Conference.

CABINET

Chairperson: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Executive Assistant to the Bishop: Carol E. Wilson
Dean: Charles W. Maynard

Appointment Cabinet (District Superintendents)

Thomas T. Ballard  Sandra J. Johnson  Adam E. McKee III
Brenda F. Carroll  Eilhugh J. Kilgore  J. David Tabor
Lauri Jo Cranford  Nathan A. Malone  Walter P. Weikel
Kimberly M. Goddard  Charles W. Maynard  Jeffrey W. Wright

Extended Cabinet (all of the above as well as):

Conference Lay Leader: James D. Holley, Jr., “Del”
Conference Secretary/Director of Clergy Services: Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services: F. Richard Cherry, “Rick”
Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization: J. Russell Taylor, “Rusty”
Director of Connectional Ministries: Mike Sluder
Executive Director, Holston Conference Foundation: Roger Redding

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson: Chuck Griffin
Vice Chairperson: Tim Jones
Secretary: Caroline Lamar

Ex-Officio Members:

Annette Spence
Brent Sharp
Donna Hankins
Millie Meese
Carol Wilson
Charles Maynard

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson: Becky Hall
Vice-Chairperson: Ronnie Collins
Secretary: Brian Burch

Ex-Officio Members:

Rusty Taylor
Mike Sluder, Carol Wilson
BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Chairperson  Del Holley
Vice Chairperson  Becky Hall
Secretary  Diane James

District Lay Leaders:
- Sue Tilson (AB)
- Mary Baker (BI)
- Becky Hall (CH)
- Kelli Bracken (CL)
- Jan Goodsell (JO)
- Mary Ruth Richards (KI)
- Brenda Haymore (KN)
- Larry Martin (MA)
- Dan Duggar (MO)
- Diane James (OA)
- Deborah Neal (TA)
- Alan Hawthorne (WY)

Conference Presidents:
- United Methodist Men  Eric Knoefel
- United Methodist Women  Lynice Broyles
- United Methodist Youth  Olivia Kelly

Members-at-Large:
- Harold Brown (CH)(1)
- Audrey Jackson (OA)(1)
- Kay Phillips (MA)(1)
- Kelly Price (MO)(1)
- Velena Wheatly (BI)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
- Resident Bishop  Mary Virginia Taylor
- Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry  Jon Pursley
- Cabinet Representatives  Adam E. McKee III, Thomas Ballard

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Chairperson  Magan Stubblefield
Vice Chairperson  Chris Lee
Secretary  Ralph Kidd

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
- (C) Brian Davis (CH)(1)
- (C) Ila Schepisi (WY)(1)
- (L) Butch Jones (JO)(1)
- (C) Barbara Doyle (AB)(1)
- (C) Magan Stubblefield (TA)(1)
- **(L) Chris Lee (MA)(1)
- (C) Natalie Justice (JO)(1)
- (L) Megan Fields (OA)(1)
- (L) David Schoeni (MA)(1)
- (C) Ralph Kidd (AB)(2)
- (L) Shawna Hart (CL)(1)
- (L) Mark Wilson (KN)(1)

Young Adult Team Representative  **Chris Lee (MA)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
- Staff Resource  Laura McLean
- Cabinet Representative  TBD
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Chairperson Elizabeth Hamilton
Vice Chairperson Paige Wimberly
Secretary Will Shelton

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Amy Aycock (KN) (1) (C) Estel Williams (JO)(1)
(C) Elizabeth Hamilton (AB)(1) (C) Paige Wimberly (OA)(1)
(C) James David Neel (1) (L) Lisa Black (CH) (1)
(C) Carl Marshall (WY)(1) (L) Clayton Hensley (OA)(1)
(C) Will Shelton (CL)(1) (L) Renni Morris (OA)(1)
(C) Betsy Switzer (1) (L) Donna Tisdale (CL)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Lay Leader Del Holley
Chair, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Magan Stubblefield
Director of Connectional Ministries Mike Sluder

Chairpersons with vote:
Missions Ministry Team Tom Hancock
Nurture Ministry Team Leanna Johnson
Outreach/Advocacy Ministry Team Susan Montgomery
Stewardship Ministry Team Debbie Stokes
Witness Ministry Team Ray Amos, Jr.

Representatives without vote (named by respective groups):
Board of Ordained Ministry Charlie Harrison
Communications Advisory Council Donna Hankins, Chuck Griffin
Staff Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative Jeffrey Wright

AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRY TASK FORCE OF THE DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

(C) Bobby Black (C) Carl Marshall (L) Susan Montgomery
(C) Estel Williams (C) Paige Wimberly (L) Deborah Neal

Representative, Religion & Race Walter Cross
Director of Connectional Ministry Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative Adam McKee

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson Tom Hancock
Vice Chairperson Jerry Russell
Secretary LaRae Collins

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Chris Brown (KI)(1) (C) Rosa Slavik (AB)(1) (L) Linda Bernick (WY)(1)
(C) Randy Frye (KN)(1) (C) Melissa Smith (WY)(1) (L) Kelly Bracken (CL)(1)
(C) Tom Hancock (KI)(1) (C) Beth Tipton (BI)(1) (L) LeRae Collins (KN)(1)
(C) Robert Nyaga (AB)(1) (L) Sam Barnett (JO)(1) (L) Charlotte DeLozier (OA)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Chair, Advance Norma Smith
Chair, Church and Community Worker Committee Terry Goodman
Coordinator of South Sundan Missions Danny Howe
Districts Mission Secretaries
UMW Representative Marshene McClurg
Volunteer in Mission Coordinator Bill Campbell
Director Connectional Ministries/Missions/
Conference Secretary of Global Ministries/Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES
Chairperson Vicki Collins
Vice Chairperson Bomba Easter
Secretary Faith Ramer

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
(C) Susan Lankford (KJ)(1) (C) Faith Ramer (BI)(1) (L) Vicki Collins (OA)(1)
(C) Mike Pinner (JO)(1) (L) Bomba Easter (OA)(1) (L) Patricia Guthrie (KN)(1)
Ex-Officio Members:
Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder

NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM
Chairperson Leanna Johnson
Vice Chairperson Daniel Ogle
Secretary Sarah Slack

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
(C) Adam Love (KI)(1) (L) Alan Eleazer (MA)(1)
(C) Daniel Ogle (KN)(1) (L) Lisa Howard (OA)(1)
(C) Ken Sauer (CH)(1) (L) Leanna Johnson (JO)(1)
(C) Reed Shell (CH)(1) (L) Tina Morgan (CL)(1)
(C) Sarah M. Slack (MA)(1) (L) Prue Oxendine (AB)(1)
(C) Donald Swift (KN)(1) (L) Joe Penland (MA)(1)
Representatives with vote (named by respective groups):
Camp and Retreat Ministries Board Children’s Ministries Team
Young Adult Ministry Team Council on Youth Ministries
Board of Lay Ministry Representative Del Holley
Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES TEAM
Chairperson Jaymie Derden
Vice Chairperson Melia Warren
Secretary Ashley Wade

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
(C) Christi Boaz Taylor (KJ)(1) (L) Jaymie Derden (AB)(1) (L) Karen Throp (KJ)(1)
(C) Ray Bolen (WY)(1) (L) Will Hubbs (MA)(1) (L) Ashley Wade (CH)(1)
(C) T. J. Burdine (CL)(1) (L) Rob Saunders (MO)(1) (L) Melia Warren (CH)(1)
Ex-Officio Members:
Staff Resource Gaye King
Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES
(Members are elected by Districts)
CCYM President Olivia Kelly
Coordinator of District Coordinators Pat Tipton
Coordinator of Youth Ministries Laura McLean
Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson Keith Moore
Vice Chairperson Betzy Elifrits Warren
Secretary Matt Park

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Bethany Douty (MO)(1) (C) Caleb Frazier (KI)(1) (L) Chris Lee (MA)(1)
(C) Betzy Elifrits Warren (TA)(1) (L) Jacob Ducote (CH)(1) (L) Ashley Lockridge (OA)(1)
(C) Edna Warrick Lopez (MA)(1) (L) Katie Jackson (JO)(1) (L) Matt Park (CL)(1)
(C) Don Petty (MO)(1) (L) Jon Kilgore (WY)(1) (L) Zack Roskop (OA)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Divine Rhythm Design Team Representative Elizabeth Parr
Campus Ministries Representative Keith Moore
Staff Resource Laura Lambert
Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder

CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY BOARD

Chairperson David Grant
Vice Chairperson TBD
Secretary Sarah Varnell

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Aaron Atchley (TA)(1) (C) Joe Phillips (CL)(1) (L) Leslie Bright (KI)(1)
(C) Brandon Berg (WY)(5) (C) Jack Porter (MA)(1) (L) Linda Clark (KN)(1)
(C) Leann Crandall (TA)(1) (C) Sarah Varnell (KN)(1) (L) Mark Lay (CL)(1)
(C) David Grant (OA)(1) (L) Alan Ashworth (TA)(1) (L) Linda Schumann (MO)(1)
(C) Matthew Hampton (KN)(1) (L) Rachel Barnett (JO)(1) (L) Sarah Wimmer (MA)(1)
(L) Wes Bradley (JO)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Director of Connectional Ministries Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative Walter Weikel
Camp and Retreat Ministries Executive Director Randall C. Pasqua
Site Directors Tony Lea, Michael Snow, Jeff Wadley, Donald Washburn
Site Board Chairpersons David Bradshaw, Brad Overturf, Robin Rogers, Ed Terry

OUTREACH/ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson Susan Montgomery
Vice Chairperson Anna Lee
Secretary Linda Stransky

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Daniel Castillo (MA)(1) (L) Jim Cooper (KI)(1) (L) Phyllis Miller (JO)(1)
(C) Cynthia Frye (AB)(1) (L) Gretchen Hakola-Penn (OA)(1) (L) Susan Montgomery (OA)(1)
(C) Linda Rozar (JO)(1) (L) Anna Lee (KN)(1) (L) Rachel Patman (MO)(1)
(C) Linda Stransky (AB)(1) (L) Charlotte McKee (OA)(1) (L) Koni Purscell (BD)(1)

Chairperson, Religion and Race Elston McLain
Chairperson, Status and Role of Women Jodie Hancock
Chairperson, Creation Care Brenda Haymore

Ex-Officio Members (named by the Team):
Representative, Alcohol and Related Issues Rance Edwards
Representative, Holston UM Home for Children Nicole Krewson
Coordinator, Peace with Justice Kevin Blue
Representative, Native American Ministries TBD
Chairperson, Strength for the Journey Tim Kobler
General Board of Church and Society Don Hanshew
Staff Resource Gaye King
Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder, David Tabor
STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY TEAM

Chairperson         Tim Kobler
Vice Chairperson    Don Jones
Secretary           Betty Yeomans-Barton

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
(C) C. Don Jones (MO)(1) (C) Don Petty (MO)(1) (L) Chris Bowles (CH)(1)
(C) Tim Kobler (KN)(1)  (C) Al Shaver (MA)(1)  (L) Joseph Rhymer (AB)(1)
(C) Dennis Loy (MO)     (C) Jan Thomas (KN)(1) (L) Betty Yeomans-Barton (JO)(1)

Ex-Officio
Founder             Dot Avers
Staff Resource      Gaye King
Cabinet Representative Walter Weikel

COMMITTEE ON RELIGION AND RACE

Chairperson         Elston McLain

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
(C) Walter Cross (KN)(1) (L) Elizabeth Hernandez-Lopez (WY)(1)
(C) Susan Lankford (KI)(1) (L) David Lee (AB)(1)
(C) Rochelle Maxwell (WY)(1) (L) Charlotte McKee (OA)(1)
(C) Elston McLain (CH)(1)  (L) Terry Mullins (TA)(1)
(L) Leah Burns (KN)(1)   (L) Dahyam Olivera (MA)(1)
(L) Tepa Bigham (CL)(1)  (L) Nathaniel Watson (JO)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Representative, Hispanic Ministry Arturo Reyna
Staff Resource Gaye King
Cabinet Representative Mike Sluder

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson         Terry Goodman
Vice Chairperson    Bobby Black
Secretary           Robert Countiss

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
(C) Bobby Black (CH)(1) (C) Terry Goodman (BI)(1) (L) Carol Alley (KI)(1)
(C) Will Cantrell (OA)(1) (C) David Jackson (AB)(1) (L) Kim Davis (MO)(1)
(C) Robert Countiss (AB)(1) (C) Glenna Manning (OA)(1) (L) Marie Perelman (KN)(1)
(C) Micah Nicolaus (OA)(1) (L) Alex Fesmire Shelton (CL)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Staff Resource TBD
Director of Connectional Ministries Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative Roger Redding
WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson    Ray Amos, Jr.
Vice Chairperson
Secretary    Scott Layer

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Ray Amos, Jr. (KI)(1)    (C) David Hall (CH)(1)    (L) Emily Ballard (AB)(1)
(C) Kristen Burkart (MO)(1)    (C) Scott Layer (MO)(1)    (L) Rick Lay (CL)(1)
(C) Reece Fauscett (CH)(1)    (C) Will Lauderback (CH)(1)    (L) Joyce Moore (AB)(1)
(C) Maria Grimm (WY)(1)    (C) Tim Smith (WY)(2)    (L) Elaine Powell (WY)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Chairperson, Small Membership Congregation Team
Chairperson, Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team
Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization
Director of Connectional Ministries
Cabinet Representatives

SMALL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION TEAM

Chairperson    Steve Evans
Vice Chairperson    Dan Duggar
Secretary    Annette Warren

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Wayne Cook (CH)(1)    (C) C. Scott Spence (AB)(1)    (L) Terry Frerichs (MA)(1)
(C) Steve Evans (KN)(1)    (C) Michael Teague (AB)(1)    (L) Dan Duggar (MO)(1)
(C) Layne Pennington (BI)(1)    (C) Annette Warren (TA)(1)    (L) Donna Mosby (OA)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Special Advisor
Staff Resource
Cabinet Representative

HISPANIC/LATINO LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chairperson    Tony Collins
Vice Chairperson    Tommy Vanover
Secretary    Mickey Rainwater

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Tony Collins (CL)(1)    (C) Javier Hernandez-Torres (WY)(1)    (L) Pat Bellingrath (KN)(1)
(C) Marta Cogburn (MO)(1)    (C) Susana Lopez (MA)(1)    (L) Kayce Castenir (MA)(1)
(C) Debra Dickerson (CH)    (C) Mickey Rainwater (KI)(1)    (L) David Ketchersid (CL)(1)
(C) Barbara Farmer (AB)    (C) Bradley Stapleton (BI)(1)    (L) Tommy Vanover (JO)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Conference Coordinator
Staff Resource
Cabinet Representative
REPORTS 140

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Secretary
Chair, Division of Elders
Co-Chairs, Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members
Chair, Division of Deacons, Diaconal Concerns and Professional Certification
Chair, Committee on Provisional Mentoring and Recruitment
Chair, Wesley Leadership Institute Committee
Chair, Conference Relations Committee

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

Clergy

Ray Amos, Sr. (JO)(3)
Chris Brown (KI)(2)
Kristen Burkart (MO)(2)
Dawn Chesser (OA)(2)
Kim Goddard (KI)(2)
Anthony Grills (TA)(2)
John Grimm (WY)(3)
Kathy Hale (MA)(2)
Don Hanshew (BI)(2)
Leroy Henry (AB)(2)
Jeannie Higgins (MO)(2)

Jodi Ifhe (CH)(2)
Randy Martin (CL)(2)
Ann Robins (KN)(3)
Paul Seay (KI)(2)
Michael Sluder (MA)(2)
Crystal Smith (OA)(2)
Jane Taylor (JO)(2)
Rusty Taylor (MA)(2)
Ramon Torres (CL)(3)
Annette Warren (TA)(2)
L. Lyle White (CH)(3)

Lay

Leah Burns (KN)(2)
Laura Lambert (KN)(2)
Nancy Tate (KI)(6)

Ex-Officio Members:

Chair, Order of Elders
Chair, Order of Deacons
Co-Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors
Co-Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors
Director, Wesley Leadership Institute
Coordinator, Extension Ministries
Administrative Registrar
Cabinet Representatives

Cabinet Representatives

PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Secretary
Representative, Board of Ordained Ministry
Representative, Partners in Crisis
Steward of Clergy Concerns

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Sharon Bowers (WY)(1)
(C) Cynthia Frye (AB)(1)
(C) Laura Plaster (AB)(1)
(C) Bob Ruth (KN)(1)

(L) Will Shelton (CL)(1)
(L) Kathy Ehrenschwender (KN)(1)
(L) Becki Garland (KN)(1)
(L) David Hudson (CH)(1)

Ann Robins
Nancy Ridenour
Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.

Ex-Officio Members:

Cabinet Representatives
ADMINISTRATION
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

President
TBD
Vice President
Jeff Lambert
Secretary
TBD
Chair, Personnel Committee
Jason Gattis

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Sherrell Boles (KN)(1) (C) Janet S. Richardson (BI)(1) (L) Doug Goddard (MO)(1)
(C) Wil Cantrell (OA)(1) (C) Knox Wimberly (OA)(1) (L) Gary Hunt (AB)(1)
(C) Jason Gattis (MA)(1) (L) Keith Burroughs (KN)(1) (L) Patsy Leach (JO)(1)
(C) Rhonda Hobbs (KI)(1) (L) Nat Foster (KN)(1) (L) Art Masker (MO)(1)
(C) Jeff Lambert (MA)(1) (L) Robbie Gardner (WY)(1) (L) Steve Walling (KN)(1)

Ex-Officio Members (without vote):
Resident Bishop
Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Treasurer
Rick Cherry
Director of Connectional Ministries
Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative
Charles Maynard

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Chairperson
Todd Chancey
Vice Chairperson
Nancy Fitchpatrick
Secretary
Clair Sauer
Treasurer
Rick Cherry

2017 2018 2019 2020
(L) Mickey Ellis (C) Mickey Rainwater (C) John Slater (L) Mary Ruth Richards
(L) Linda Colvin (L) Jody Wiginton (L) Nancy Fitchpatrick (L) Jim Snowden
(C) Albert Bowles (C) Andy Ferguson (C) Todd Chancey (C) Debra Stokes

2021 2022 2023 2024
(C) Clair Sauer (C) Gary Crum (L) Brent Clark (L) Mike Moses
(L) Robert White (L) Oliver McBride (L) Diana Galloway (L) Sharon Price
(L) Susan Rudell (L) Amy Westmoreland (L) John Houseman (L) Jane Robinson

Ex-Officio Members:
Pensions Director
Rick Cherry
Chairperson, Joint Committee on Medical Leave (Incapacity)
Brian Burch
Cabinet Representative
J. David Tabor

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President
David McLain
Vice President
Bob Lockaby
Secretary
Debbie Icenhour

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Brian Burch (TA)(1) (C) Amy Probst (OA)(1) (L) Ken Johnson (MO)(1)
(C) David Graves (KN)(1) (C) Tom Robbins (OA)(4) (L) Bob Lockaby (CL)(1)
(C) Dan Gray (JO)(1) (L) Evelyn Horton (KN)(1) (L) David McLain (CH)(1)
(C) Jonathan Jonas (AB)(1) (L) Debbie Icenhour (AB)(1) (L) Robert Reedy (KI)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop
Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Treasurer
Rick Cherry
Cabinet Representative
Lauri Jo Cranford
### Personnel Resources Committee

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Reed Shell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Joe Harvey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Carolyn Kidd</td>
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*(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)*

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>(MO)(1)</th>
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<td>L. Bryan Jackson</td>
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<td>C. David Harr</td>
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<td>C. Reed Shell</td>
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<td>C. Harry Layell</td>
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<td>L. Kathy Hoard</td>
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<td>L. Chris Lee</td>
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### Ex-Officio Members:

- **Resident Bishop**: Mary Virginia Taylor
- **Chairperson, Committee on Episcopacy**: Steve Brown
- **Executive Assistant to the Bishop**: Carol Wilson
- **Conference Chancellor**: John Eldridge
- **Chairperson, Personnel Committee, CFA**: Jason Gattis

### Commission on Equitable Compensation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Terry Goodman</td>
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<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Jack Brewster</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Alice Marie Clark Danks</td>
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*(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>(KN)(1)</th>
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<tr>
<td>C. Larry Carroll</td>
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<td>L. Jack Brewster</td>
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<td>C. Terry Goodman</td>
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<td>L. Molli Ann Hubbs</td>
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<td>C. Angela Hardy Cross</td>
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<td>L. Lee Sherbakoff</td>
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<td>C. Jim Oxendine</td>
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<td>L. Mary Frances Tucker</td>
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### Ex-Officio Members:

- **Conference Treasurer**: Rick Cherry
- **District Superintendent**: Brenda Carroll
- **Cabinet Representative**: Carol Wilson

### Committee on Petitions and Resolutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>John Eldridge</td>
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*(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>(AB)(1)</th>
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<tr>
<td>C. Richie Hayes</td>
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<td>L. Nancy Hickman Bollinger</td>
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<td>C. Catherine Nance</td>
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<td>C. John Thompson</td>
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<td>L. John Eldridge</td>
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<td>L. Ellen Moore</td>
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<td>C. Larry Osuley</td>
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### Ex-Officio Members:

- **2016 Delegate for General Conference (named by Delegation)**: Becky Hall
- **Conference Secretary**: Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
- **Cabinet Representative**: J. David Tabor
Committee on Rules and Order

Chairperson: Bradley Scott

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Bradley Scott (TA)(1) (C) Patty Muse (JO)(1)
(C) David Jackson (AB)(1) (L) Kris Berg (MO)(1) (L) Nathan Rowell (KN)(1)
(C) Paul Longmire (CH)(1) (L) Joyce Moore (AB)(1) (L) Jim Wheeler (JO)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop: Mary Virginia Taylor
Executive Assistant to the Bishop: Carol Wilson
Conference Secretary: Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Chancellor: John Eldridge
Cabinet Representative: Thomas Ballard

Conference Committee on Episcopacy

Chairperson: Steve Brown
Vice Chairperson: Mary Margaret Denton
Secretary: Laura Rasor

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Steve Brown (MO)(1) *(L) Del Holley (KN) (L) Mary Margaret Denton (KI)(1)
(C) Carl Marshall (WY)(1) (L) Brian Dantzler (CH)(1) (L) Tamara Harrell (MA)(1)
(C) Laura Rasor (MA)(1) (L) Gene Frazer (KN)(1) (L) Linda Franklin (MO)(1)
(L) Gary James (CH)(1) (L) Jane Robinson (MA)(1)

3 Appointed by the Bishop:

*Conference Lay Leader by Standing Rule and Book of Discipline ¶637

Ex-Officio Members:
Staff Resource: Rick Cherry
Members, Jurisdictional Committee (with vote): Del Holley, David Graves

Episcopal Residence Committee

Chairperson or Representative of the Committee on Episcopacy: TBD
Chairperson or Representative of the Board of Trustees: David McLain
Chairperson or Representative of the Council on Finance and Administration: TBD
Representative of the Cabinet: Rick Cherry, TBD
Ex-Officio, Executive Assistant to the Bishop: Carol Wilson

Commission on Archives and History

Chairperson: David St. Clair
Vice Chairperson: Ron Fisher
Secretary: Marie Willis

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)

(C) Ron Fisher (MA) (C) David St. Clair (AB)(2) (L) Moze Reliford (MO)
(C) Jack Jenkins (MO)(4) (L) Harold Hartman (OA)(4) (L) Madge Walker (MO)
(C) Ron Matthews (MA)(4) (L) Jerry Jones (AB)(3) (L) Marie Willis (KI)

Ex-Officio Members:
Conference Historian: Roy Howard
Conference Archivist: Robert Vejnar
General Commission on Archives: Grady Winegar
Conference Secretary: Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Cabinet Representative: Charles Maynard
## Committee on Nominations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Secretary</td>
<td>Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Superintendents:</td>
<td>Sandra Johnson (AB), Jeffrey Wright (BI), Brenda Carroll (CH), Elihugh Kilgore (CL), Walter Weikel (JO), Lauri Jo Cranford (KI), Nathan Malone (KN), Charles Maynard (MA), Tom Ballard (MO), Adam McKee (OA), J. David Tabor (TA), Kim Goddard (WY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Cabinet:</td>
<td>F. Richard “Rick” Cherry, James D. “Del” Holley, Roger Redding, Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., J. Russell “Rusty” Taylor, Mike Sluder, Carol Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President United Methodist Men</td>
<td>Eric Knoefel</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Methodist Women</td>
<td>Lynice Boyles</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Methodist Youth Rep.</td>
<td>Olivia Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ex-Officio Members:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion &amp; Race Chair</td>
<td>Elston McLain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Representatives:</td>
<td>Carolyn Kidd (AB), Mary Baker (BI), Justin DeFriese (CH), Pat Chester (CL), Lynice Broyles (JO), Martha Ketron (KI), Mary Frances Tucker (KN), TBD (MA), Dan Duggar (MO), TBD (OA), Deborah Neal (TA), Alan Hawthorne (WY)</td>
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## SUPPORT GROUPS

### UNITED METHODIST MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Eric Knoefel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary President</td>
<td>Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Vice President</td>
<td>Powell Kidd</td>
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<td>Southern Vice President</td>
<td>Dan Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>James Sink</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Tom Mitoraj</td>
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<td>Scouting Coordinator</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Prayer Advocate</td>
<td>Tom Mitoraj</td>
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<td>Cabinet Representative</td>
<td>Nathan Malone</td>
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<td>District President (Abingdon)</td>
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<td>District President (Big Stone Gap)</td>
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<td>District President (Chattanooga)</td>
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<td>District President (Wytheville)</td>
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### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Kay Phillips</td>
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<td>Karen Adair</td>
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<td>Donna Tisdale</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Gayle Kilgore</td>
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<td>MC/Social Action</td>
<td>Lori Sluder</td>
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<td>MC/Membership, Nurture &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>Peggy Dalton</td>
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<td>Secretary of Program Resources</td>
<td>Nellie Bragg</td>
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<td>Communications Coordinator</td>
<td>Amy Thomas</td>
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<td>Chairperson, Committee on Nominations</td>
<td>Johnnie Bridges</td>
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<td>Cabinet Representative</td>
<td>Sandra Johnson</td>
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DISTRICT COMMITTEES ON ORDAINED MINISTRY

Nominated annually by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Chairperson or Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the Annual Conference

(¶ 666 2012 Book of Discipline)

Abingdon District
Clergy: Mary K. Pope Briggs, Elizabeth Scott Hamilton, Ralph M. Kidd (Chair), Larry Lusk, Michelle McKinnon-Young, Robert Kariuki Nyaga, Michael Somers, Carolyn Whitaker. David Woody
Lay: Eddie Harrison, Heda Quillin, Vickie Scyphers

Big Stone Gap District
Clergy: Kenneth Conner, Terry Goodman, W. Wayne Hedrick, Nancy T. Hobbs, Mark Kilbourne, Harry Layell (Chair), Jacqueline McGowan, D. Layne Pennington, Bill Porter, Jeffrey Wright
Lay: Mary Baker, Eddie Harrison, Heda Quillin, Vickie Scyphers

Chattanooga District
Clergy: Donald E. Allison, Bobby Black, Brenda Carroll, Douglas Fairbanks, Reece Fauscett, Dennis Flaugher, W. David Hall, Charles Harrison (Chair), Jodi Ifle, Elston McLain, Keith Moore, Reed Shell, Mary Thompson
Lay: Dobbie Callahan, Shirley Hixson, David Lamb, Gwen Scott

Cleveland District
Clergy: Hugh Bryan, Pat Hogan, Dwight Kilbourne, Terril Littrell, Randy Martin, Ray Petty, Kenneth Scoggins, Debra Stokes, James Thompson, Michael Travis
Lay: Kay Freeman, Becky Jaquish, Martha Kidwell

Johnson City District
Clergy: Ricky Clowers, Dan Gray, Doug Grove-DeJarnett, Kimberly Isley (Chair), Lon Tobin
Lay: Lynise Broyles, Dan Cross, Dell Gates, Linda Keller

Kingsport District
Clergy: Amanda Dean, Jack Edwards, Kim Goddard, Rhonda Hobbs, Paul Humphrey, Joshua Kilbourne, Susan Lankford, Nancy Martin, Paul Seay (Chair)
Lay: Joyce Eberhart, Roger Herron, Marie Willis

Knoxville District
Clergy: Sherry Boles, Brian Davis, Kenny Faught, Don Ferguson, David Graybeal, Angela Hardy Cross, Dennie Humphreys, Richard Isbell (Chair), Ann Robins, David Smith, Sarah Varnell
Lay: Shirley Napier, Mike Slimbarkski, Sharon Vaughn

Maryville District
Clergy: Kenneth Abbott, Lisa Blackwood, Ronald Fisher, Gene Lovell, Asa Majors, Charles Maynard, Laura Rasor, Sarah Slack (Chair), Crystal Smith
Lay: Robert Ergenbright, Larry Martin

Morristown District
Clergy: Steve R. Brown (Chair), Kristen Burkhart, Roger Crim, James Fain, Kathy Hale, Rick Spell, John Wilson, Jared Wood
Lay: John Allen, Linda Franklin, Nancy Renner

Oak Ridge District
Clergy: David Grant, Sue Lynn Johnson, Keith Knight (Chair), Micah Nicols, Steve Parker, Brenda Poole
Lay: Bob Colvin, Luther Kirklin, Renni Morris, Barbara Osborne

Tazewell District
Clergy: Steve Aker, Amy Beth Bartee, Brian Burch, Betzy Elifrits Warren, Anthony Grills (Chair), Paul Hite, Rodney Lawson, Scott Robertson-Gouge, Bradley Scott, Don Scott, Kenneth Sprinkle
Lay: Jane Johnson, Rick Waddell, Jean Walk

Wytheville District
Clergy: Paul Goshorn, John Grimm (Chair), Maria Grimm, Don Hanshew, Robert Smith, Joe Mack Taylor, Aubrey Whitalow
Lay: John Causey, Mike Pugh, Carolyn Snow
DISTRICT BOARDS OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING
Nominated by the District Superintendent in consultation with the district Nominating Committee, if one exists, and elected annually by the Annual Conference (%2518, 2012 Book of Discipline)

Abingdon District
Class of 2016: Ed Ashley, Danny Ruble (Chair), Scott Spence
Class of 2017: Donnie Lee Bailey, Harry Cuskey, Marvin Tate
Class of 2018: James Lyttle, Leonard Smith, Betty Webb

Big Stone Gap District
Class of 2016: Nancy Dickenson, Nancy Hines, Beth Tipton
Class of 2017: Wayne McClelland, Dewayne McGowan, Richard Williams
Class of 2018: Lucius Ellisworth (Chair), Larry Hobbs, Harry Layell,

Chattanooga District
Class of 2016: Wayne Cook, Terry Huffer, Don Keef
Class of 2017: Jacqueline Brown, Andrew Cotton, Brad Folsum
Class of 2018: Ronald Ramsey (Chair), Bruce Galyon, Thomas Tucker

Cleveland District
Class of 2016: Jerold Franitza, Rick Lay, James Ferguson
Class of 2017: Arthur Bigham, Ramon Torres, Betty Ward
Class of 2018: Edith Jones, Donna Tisdale, Wendell Whaley (Chair)

Johnson City District
Class of 2016: Jacob Herron, Jamie Hyder
Class of 2017: Erin Johnson, Earl Maden
Class of 2018: Bob Goodsell (Chair), Ernest Campbell

Kingsport District
Class of 2016: Jeri Newcomb, Cloyd Clipse, Frank Marsh (Chair)
Class of 2017: Sheila Postell, Jack Edwards
Class of 2018: Roy Adams, Frank Marsh

Knoxville District
Class of 2016: Sandra Barry, Clay Pilkinton, Thomas Seay (Chair)
Class of 2017: David Petty, Henrietta Jenkins, Tim Paul
Class of 2018: Miriam Boney, Gary Clark, Brad Hyde

Maryville District
Class of 2016: Gilbert Harris, Jeffery Lambert, Kenneth Tucker
Class of 2017: Ben Dalton (Chair), Linda Hartley, Judy Martin, Susan Saunders

Morristown District
Class of 2016: Bill Brown, Frederick Hammer, Tom Ballard, Michael Cutshaw
Class of 2017: Diana Comett, Danny Hensley, Guy Jones
Class of 2018: Linda Franklin, Brad Peters, Tom Rush, Ronald Ramsey (Chair)

Oak Ridge District
Class of 2016: Bill Kilday, Keith Knight
Class of 2017: Knox Wimberly (Chair), Lily Rayson, Marcia Barton
Class of 2018: Bill Hicks, Doug Underwood

Tazewell District
Class of 2016: Danny Coulthard (Chair), Anthony Grills, Paul Hite, Barbara McMillan, Barbara Meredith
Class of 2017: Ed Blair, Jason Crandall, Ben McGuire, Barbara Parker
Class of 2018: Erin DeHart, Tom Miller, Kevin Richardson

Wytheville District
Class of 2016: Gleasanna Dixon, Ruth Looney, Linda Porter (Chair)
Class of 2017: C. G. Akers, G. W. Catron, Richard Gregory
Class of 2018: Ann Blair, Buford Hankins, Don Orfield
Trustees and Directors of Conference Related Institutions and Agencies

Asbury, Inc.
...
members of the board ...
shall be nominated and elected by the boards and confirmed by the Annual Conference.
Standing Rule 6, 2015 Conference Journal

President
Vice Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

Sandra Davis
Guy Wilson
Marsheine McClurg
Beth Stubbs

David Atkinson
Eric Deaton
Robert W. McCollum

Nellie Ward Cole
Marvin Eichorn
Cole Piper

Michael Cullen
Larry Martin
Beth Stubbs

Sandra Davis
Marsheine McClurg
Guy Wilson

Mike Lattier (Ex-Officio)
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor (Ex-Officio)

Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.
... a board of not fewer than fifteen (15) directors, elected by the Board of Directors and confirmed by the Holston Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.
Standing Rule 8, 2015 Conference Journal

President
Vice Chairperson
Secretary

Sam Coulter
Lynne Fugate
Angel Norman

PANEL OF 2016
Charlie Harr
Charles Kuykendall
Richard Looney
Angel Norman
Jimmy Taylor

PANEL OF 2017
John Anderson
Gary Bagnall
Brad Bower
Laurence Hesser
Mike Fields
Mark Walker

PANEL OF 2018
Sarah Beamer
Sam Coulter
Dennis Falls
Lynne Fugate
Mike Hincher
Jim Johnston
Cheryl Light
Wanda Moody
Beth Peacock
Mike Reynolds
Mike Stice
Mary Frances Tucker

Chair, Audit Committee
Chair, Conference Relations
Chair, Gift Acceptance Committee
Chair, Grants Committee
Chair, Investment Committee
Chair, Nominating Committee
Chair, Personnel Committee

Laurence Hesser
TBD
Wanda Moody
Charlie Harr
John Anderson
Mary Francis Tucker

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop
Conference Treasurer
Executive Director
Legal Counsel

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Rick Cherry
Roger Redding
Jackson Kramer
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HOLSTON CONFERENCE-EMORY & HENRY CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair

Henry C. Dawson, Jr.

Conference Representatives:

Eugene Lovell
Peyton Rowlett
Walter Weikel
David Jackson

Emory & Henry College Representatives:

Henry Dawson
Beth Mahaffey
Talmage Stanley
Monica Hoel
Jake Schrum

HOLSTON UNITED METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

... members of the board ... shall be nominated and elected by the boards and confirmed by the Annual Conference. Standing Rule 6, 2015 Conference Journal

Chair

Jeffrey J. Monson

Vice Chair

Bryan A. Jackson

Secretary

Fred Crabtree

Treasurer

Wes Robbins

Panel 2016

Gregg Bostick
Nancy P. Casson
Fred Crabtree
Mary Margaret Denton
Peter L. Palmer

Panel 2017

Bradley J. Bower
Ivy M. Leonard
Jeffrey J. Monson
Debra B. Oldenberg
Wes Robbins

Panel 2018

Stephen W. Brumit
John B. McGuffin
Jim Moody
Jamie Oakley
Brenda T. Stevens

Panel 2019

Kent Bewley
Bryan A. Jackson
Ronald Jones
Debra Miller

Ex-Officio Members:

Resident Bishop, Holston Conference..........................................................Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Representative, Outreach Advocacy Team....................................................Nicole M. Krewson
President/CEO HUMHC..............................................................................Bradley S. Williams
Morristown District Superintendent .........................................................Thomas T. Ballard
Legal Counsel ...............................................................................................Richard M. Currie, Jr.

METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

... members of the board ... shall be nominated and elected by the boards and confirmed by the Annual Conference. Standing Rule 6, 2015 Conference Journal

Members:

Mr. Phil Andrews
Mr. Gerald Boyd
Mrs. Leigaha Edwards
Mr. John Eschenberg
Mr. Clay Good
Mr. Parker C. Hardy, III

Mr. Tom Hilton
Dr. Mark Johns
Dr. Dan Lenoir
Rev. Dr. Adam McKee, III
Mr. Alan Parker
Mr. Bill Reis
Dr. Jim Tramontana
Mr. Jim VanderSteeg
Mr. Glenn Zahn

Dr. Mark Prince
COLLEGES OF HOLSTON CONFERENCE

Members of the Boards of Trustees of Holston Conference Colleges shall be nominated and elected by the respective Boards at their fall Board meetings and confirmed at the next session of Annual Conference.

Standing Rule 7, 2015 Conference Journal

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson
William B. Pendleton
Vice-Chairperson
Gary M. Reedy
Secretary
L. Carole Wharton
Treasurer
Kyra Kegley Bishop

Board of Directors:

Glenn H. Birkitt, Jr.    Lynda Jones Hawkins    William B. Pendleton
Kyra Kegley Bishop    Paul N. Hubble, Jr.    Paul A. Powell, Jr.
Jeffrey B. Bodenhorst    Earl S. Hunt    Gary M. Reedy
Carolee J. Bondurant    Elton M. Hyder, III    B. Fielding Rolston
Arthur Theron Broady    Eric S. Johnson    Cathy Crowe Schubert
James H. Brooks    Jonathan B. Jonas    Jennie Pruner Smith
Joseph F. Ellis    A. Susan Keene    Ann Grim Sparger
James H. Fern    F. Winton Lackey    Donna Proffit Vaughn
Tim L. Fields    Beth Maiden Mahaffey    Peter S. Walters
Vaughn R. Groves    John P. McClave    L. Carole Wharton
Jane Hicks Harter    William L. Naehele    Donald R. Youell, Jr.

Ex-Officio Members:
President, Emory & Henry College
Jake B. Schrum
Resident Bishop of Holston Conference
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Abingdon District Superintendent, Holston Conference
Sandra J. Johnson

HIWASSEE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair
Rev. Dr. Albert J. Bowles, Jr.
Vice Chair
Mr. Bryan Hall
Treasurer
Rev. Charles W. Maynard
Secretary
Dr. William Eddie Harmon
Alumni Trustee (1 year term)
Brenda Malone
Student Trustee (1 year term)
Mr. Bryan Woodlief

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop of Holston Conference.........................Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Maryville District Superintendent............................................ Rev. Charles Maynard
President ............................................................... Dr. Robin J. Tricoli
TENNESSEE WESLEYAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair ...................................................... Allen Carter
Vice Chair ............................................... Hugh Queener
Secretary .............................................. Matt Brookshire

Representatives to the Board of Trustees:
Faculty Representative ........................................ Tony Bryant
Student Representative ...................................... Emily Green
Alumni Representative ...................................... Greg Moses
Covenant Health Representative
Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center Representative ............................ Keith Altshuler

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop of Holston Conference .............................................................. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
President ................................................................................................................ Harley G. Knowles
District Superintendent ........................................................................................ Hugh Kilgore
Trustee Emeritus ..................................................................................................... George Oliphant
Honorary Trustee ..................................................................................................... Danny R. Hays

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS BOARDS

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair ............................................................ TBD
Vice Chair ..................................................... Anna Kapoor
Secretary ...................................................... Braxton Sluder
Treasurer ........................................................ TBD

Cindy Blackwell  Caleb Frazier  Kayth Feagins  Matt Dobson
Anna Kapoor  Dell Gates  Butch Jones  Nancy Hopson
Scott Layer  Joe Sherlin  Joyce Jones  Bill Rasnick
Johnny Qualls  Braxton Sluder  Linda Keller  Walter VanHuss

Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation ................................................................. John W. Ousley
District Superintendents .................................................................................... Lauri Jo Cranford, Thomas Ballard, Walter Weikel
Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Representative ................ Laura McLean
RADFORD UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Heather Rowland
Bill Parker
Marcy Harless
Jackie Taylor

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<th>Panel 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robbie Hamby</td>
<td>Susan Caldwell</td>
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<td>Matt Shelor</td>
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Ginny Tompkins

Students .............................................................. TBD
Alternates .......................................................... Donna Worrell

Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Director, Wesley Center .......................................................... Martee Buchanan
District Superintendents ....................................... Sandra Johnson (AB), David Tabor (TA), Meg Taylor (WY)
District Secretaries of Christian Education ............................ June Totten (AB), Gordon McBride (TA), Matt McDaniel(WY)
District Presidents of UMW ....................................... Prue Oxendine (AB), Sabrina Johnson (TA), Deborah Carte (WY)
District Lay Leaders ................................................... Sue Tilson (AB), Deborah Neal (TA), Alan Hawthorne (WY)
Pastors, Radford Churches ........................................ Betsy King (Carter St.), Dale Gilbert (Central),
................................................................................. Aaron Pierce (Grove), Carl Marshall (New Mt. Olive)
Conference Staff Representative .................................................... Laura McLean
Cabinet; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Representative ............... Meg Taylor

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, CHATTANOOGA
WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary

Lillian Cook
TBD
Cheryl Morgan
TBD

Panel of 2016
Panel of 2017
Panel of 2018
Panel of 2019

Lillian Cook
David Hall
Cheryl Morgan
Nancy Smith

Cindy Beale
Tracy Mozingo
Steve Barham
Rebekah Ducote
Stuart French
James Hamby
Diane Meadows
Daniel Oakley
Bob Welin

Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Minister, Director of Wesley Center ........................................ G. Keith Moore
District Superintendents .................................................... Brenda Carroll, Hugh Kilgore
Conference Staff Representative .................................................... Laura McLean
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair                                Mark Wilson
Vice-Chair                            Rachel Elliott
Secretary/Treasurer                   Elected Members:
Panel 2016                           Panel 2017
Rachel Elliott                       Carter Cross
Heather Perry                        Amanda Madson
Alex Shaffer                         Mark Wilson

Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Director ............................................... Tim Kobler
Program Director  .......................................................... Heather Godsey
District Superintendents ................. Nathan Malone, Adam McKee, Charles Maynard
Conference Staff Representative ........ Laura McLean
Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Representatives Troy Forrester, Chris Lee
Student Members                      Austin Byerly, Hannah Corlew, David Large,
                                      Katie Lee, Katy Miller, Adam Young

UNIVERSITY OF VA-WISE WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair                                Betzy Elifrits Warren
Vice-Chair                            Jacob Somervell
Secretary                             Samantha Burton
Treasurer                             Pat Bowden
Dale Gilbert                          Samantha Burton                          Patricia Bowden                          Bruce Ecker
Jacob Somervell                      Norman Clark                              Richard Galyean                          Susan Herron
John Wright                           Paul McNalley                             Sara Schill                             TBD

Ex-Officio Members:
District Superintendent, Big Stone Gap......................................................... Jeff Wright
District Lay Leader, Big Stone Gap .............................................................. Mary Baker
District UMM President, Big Stone Gap .......................................................... TBD
District UMW President, Big Stone Gap ......................................................... Gayle Kilgore
Representative, Tazewell District ......... Betty Elifrits Warren
Pastor Trinity, Wise  ...................................................................................... Phillip Bates
Member Emeritus................................................................. Catherine South

Ex-Officio Members without vote:
Campus Director, Wesley Foundation.............................................................. Mary “Beth” Tipton
Conference Staff Representative.................................................................. Laura McLean
Student Representative.................... Scotty Berthold, Evan Clark, Casey Page, Kristen Williams
Liaisons to the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ................. Ralph Kidd
Have you visited the displays in the Harrell Center Auditorium today?
Greetings from the Licensed Local Pastors (LLP’s) and Associate Members (AM’s) of the Holston Conference. In the past year (2015) we had 20 individuals that completed the Conference LLP introductory course, enabling them to be licensed by the Bishop, and 2 individuals became Associate Members. This year, we had 17 complete the LLP introductory course, many to be licensed at this Annual Conference, and 1 to become an Associate Member. For the LLP’s this

**BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

In 1744, John Wesley met with 9 clergy for the first Methodist Conference. The agenda consisted of three points: 1) What to teach. 2) How to teach. 3) What to do. For the next five days, Wesley and his preachers considered key doctrines of faith and the practice of ministry. Their work together is mirrored today in the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The Board of Ordained Ministry is entrusted with the responsibility of guiding and equipping persons who desire to respond to God’s call to servant ministry and we work closely with the twelve District Committees of Ordained Ministry (DCOMs) who are introduced to exploring candidates when they enter the candidacy process.

We are pleased with our partnership with Emory & Henry College’s Defining Moments program (funded by the GBHEM’s Young Clergy Initiative) which was developed to help identify and nurture young people in Holston who are discerning a call to ministry. During the pilot year (’15-16), eight Board members assisted in leadership, six elders served as program coordinators, seven young clergy elders were trained as mentors, and eighteen young people ages 16–25 were supported and encouraged in their journey of answering God’s call in their lives. We look forward to continuing our work with this initiative, which is an early step in responding to a call to ordained ministry.

The work of the Board of Ordained ministry is ongoing. Throughout the conference year, we offer two candidacy summits for persons beginning candidacy for ministry and provide Local Pastor’s Licensing School for those persons hoping to be licensed for the practice of ministry. We interview candidates for elder, deacon, and associate membership and make recommendations regarding their readiness and effectiveness for ordained ministry. We hold retreats and mentoring groups for provisional elders and deacons. In cooperation with the Wesley Leadership Institute, we coordinate the continuing education and leadership development endeavors for our conference clergy. At each session of the Annual Conference, we ordain and receive elders and deacons into full conference membership. We recognize the orders of persons serving from other denominations, commission provisional elders and deacons, and receive persons as associate members. We celebrate the retirement of clergy and give thanks for combined centuries of years of service to the church.

I give thanks for the work of the Office of Clergy Services and for the faithfulness of all members of the Board of Ordained Ministry as together we fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to us.

~ Kim M. Goddard, Chair

**FELLOWSHIP OF LOCAL PASTORS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Greetings from the Licensed Local Pastors (LLP’s) and Associate Members (AM’s) of the Holston Conference. In the past year (2015) we had 20 individuals that completed the Conference LLP introductory course, enabling them to be licensed by the Bishop, and 2 individuals became Associate Members. This year, we had 17 complete the LLP introductory course, many to be licensed at this Annual Conference, and 1 to become an Associate Member. For the LLP’s this
is the beginning of their walk to serving Christ in our smaller and mid-sized churches in every district of Holston Conference.

For the first time last year, during Annual Conference, LLP’s who completed the 5 year, 20 Course of Study classes, were able to cast votes for the clergy delegates to this year’s General Conference. All AM’s also had the right to vote. Currently, the LLP’s and AM’s are not eligible to run for General Conference delegates, but those eligible were able to vote for our Conference’s ordained clergy delegates. We did not take this opportunity lightly, and we not only voted, but were in prayer for all our delegates, both laity and clergy during the 11 months leading up to the General Conference just recently concluded.

Our educational process has been enhanced with a stronger curriculum, and better scheduling for those that are attending at Candler School of Theology in the summer or on a seasonal schedule for full time LLP’s, and on a layered schedule for part-time LLP’s held at Hiwassee College and Martin College. We are greatly encouraged by the numbers of younger individuals willing to take the first step in their ministerial walk. This includes those that will be advancing to full time seminary school in the future to become ordained ministers. Others, after completing the Basic Course of Study will take the Advanced Course of Study, become Associate Members, and if they wish, begin the provisional process to become ordained. It is a long process, and we hope that each of you will take time to remember them in your prayers.

~ Al Shaver, Co-Chair

**HOLSTON CONFERENCE PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER**

The Pastoral Counseling Center was initiated by a group of Holston Conference clergy as a clergy support ministry of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The establishment was more than 35 years ago. The ministry has been expressed in a number of ways, but primarily through confidential counseling sessions and support groups for clergy as well as training and supervision for clergy engaged in pastoral care. The pastoral counselor is a part of the teaching faculty for Local Pastor School each year and serves as a presenter on various topics for various district and conference groups. In recent years, the pastoral counseling staff has been pleased to support other groups that offer services to clergy families and congregations through the Congregational Wellness Team (CWART) and Partners in Crisis. The ministry essentially provides support to our very capable clergy and the family members who support them.

Pastoral Counseling is a clinical practice that brings together spiritual care and psychological care. It is a ministry of presence, of caring, of listening, and of offering spiritual guidance. The primary concern of the staff and Supervisory Committee is the highest level of spiritual and emotional wellbeing of Holston Conference and its people, both clergy and laity, including Holston’s many congregations.

The staff and Supervisory Committee join together in this endeavor, listening to the needs of the Church in Holston and determining new and potentially effective ways to be involved in meeting the identified need. This intentional listening we all do in our churches and in the Conference can sometimes be the seed that leads to new efforts in the ministry.
Over the past year, a concerted effort has been made to locate a second pastoral counselor to serve specifically in the Virginia areas. It is the hope of those of us involved in the ministry that the position will be filled by a person whose presence will be a blessing to the clergy serving in that part of Holston.

The Supervisory Committee also has been involved in re-evaluating the image of the ministry and at the present time is considering a re-naming of Holston Conference Pastoral Counseling Center so as to reflect the goal of spiritual and emotional wholeness that is our aim.

We would appreciate your prayers as we continue to move toward reaching these important goals. Be assured that the Supervisory Committee and the staff of the Pastoral Counseling Center will be in prayer for the wellbeing of our clergy and congregations in Holston and throughout the United Methodist Church in the coming days.

~ Rev. Laura A. Shearer, Director
Pastoral Counseling Center
~ Rev. Laura B. Plaster, Chair
Pastoral Counseling Center Supervisory Committee

PARTNERS IN CRISIS

Partners in Crisis (PIC) is a volunteer support network for clergy spouses. Founded in 1995 upon of the vision of a clergy spouse, Mrs. Charles Hurlock, PIC seeks to provide spiritual and relational support as well as financial and legal assistance to clergy spouses who suddenly find themselves without a home, a church family, or pastoral care. Mrs. Dot Lee, wife of our former bishop, Clay F. Lee, joined Mrs. Hurlock and many other clergy spouses in the formative years of PIC.

In the years since its founding, PIC has given support to a significant number of both male and female clergy spouses. PIC meets twice a year at the Holston Conference Center in Alcoa to review their work and to assess needs of clergy spouses and to develop ways of helping those in the midst of a crisis. Over the years since its formation, PIC has added the capability of providing for temporary housing in all twelve districts of the conference for spouses in distressing circumstances. Any spouse needing support in the midst of a crisis would contact the Superintendent of their district, who would then contact the co-director(s) for assistance.

The leadership of PIC maintains the highest degree of confidentiality in all its dealings with clergy spouses. The group functions with two co-directors, a secretary, and a treasurer, along with ten to twelve representative clergy spouses. The Steward of Clergy Concerns also meets with PIC, offering support and guidance. However, any clergy spouse who wishes to join the group is welcome to do so.

Gifts from those wishing to support PIC should be made out to the Holston Conference Foundation and earmarked for “Partners in Crisis.”

~ Beth Green, Co-Chairperson
~ Thel Hamilton, Co-Chairperson
~ Nancy Ridenour, Secretary
REPORTS 158

TASK FORCE ON LAY-CLERGY CONFLICT INTERIM REPORT

During the 2015 Holston Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, a resolution was passed that called upon the Bishop to appoint a Task Force to study the problem of the abuse of clergy in the Holston Conference and develop a policy to address the bullying, harassment, and abuse of clergy by lay persons and report its findings to the 2016 Annual Conference.

We have begun our work in this important area and offer this interim report of our progress. The Task Force has been meeting this spring to assess the current level of Lay/Clergy conflict in Holston. We focus not just on normal conflict that exists in all families and organizations, but especially on bullies and antagonists in churches whose only goal is the destruction of clergy reputations and careers. In the presence of this level of antagonism, the congregations and their ministries are also damaged. Our goal is to develop support structures for bullied clergy and their families while working with the Cabinet and Staff-Parish Relations Committees to create strategies for intervening positively in those destructive processes occurring within these churches.

We have begun conversations with clergy and their families who have been bullied. We are reaching out to other annual conferences to understand how they are responding to this issue, if at all. We are talking with groups who offer training in several varieties of Conflict Transformation and, perhaps, most importantly, we are wrestling with the spiritual dimensions of this complex area.

We invite lay and clergy persons to share stories or experiences by email to taskforce@holston.org.

The Task Force is chaired by Don Ferguson and is composed of the following clergy and lay persons: Rhonda Hobbs, Vice Chair, Dr. Gail Catron, Lauri Jo Cranford, Brad Hyde, Randy Martin, Adam McKee, Tim Priest, and Paige Wimberly.

~ Don Ferguson, Chair
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016

• Again in 2017 there will only be two options for conference health insurance, a PPO Plan and an H.S.A Plan.

• The 2017 rate sheet for cost information will be provided as a handout at Annual Conference and available on the website prior to and following Annual Conference.

• We continue to monitor the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that current health participants have the best options available in this changing environment. We currently have a conference health plan that satisfies all requirements of the Act.

• As required by 2012 General Conference, we submitted to the GBOPHB an “expanded funding plan” which provided a written plan that was approved by the GBOPHB that covers all obligations.

• Note of clarification: We offer a limited optional dental plan at no additional premium cost to participants in the health insurance plan and an optional vision plan with a limited benefit for an additional premium.

The United Methodist Church acknowledges that pensions are “deferred compensation” earned at the same time and in the same manner as salary. Of the total compensation package, including salary, housing, utilities, health insurance, death/disability benefits, and other cash or non-cash allowances, the purpose of a pension is to assure retirement with dignity in an often unpredictable future.

To implement our Pension and Benefits Program for 2017, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (Board of Pensions) submits the following guidance:

1. The Board of Pensions recommends the past service retirement rate of $568 per year of approved Pre-1982 ministerial service in Holston Annual Conference.

2. The total budget amount to provide for the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), and the Health Insurance shall be determined each year. Churches should remit 1/12th of their direct invoice to the conference treasurer each month.

3. The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) is a clergy pension plan covering January 1, 1982 through December 31, 2006. MPP functioned as a defined contribution (DC) plan during active years.

   • The Church contributed a percentage (11% or 12%) of the clergyperson’s contribution base to his or her MPP account. Contributions to MPP ceased as of December 31, 2006, but account balances-including investments earnings-remain separate until retirement.

   • MPP becomes a defined benefit (DB) plan at retirement. Participants must convert at least 65% of their account balance into a monthly lifetime benefit (annuity) and plan sponsors are responsible for funding the annuities should the need arises. For annuities set-up January 2014 or later exactly 65% of the account balance must be converted into an annuity.
• Clergy may roll over up to 35% (beginning January 1, 2014 exactly 35%) to UMPIP and IRA or take it as a cash distribution.

• Benefit at retirement is based on the participant’s account balance, annuity elections, and other factors.

• Funding requirements are determined for the entire MPP annuities pool (all conferences); liabilities/funding requirements for each conference are based on the conference’s participants.

4. The Contribution Base shall be the active Participant’s Plan Compensation as reported on line 12 of their appropriate pastor’s support worksheet.

5. The 2017 Plan Compensation shall include cash salary, including tax-deferred contributions, plus 25% for housing where the minister lives in a parsonage or the cash housing allowance where such is provided.

6. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) provides both a DB and a DC Plan. The DB plan provides that monthly retirement benefit based on credited service on or after January 1, 2007. The benefit is determined using the following calculation:

• 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) times years of credited service from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2013 divided by 12 (months)

• 1.00% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) times years of credited service after December 31, 2013 divided by 12 (months)

• For service from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2013, when a retired married participant dies 70% of his or her DB payments continue to the spouse for life. For service beginning January 1, 2014, the initial dollar amount of the benefit paid to the participant will be reduced to offset the value of spousal benefits.

• Under the DC plan, each month the annual conference contributes 3% of the clergy person’s plan compensation into a CRSP DC account for the clergyperson. Beginning, January 1, 2014, the annual conference will contribute 2% of clergy plan compensation and, in addition, will match the amount of clergy contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) up to 1% of compensation.

7. The cost of the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) will be 3.0% of the Participant’s Plan Compensation for all active full-time ministerial members and full-time local pastors.

8. Coverage of retirement moving expense will continue in accordance with our adopted policy which allows for one-time funds up to $1,500 to be received for associated expenses. See our full policy that was included in the 2011 Book of Reports and Journal.

9. The Holston Conference Board of Pensions recommends the conference health insurance continue for active participants with the Blue-Preferred Network with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Tennessee, which began on January 1, 1999. This program continues to be a cost savings to the subscribers and the churches.
10. The maximum premium rates for 2017 are listed on a Supplemental Rate Sheet which will be distributed at Annual Conference and posted on the Holston.org website prior to and following Annual Conference. These rates may be revised downward if the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits receive favorable claim data and information related to the health programs. Any changes in costs or benefit levels will be mailed as a part of the health statement billings for active pastors or in a separate mailing for retirees covered by the retiree program. The Holston Conference will utilize the internet to provide participants with relevant information related to their rates and plan data.

11. If participants are interested in changing their health plan, they must notify the Conference Pension and Health Administrator in writing of any changes to their plan. The change from the PPO Plan to a H.S.A. plan must be completed by November 30, 2016 in order to take effect on January 1, 2017.

12. The Conference continues accepting payment for coverage as an ACH check. Churches that initiate a payment through VANCO will receive a discount on their billing for health insurance for paying their bills electronically.

13. These guidelines are followed in the CPP: Return-to-work (RTW) incentives for more than 24 months on disability: $.50 per $1 offset applied immediately, up to 100% of pre-disability compensation; Mental Nervous Limitation-24 month limitation for certain “treatable” and “returnable” conditions.

14. The Voluntary Transition Program facilitates “grace-filled” exit from ministry for eligible ordained clergy who choose to withdraw from ministry.
   • Eligibility: Clergy in full connection; good standing; five years in full connection. Participants must surrender credentials.
   • Severance Benefits: Two weeks of Participant’s Plan Compensation (housing plus cash salary) for each full year of continuous service, up to a maximum of six months’ pay
   • Other Benefits: Health benefits (continuation coverage) – conference paid. Active death benefits (participant only). 90 days of outplacement services. Moving expenses-conference paid based on policy.
   • Process and Procedures: Conference and clergy consultation. General Board sends confirmation letter and initiates payment.
   • Other Considerations: Return to ministry-clergy who return to full-time ministry will be required to repay full severance benefit payment. Appeals-General Board and conference are responsible.

RESERVE BALANCES AND HEALTH INSURANCE

We continue to monitor our asset allocations to insure that future benefits can be provided to the participants in the various programs. The Holston Conference has booked a charge of $933,944 for post-employment health care benefits. The Board of Pensions is currently taking steps to manage this liability and insure that the benefit programs can be sustained for today and the future. As of December 31, 2015, our reserve balances are $27,321,614 to pay future pension obligations and $10,290,497 for paying health insurance claims.
INCAPACITY LEAVE 2016-2017


SPECIAL GRANTS 2016-2017 CONFERENCE YEAR

“Conference Board of Pensions may make special grants to clergy members or former clergy members and to local pastors or former local pastors of an Annual Conference who have served under appointment in that conference; or to their spouses, former spouses, surviving former spouses, or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children). A report of such special grants shall be made annually to the Annual Conference”. ¶ 1506, The 2012 Book of Discipline

The Holston Conference will continue to provide interim funding for eligible clergy requesting Medical Leave, after receiving approval from the joint committee on incapacity until they are approved or denied by the General Board of Pensions. These funds are approved for a maximum of 3 months or until approved for CPP, whichever is earlier and the claimant agrees in their application for CPP disability that benefits paid retroactively to the application date be used to repay the Conference for the interim funding. If CPP disability is denied, these funds are deemed a grant to the recipient and not repayable to Conference.

MINISTERS
None for 2016

DEPENDENT ADULT CHILDREN

Mr. Thomas E. Byrd, birth date 9/25/44, dependent adult son of the Reverend Howard G. Byrd, deceased minister. Based on 13.00 years of service times 25% of the current pension rate.

Mr. Wendell R. Stock, birth date 12/4/58, dependent adult son of the Reverend Shirl F. Stock, deceased local pastor. Based on 5.50 years of service times 25% of the current pension rate.

~ Nancy Fitchpatrick, Chair
PERSONNEL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Holston Conference Personnel Resources Committee (PRC) is to oversee the management of staff and personnel who serve on behalf of the ministries of the Annual Conference. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Committee periodically reviews job descriptions, compensation, and benefits of Conference employees. Furthermore, the Committee considers ways to help equip and support the work of the Conference through the dedicated efforts of these persons who have committed their lives to carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ in our communities.

It is important to note that the personnel of the Holston Annual Conference reach every area of ministry and administrative responsibility that carries out our call to serve the Kingdom of God in a broken world. Holston Conference personnel include the camp directors at our four Conference camps who guide one of the most effective evangelistic ministries in our Church as they lead children and youth in becoming members in Christian community; Conference personnel provide support and inspiration to our college students as campus Wesley Foundation leaders; our personnel provide leadership for missions, both local and around the world; children and youth ministries as well as new church development are cultivated throughout the conference by our conference personnel. Our Holston Conference personnel also provide critical services to local churches and districts - often behind-the-scenes - by providing assistance with administration issues and complicated business matters such as pensions, insurance, and finances, and other administrative responsibilities that help the Conference operate in service to our churches, our pastors, and our lay leadership.

The Personnel Resources Committee is involved in an ongoing effort to examine the structures and models for staffing that further the goal of reaching excellence in the manner in which our Conference fulfills its missional objectives. This includes a strategy for fortifying efforts to nurture vital and effective ministry in individuals, local churches, and districts throughout the Conference. The PRC also recognizes that while change is a constant reality, it also offers opportunities for new ideas and visions to inspire the growth and effectiveness of the Church’s mission. This objective is at the heart of PRC’s efforts.

It is important that the Conference staff is equipped with the resources and support they need to fulfill this call to ministry through administration. In evaluating these needs of Conference personnel, the PRC takes into consideration benefits, compensation, administrative support, and the resources necessary to help guide, plan, and administer the connectional ministries that assist local boards, agencies, committees, and churches vitalize local congregations.

As is the case each year, the Personnel Resources Committee has managed several key challenges and personnel changes in positions and responsibilities within the Conference this past year. We are pleased to report that these transitions have gone smoothly and new members of the personnel team have been warmly welcomed to their new positions.

Through their gifts of leadership and administration of the various ministries of Holston Conference, the personnel and staff continue to help build the capacity of local lay and clergy leaders, churches, and districts in their missions. PRC continues to nurture its abiding vision to cultivate a productive and effective team of Conference personnel that supports and enhances our collective call to ministry and to transform and create vibrant congregations throughout Holston Conference.

~ Michael A. Eastridge, Chair
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of the Conference Trustees, I would like to share the following information with you.

CONFERENCE-WIDE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Through our partnership with Church Mutual, all employees of Holston Conference and its churches are provided workers’ compensation insurance. Because the policy is conference-wide, most churches are realizing significant savings over older individual policies, and we expect those savings to increase. The excellent loss history has helped Church Mutual lower rates 6.25% in 2014, 1.42% in 2015, and another 6.06% decrease in 2016. In addition to the lower rates, Church Mutual is prepared to present a dividend check to Holston Conference which will be larger than the one received in 2015!

CONFERENCE PROPERTY INSURANCE

Church Mutual provides property & liability insurance for our conference properties. Churches are encouraged to explore Church Mutual when renewing their insurance. Individual Holston churches qualify for a 5% discount and individual dividends for good loss experience. Church Mutual is pleased to announce that their rates for the conference are decreasing 5.91% in 2016.

CONFERENCE CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to the hard work of Angela Lee and architectural work from Reedy and Sykes, the following changes took place in the conference center this year: The Event Center on the first floor is now an enclosed room with an adjoining serving area. The Administrative Services offices are now located on the first floor, along with the communications production studio. The first floor also now meets current fire and ADA codes. The second floor was adapted to expand the Foundation office to meet their growing needs.

HIWASSEE COLLEGE LOAN

The trustees continue to monitor this five-year line of credit from our conference. The 2/29/2016 balance is $1,340,048. We rejoiced that the loan in July 2014 allowed major improvements to the campus and look forward to the day that Hiwassee can be debt free.

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE

The Episcopal Residence Committee brought to the trustees a recommendation to sell the current parsonage at 1722 Inverness Dr., Maryville, TN and provide an annual housing allowance for the Bishop. The General Council of Finance and Administration provided written authorization for the Holston Conference to proceed with this plan. The extended cabinet approved this proposal as well being approved by the trustees. We see it as a sound financial move for the conference, and it means that no clergy serving in the conference office are in a parsonage. The process of selling the property has begun and all proceeds from the sale of the house will be invested with the Foundation so that the earnings can help pay for the Bishop’s housing allowance.
SUMMARY OF CURRENT CASH ASSETS:
Trustees Endowment Fund as of 12/31/15 $371,293
Trustees Spend Account as of 12/31/15 $40,662

REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Over the past year, the Board of Trustees has continued to refine its property management role and provided assistance with negotiating settlements of issues related to sales of abandoned or discontinued district-held properties. We are committed to disposing of as much excess and unused property as possible to control not only expenses but to return funds that can be used for the mission of the church. Below is a list of currently held properties that are insured through the Conference insurance policy.

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<th>PROPERTY NAME</th>
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Respectfully submitted for The Board of Trustees,
~ David McLain, Chair
Asbury, Inc. Update

Asbury has made great progress during this past year in their ongoing culture transformation journey with their partner in the industry, *Action Pact*. Both Asbury Place Kingsport and Asbury Place Maryville have a 5-year accreditation with CARF-CCAC (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities/Continuing Care Accreditation Commission), a designation held by only 13% of Continuing Care Retirement Communities in our country. In its accreditation report, the surveyors singled out the culture change efforts as one of Asbury’s greatest strengths, as they have empowered residents and associates to play a more significant role in determining how programs and services are delivered. In addition to this accomplishment, following a revision to the CMS 5-star rating system holding nursing homes to a higher standard than ever, both Asbury Place Maryville and Kingsport have 4 out of a possible 5-star rating following their most recent excellent annual surveys.

So what is next in Asbury’s continuing journey? Pending final approval by the Board of Directors, Asbury will be moving forward in early summer of 2016 with a $25 million dollar Healthcare Repositioning Project that will expand our culture initiatives and innovative solutions by creating new household environments for elders needing assisted living memory support as well as those who may need long-term care in a nursing home. Construction is expected to begin July 2016.

This means that as Asbury moves forward into new dimensions that will provide the ongoing opportunity for all residents, family members and staff to celebrate life, there will be new physical environments that will provide enhancements for residents to enjoy privacy and graceful living. This environment will include both fully renovated buildings and new construction at both of the campuses located in Kingsport and Maryville.

Our ongoing culture transformation initiatives to bring “home” into our communities continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Our Thanksgiving celebration this year was served in each neighborhood in a “family dining” style that included families, guests, residents and associates from every department joining in to decorate, prepare, serve and then dine together – just as we do in our homes. It was truly a joyful community occasion for all!

Renovations are already underway in the Maryville Healthcare Center which now offers some spacious private rooms for residents who choose to come to Asbury for their rehabilitation and beyond as needed. New Townhomes in Maryville are at full occupancy with a waiting list! At the Kingsport campuses renovation plans will offer more private rooms in the existing Healthcare Center, a spacious new therapy gym as well as a new long-term care household nursing home. In addition to the Healthcare Center changes, new Villa homes continue to be added as well as beautifully renovated apartments and new exterior building upgrades. The expanding campus has many new upgrades including expanded dining and social gathering spaces now under construction. The new community center including a fitness center with state-of-the-art fitness equipment designed
specifically for seniors but available for all ages is under construction and will be open for all to use in August 2016!

The Assisted Living communities have also received many upgrades including new flooring, better lighting, furnishings as well as a new Spa for residents in Kingsport.

We continue to forge ahead in these challenging times by forming new partnerships with our local hospitals and community physicians to provide quality services in the most cost effective way. We continue to be a partner with our community elders and their families as they negotiate the many changes occurring daily as a part of ongoing healthcare reform.

True culture transformation is an ongoing journey requiring a committed effort from all in the organization including board members, residents, family members, and staff. We are dedicated to our goal of providing Home, defined as “a sanctuary and the place that fosters graceful living and happens naturally and subtly over time” and anticipate this journey to be an ongoing part of Asbury for years to come.

Asbury values its long history and relationship with the Holston Conference as together we serve the elders in east Tennessee. We invite you to join our journey. Please stop by and visit any of our communities listed below in Maryville and Kingsport. See for yourself how Asbury, Inc. is changing the way we provide services for elders and support the Holston Conference Senior Ministries and the Asbury, Inc. mission to:

Celebrate Life – Every day, through every circumstance, with every person, in every way.

Asbury Place Maryville –
Marge Shonnard, Interim Executive Director, Carolyn Neil, Administrator
Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing, Memory Care, Rehab
2648 Sevierville Road
Maryville, 37804
865.984.1660

Asbury Place Kingsport –
Sandra Brown, Tri-Cities Executive Director
Baysmont - Independent Living, Skilled Nursing, Rehab
100 Netherland Lane, Kingsport, TN 37660
423.245.0360
Steadman Hill - Assisted Living, Memory Care
1300 Bloomingdale Pike, Kingsport, TN 37660
423.245.1067

Respectfully submitted
~ Marge Shonnard, Chief Operating Officer

ASBURY PLACE
Celebrate Life
HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION

2015 has already slipped into history, but as we look back we rejoice about the many ways The Holston Conference Foundation’s services made a positive impact on lives and ministries. Despite El Niño, terrorist attacks, and the twists and turns of the financial markets, the Foundation again set a new all-time high of assets under management totaling $102,838,401.00 in 829 accounts. The largest group of these accounts (475) belongs to local churches and represents 39% of the total. The next largest group representing about 30% of assets consists of 121 trusts, endowments, and scholarships established by individuals through bequests and planned gifts to benefit the churches, institutions, and ministry purposes they selected. Approximately 29% of the assets are placed here by the Conference, districts, institutions, and ministry boards. About half of the remaining 12% of the assets are in the form of planned gifts that provide a stream of income to the donor or will be transformed into ministry funds in the future.

Our investment returns during 2015 reflect the sputtering sideways returns of the broader market. The Balanced Growth Fund finished -.31%, The Equity Growth Fund -.98%, The Intermediate Income Fund +.52% and surprisingly The Short-Term Income Fund +.56%. For churches and ministries with endowments, years like 2015 remind us of the wisdom and benefit of using the three-year market value average and a 4% distribution rate. Markets do go down from time-to-time, that is normal, but we stand firm in our long-term view and commitment to low cost and diversification as core philosophies for investment success. The trailing average annual return of The Balanced Growth Fund for the past 7 years is 9.75% and 7.2% annually since 1990.

During 2015 over $6.8M was distributed back to churches and institutions from invested funds to carry out their own mission and ministry. Over $825,000 in grants and scholarships were awarded from endowments. Our staff conducted 29 workshops and presentations in churches, made dozens of donor and potential donor visits, and participated in 87 meetings about investment, planned giving, endowments, and scholarship options.

As 2016 gets underway we are launching a new newsletter, The Personal Planner, while continuing our e-news, The Circuit Rider Dispatch. If you are not currently receiving either newsletter, and would like to, please send us your email address either by email to holstonfoundation@holston.org, or call 865-690-8124.

Through the hard work of a very dedicated professional staff and a devoted and talented board of volunteer directors, the Holston Conference Foundation is eager to serve you, your church, or your ministry. Our programs, workshops, materials, and visits are available at no cost. Let us assist you in exploring the possibilities!

~ Roger Redding, Executive Director
~ Sam Coulter, Board President
Once upon a time in October 1956, a young Methodist minister named Rev. James Hankins watched a 5 minute video from the Tennessee Credit Union League on “How to Start a Credit Union”. He said, “That’s simple. Let’s get started helping each other!” He contacted six other clergy … and so it began.

Since then we’ve worked diligently at growing WHAT we can offer, WHO we can offer it to, and HOW we can make ourselves more accessible to local businesses and people across all ages. We’re now a full-service financial institution with:

- Nearly 4,700 accounts with assets of over $13,507,995
- Mission to help our members through all stages in life
- Investing profits into the membership and in the community
- Belief in the importance of giving back

**Highlights From 2015**

- Holston Methodist FCU funded over $3,895,842 in total loans
- Holston Methodist FCU funded over $1,836,446 in auto loans
- Holston Methodist FCU added 84 church Visa accounts
- Holston Methodist FCU loan portfolio consists of $1,004,097 in church loans
- HMFCU members made 2,141 deposits totaling $1,583,093.09 via RDC (Remote Deposit Capture)
Hankins Educational Memorial Scholarship

The Holston Methodist Federal Credit Union Scholarship fund was named in loving memory of our founder, Rev. James E. Hankins & wife, Virginia Hankins, employee of 25 years, who were staunch believers in encouraging young people to pursue their education and fulfill their life dreams. In the spirit of their legacy, Holston Methodist FCU & the Hankins Family are proud to annually present these scholarships.

The 2015 Hankins Memorial Educational Scholarship was awarded to one undergraduate and one graduate student:

Drew Robertson-Gouge - Graduate of Pulaski County High School and attends Virginia Tech. He’s majoring in Architecture with a minor in music.

Angie Woody - Graduate of UTK with a Major in Sacred Music. She enrolled in the Tusculum College Graduate program, pursuing a Master of Arts teaching degree with K-12 Certification in Music Education.

2016 Board of Directors

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Mr. Bill Ailor, Esq., Vice-Chair
Mr. Carlos Sandoval, Secretary/Treasurer
Rev. Mahan Archer, Board Member
Rev. Jason Gattis, Board Member
Rev. Asa Majors, Board Member
Mr. Lee Raines, Board Member
Rev. Melissa Smith, Board Member
Mr. Michael Taylor, Board Member
Rev. David Graves, VIP Board Member
Mr. Alan Elazer, VIP Board Member
Mr. Steve Walling, Esq., VIP Board Member

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On the Green
HOLSTON UNITED METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

Holston United Methodist Home for Children is related to the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. Holston Home celebrated its 120th year of ministry in the Wesleyan tradition this past year. Through residential care, foster care, adoption services, education, and family support services, Holston Home has brought healing and transformation to children, youth, and families whose lives have been disrupted by the traumas of family breakdown, interpersonal or relational problems, and other conflicts.

We believe God has called us to be the ambassadors in partnership with members of the churches of Holston Conference. Thank you for your part in answering God’s call to hurting families and children. In 2014-2015, our services touched the lives of almost 700 children in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

Some of the accomplishments made possible by our partnership during the 2014-2015 year include:

• Extensive upgrades were made to facilities throughout the campus (bathrooms, kitchens, flooring, etc.)

• The Four Pillars of Care Master Campus Plan was developed and approved. The four pillars represent worship, education, work, and recreation. The plan includes changing the primary campus entrance to the Beacon School entrance, giving Beacon School a facelift on the backside, building an all-purpose sports field in the pasture space across Wesley Avenue from Beacon School, and building a new Worship Center in the wooded area between Beacon School and Bewley Center to replace the current Chapel space in our school building.

• The children worked on several mission projects: One group joined the mission team from Fairview UMC in Maryville on a trip to Guatemala and one went to the inner city of Jackson, Mississippi. Many of the children worked on projects in the surrounding Greeneville community to provide home repairs for the elderly and disabled.

• A new Mission Statement represents the foundation from which we operate. It is very similar to our previous version with some enhancements. The new statement reads: “Holston United Methodist Home for Children provides hope and healing for a brighter future by sharing the love of Jesus with children and families struggling with life’s challenges.”

• Two groups of NOMADS (Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service) spent many volunteer hours around the campus doing such things as fence building, painting, and other things to beautify our campus. The NOMADS are a vital part of Holston Home’s volunteer program. We also have many church men, women, and youth groups that help with different projects on the campus.

• Friends of Children events were held in Bristol, Cleveland, Knoxville, Tri-Cities, and Greeneville. These events are held for the purpose of recognizing persons who have helped Holston Home during the year and making new friends for our children. They are also used to raise funds for special projects and operations.
We thank you for your part in our ministry as you answer the call of Christ to minister to the poor, downtrodden, alienated, frustrated and disenfranchised members of our society. We are grateful to the Pastors and the Ambassadors for their good work in promoting Fifth Sunday Offerings and Advance Specials. We are convinced that God has called us all to be His ambassadors in partnership with the members of the churches of the Holston Conference, and together we are answering His call.

Plan to visit the Greeneville campus and experience first-hand the transformation and redemption that is taking place in the lives of children. Then share our story with others in your church. Remember to pray for the children, their families and our staff.

God bless you,

~ Reverend Charles A. Hutchins
Director, Church Relations and Estates
James 1:27

~ Bradley S. Williams, President
Romans 8:28
We are happy to report that Lake Junaluska once again ended the year “in the black”, wrapping up 2015 with a balance of over $200,000. We continue to accomplish this without any operational apportionment support from the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and we remain committed to “live within our means.” 2015 was also a great year for charitable giving. We received $1,079,863.01 from 1,312 individuals. Giving to the Annual Fund was once again, a new record high. We are so grateful that more people are affirming the mission of Lake Junaluska through their charitable giving.

As we continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our facilities, grounds, and programs, we are also solidifying our commitment to one of our most important assets, our staff. Of the $200,000 “profit” from 2015, $100,000 was distributed, in the form of profit sharing, back to all current staff who worked in 2015. The remainder was used to fund an across the board 2.5% pay increase for all current staff in 2016. We are also proud to report that the renovation of The Terrace hotel began to pay off immediately upon completion, earning more revenue in its nine months of operation in 2015 than it did in the full twelve months of 2014. While our expectations were high for the impact the renovations would have on our guests’ experiences, the formal and informal responses of our guests has been overwhelmingly positive. We are also working diligently to refine and improve our existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with our mission. We are truly seeking every day to make the best possible use of all of our assets.

As a member of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction we want you to know that “your” asset, Lake Junaluska, is doing very well. You can be very proud of this important organization within the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church. We are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which you have entrusted us.

To learn more about what is going on at Lake Junaluska, we encourage you to pick up a copy of our 2016 Discover Lake Junaluska magazine. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of our programs, to learn about new projects we are working on, and to familiarize yourself with our calendar of events. We do hope you can come and visit us this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

~ Jack Ewing, President
EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE

Founded nearly 180 years ago by the Holston Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as Southwest Virginia’s first institution of higher education, I am pleased to report on our continued progress at Emory & Henry College.

• Enrollment at Emory & Henry College climbed to a record high last year. Total fall enrollment in 2015 stood at 1,117 – a 7.6% increase over 2014. Increased graduate numbers are due to the successful launch of a new Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the College’s School of Health Sciences in Marion, Va. This marked the third straight year of enrollment growth for E&H.

• College officials cut the ribbon last fall on the new $22 million Woodrow W. McGlothlin Center for the Arts at its main campus. The 47,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility includes a 461-seat proscenium theatre and a 120-seat black box studio theatre. The building, named for a successful alumnus and one of the College’s most generous benefactors, also includes dressing rooms, production areas, a modern art gallery, offices, and studios for the campus radio station, WEHC-90.7 FM.

• Dr. John Jackson has been named founding chair and director of the College’s developing Occupational Therapy program, which is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2016 at its School of Health Sciences. Dr. Scott Richards has been named the founding chair and director of the College’s developing Physician Assistance Program, which is expected to start in the fall of 2017.

• An agreement between Emory & Henry and the Mel Leaman Free Clinic will enhance delivery of health care services to low income and uninsured individuals in the Smyth County, Virginia area and eventually enable the Marion clinic to expand its services to residents of surrounding counties. Under the agreement, the Free Clinic will move to renovated space at the College’s School of Health Sciences, which will double the clinic’s space for examination rooms, lab space, pharmacy space, and offices.

• I joined 44 other college and university presidents and chancellors in signing a new Climate Commitment to strengthen Emory & Henry’s battle against climate change. By participating in measures to address climate change, we are valuing both the world that God has given us and the energy savings that allow us to operate with greater fiscal responsibility. In a related note, we also signed the Talloires Declaration, agreeing to increase awareness of environmentally sustainable development, create an institutional culture of sustainability, and educate for an environmentally responsible citizenship at the College.

• Our College Chaplain, the Rev. Mary K. Pope Briggs (E&H ’86), and our Associate Chaplain, the Rev. Sharon Wiley Wright (E&H ’94), continue spiritual outreach to faculty, staff, and students of all Christian denominations and other faiths. Chaplain Briggs oversees Spiritual Life programming and continues her strong leadership with our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities. Associate Chaplain Wright works directly with our student groups and activities. And we are pleased that a number of our recent graduates are attending divinity school at such distinguished destinations as Candler
Chaplain Briggs has spent a great deal of time this year directing Defining Moments, the program funded by a $100,000 grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry’s Young Clergy Initiative. During the pilot year this ministry began the process of reaching out to young people in Holston Conference who were identified as discerning a call to ministry. Pastors and lay person across the conference nominated high school students and young adults to participate in age specific residential events in July, October, and April. After their initial meetings, they continued to meet online with their small groups under the leadership of young clergy mentors. Emory & Henry’s partnerships with the Holston Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Council on Youth Ministries have been invaluable to the success of this important endeavor designed to help transform the ordained ministry across our denomination.

A member of the Mississippi Annual Conference, Dr. Joe Reiff is chair of the Religion Department at Emory & Henry. He recently completed a book that he has been working on for over a decade and I highly recommend it. *Born of Conviction: White Methodists and Mississippi’s Closed Society (Oxford Press, Dec. 2015)* details the courage of young Methodist clergy in Mississippi whose declaration of faith focused attention on the vital role of religion and reconciliation during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Its message of heroic moral leadership during changing times continues to inspire.

We have much to be thankful for as Emory & Henry continues to be recognized for its exceptional value, successful student achievements, and superior faculty.

- Emory & Henry was the top rated Virginia institution among the “Top 100 Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities” in the nation by Washington Monthly in part because of its historic commitment to community service.
- A popular student/college matching platform, College Raptor, has named Emory & Henry as one of the “Best Rural Colleges” in the nation. E&H ranked 13th in the category devoted to colleges that are outside city limits yet provide quality education that takes advantage of learning in a serene environment where students are the chief focus.
- Emory & Henry students outpace students at other private schools in the southeastern United States in rating their satisfaction with their institution. In a recent survey conducted by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), 92% of E&H first-year students rated their overall experience at Emory & Henry as excellent or good. This compares to the 88% average rating by students at all other private colleges and universities in the southeast.
- An E&H junior and member of the College’s Honors Program has been selected as a finalist for the Truman Scholarship, a prestigious student award that supports individuals committed to leadership, public service, and academic achievement. Ali Hillman, a psychology major from Weston,
Mass. is one of approximately 200 applicants from 130 institutions across the country to be named a finalist by the Truman Foundation. Successful scholars will be announced in late spring.

- Emory & Henry was recently highlighted by *Campus Technology* magazine for its cutting edge efforts to upgrade its Wi-Fi systems in preparation for the latest in mobile technology. When completed this spring, the campus will have one of the fastest and most reliable technology infrastructures in the nation for connecting smartphones, tablets, and laptops. The upgrade includes all residence halls (where 85% of the College’s students live), classrooms, academic buildings, and student gathering places.

We continue to be proud of all of our alumni who are making great contributions in our Conference and beyond. Some notable alumni include Bishop Richard C. Looney ’54, Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Communications in the Holston Conference Carol Wilson ’84, Johnson City District Superintendent Walter Weikel ’84, and countless other United Methodist ministers, music directors, and lay leaders. We are also excited about the contributions and service of other special alumni, including Gary Reedy ’78, new CEO of the American Cancer Society, U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith ’80 (VA-9th), and Speaker of the California Assembly Toni Atkins ’84.

I think that Methodists of the Holston Annual Conference who founded Emory & Henry nearly 180 years ago would be impressed that our mission and commitment to the intellectual, spiritual, and physical growth of our students has not wavered. They would have to be proud that our relationship with The United Methodist Church remains strong. I know they would be appreciative of the continuing support we receive from the Holston Annual Conference and its pastors and congregations, just as we are.

Emory & Henry is a special place with a rich history. I hope that you will continue to support our mission, recommend us to others, and keep us in your thoughts and prayers, as we will all of you.

~ Jake B. Schrum, M.Div., President
Our Dental Hygiene Program is expanding! Hiwassee introduces the new Mobile Dental Unit! Also, in 2016, Hiwassee will now be offering a Bachelor’s Degree in Dental Hygiene.

Hiwassee College named a 2016 BEST VALUE

May 9, 2015: Celebrated the 164th graduating class. Photo by: Steve Graff Photography

Pictured Right:
Dental Hygiene instructor Leslie Barkley introducing the Mobile Dental Unit
Below:

In 2015, student Halei LeQuire was recognized by the NCAA as player of the week and she also became the 2nd female student athlete to ever achieve 1,000 points at Hiwassee.

In 2015, the Tigers Baseball team recorded a 30-win season, tying the all time record in Hiwassee baseball history.

Equestrian students Jo Ellen Appleman and Ryan Cooper displaying blue ribbons at a Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society Schooling Show.

Hiwassee College student Kelsey Hawkins crowned Miss Rodeo Tennessee 2016!

2015 graduate, Dominique Stringer, signs with Semi-Pro Women’s Basketball team the Auburn Flyers.

The Student Government Association presenting the Hiwassee Heisman award to Danica Prada. This award is presented each week to a student that excels at being outstanding in leadership around campus, exceptional abilities in academics, and exceptional abilities in consideration of others.
Hiwassee adds a new multi-purpose arena! The arena was added in late 2015 to better serve the wide variety of students and boarders alike.

A grant from the Roddy Foundation provided funds for Katherine Frank’s College Foundations class to renovate a classroom into a seminar classroom. Dr. Tricoli assists students with renovations.

Mike Wahl teaching Intro To Driving Fall 2015. Hiwassee is one of the very few colleges in the nation to provide driving classes.

2015 Fall Orientation welcomed more students than in recent years.
Forestry students assembled and hung bird houses in the forest around camps to help increase the local bird population.

In the year 2014, Alumni Giving Report showed the total giving percentage to be a mere 0.8%. We are pleased to report that in 2015, with your help, we have grown the total alumni giving percentage to 4.5%!
Hiwassee College Theatre performed and hosted several performances in 2015 including, Antigone, Dead Man’s Cell Phone, and The Nutcracker.

Hiwassee College Performing Arts Theatre

Guests enjoyed a live band and danced the night away while raising funds for student scholarships.

Students Blaine Howell, Caitlynn Millsaps, Elijah Davis, and Toure Fudge welcome guests at social hour before the Gala begins.
Hiwassee hosts 2015 Monroe County Relay for Life.

Hiwassee will host the 5th annual Tiger Games for local high schools in April.

Annual Step into Spring Brunch and Fashion Show. This event raises money for campus beautification.

$58,000 Raised in 2015
Hiwassee Lady Tigers Basketball Team took an educational tour of Selma, Alabama to learn more about civil rights while on the road.

~ Dr. Robin J. Tricoli, President
Tennessee Wesleyan College has continued to expand its academic offerings so as to broaden its ability to serve east Tennessee and beyond. We received approval to offer our second master’s program in 2014, and consequentially, launched an online MBA. More recently, Tennessee Wesleyan received approval to offer bachelor’s degrees in communications, health and human performance, and social work.

The Center for Servant Leadership continues to achieve tremendous impact in the region. In its sixth year, the Center matches students with service opportunities in the region. This past year, TWC students performed approximately 15,000 hours of service in local non-profit agencies. Additionally, the Center coordinated in the last few years several mission trips including service work in the Appalachian region, Florida, and abroad. Tennessee Wesleyan was named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Services Honor Roll for the second year in a row. This designation is the highest honor a college can receive for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.

Ms. Stephanie Huskey, Assistant Professor in Exercise Science, was named the 2014-2015 Exemplary Teacher of the Year among the United Methodists colleges in the United States. Also, Dr. William McDonald was awarded a post-doctoral faculty fellowship by the Appalachian College Association. Dr. McDonald’s research project, Birds of a Feather: The Lives of Ecumenical Congregations, focuses upon denominations that have come together in regard to shared space, shared clergy, worship and other programs – Lutheran-Episcopal, Lutheran-Methodist, Catholic-Lutheran, and various combinations involving Presbyterians and United Church of Christ.

Tennessee Wesleyan earned 2015 Tree Campus USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation. TWC was honored for promoting healthy trees and encouraging conservation efforts on campus. Tree Campus USA is a national program created by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota to honor colleges and universities for effective campus tree management and exceptional engagement of students, faculty, and staff in conservation and sustainability efforts on campus.

Tennessee Wesleyan offered spiritual life presentations throughout the year and several are upcoming:

- September 3, 2015: “God On the Stand” - Rev. Jacob Reedy, Associate Pastor, Middlebrook Pike UMC, Knoxville, TN
- September 17, 2015: “The Night May Be Long, But the Day Shall Come” – Dr. Augustin Bocco, Professor of French
October 15, 2015: Dr. Sean Hayden, Professor of Philosophy

October 22, 2015: “Smoke and Mirrors and the Truth” - David Scott – Former Women’s BB coach at Oak Ridge HS, and TWC Athletic Hall of Fame member

October 29, 2015: David Graybeal – Pastor, Keith Memorial UMC, Athens, TN

November 5, 2015: Pat Tipton – Pastor, Kincaid UMC, Kingsport, TN, and Youth Director at 1st UMC, Rogersville, TN

January 14, 2016: Dr. Sam Roberts, former Professor of Philosophy and Chair of Department of Philosophy and Religion

February 4, 2016: Don Washburn, Director of Camp Lookout

February 29 – March 1, 2016: “The United Methodist Hymnal: Mapping the Christian Journey,” and “Her Colleges: Shapers of American Methodism.” Dr. Russell Richey, Dean emeritus of Candler School of Theology and William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Church History Emeritus, Emory University. Spring Lecture and 2016 Heritage Day Speaker.

March 3, 2016: Rev. Wayne Williams – Pastor, 1st United Presbyterian Church, Athens, TN

March 17, 2016: Rev. Adam Love – TWC and Candler graduate, and pastor at Kingsley UMC, Kingsport, TN

March 24, 2016: Chris Lee, TWC graduate and Contemporary Worship Music Director, 1st UMC Maryville

With God’s blessings, the spirit of Tennessee Wesleyan College remains strong and vital as it strives to prepare students for a life of leadership and service in an ever-changing global community.

~ Harley Knowles, President
Dear Colleagues in the Holston Conference:

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (STH) walks with you on the journey of discipleship, seeking to love God and to love our neighbors with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Thank you for your prayers that inspire and support the STH mission to love God, build knowledge, and equip leaders for the church and society.

NEWS

• **New faculty**: This year, Boston University welcomed new faculty in ethics, psychology, theologies of spirituality, comparative theology, church renewal, Black church leadership, and mission studies. We welcomed: Nimi Wariboko (Walter G. Muelder Professor of Social Ethics); David Decosimo (Theology); Theodore Hickman-Maynard (Evangelism and Church Renewal); Andrea Hollingsworth (Theology); Barbod Salimi (Psychology and Peace Studies); and Daryl Ireland (Associate Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission).

• **Spiritual life**: STH continued to expand and deepen its spiritual life program, led by Charlene Zuill, Spiritual Life Coordinator and United Methodist elder. Bishop Susan Hassinger, Claire Wolfteich, and many others also offer a rich selection of courses in spirituality and leadership.

• **Chaplaincy track**: STH added a chaplaincy track to the MDiv degree, preparing students for hospitals, prisons, and military settings.

ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE: STH spent much energy this year in hard conversations on violence, racism, and injustice, seeking to be honest and vigorously open to change, while honoring the dignity of all persons.

• **Power, Privilege and Prophetic Witness** is the STH theme for 2015-2017. We engaged the theme in classes, lectures, retreats, and workshops, seeking to stretch our capacities to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

• **Examining the intersection of theology and race**. The opportunities this year included: a brilliant new documentary on North Korea; a dialogical viewing of *Selma*; dialogues on racism with Thandeka and Andrew Sung Park; a retreat on building race relations; circle worship; a student-led event *Missing Voices, Daunting Choices: The Erasure of Black Women in Black American Movements*; and events on interfaith understanding.

CARING FOR THE CHURCH through leadership and service.

• **Serving the United Methodist Church**. Students served local churches and church bodies as interns, staff, and volunteers. Faculty served with such bodies as: United Methodist Women, World Methodist Council, Ministry Study Commission, Women of Color Scholars and Mentors program, Pan Methodist Commission on Children in Poverty, and boards and agencies of the general church and annual conferences.

• **Empowering young Latino/a leaders**. Young leaders gathered with seasoned mentors to enhance their gifts and service as Christian leaders: Hispanic Youth Leadership Initiative (HYLA) and Raíces Latinas Leadership Institute.
• **Facilitating dialogues on church renewal.** We launched a new initiative on Evangelism and Church Renewal.

• **Reflecting on worship.** We contributed to a special issue of *Worship Arts Magazine*, edited and written by STH faculty, alumni/ae, and students, and published by the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.

**CARING FOR THE WORLD**

• **Offering opportunities for engaged learning.** Opportunities included the Doctor of Ministry program in Transformational Leadership; an urban ministry course; travel seminars to India, the Arizona-Mexico border, Israel-Palestine, Mexico, and Turkey (Ephesus); work with leaders in Ferguson, MO; and a travel seminar for UMC clergywomen to Cuba, co-sponsored by GBHEM and STH.

• **Collaborating with the global church.** Collaborations included sponsorship of the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*; events and art exhibits on local and global ecology; and dialogues with global church leaders.

As we at STH seek to be faithful and to partner with you in ministry, we give thanks for your witness. Thank you too for your continuing inspiration and contributions to our shared journey.

Blessings and gratitude,

~ Mary Elizabeth Moore  
Dean of Boston University School of Theology

**CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler now offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, development practice, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a retooled Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study—and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn
to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 466 students are enrolled, with 48 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 29. Students represent 44 denominations, with 51 percent coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2015-2016, we awarded nearly $5.5 million in Candler scholarships, with 92 percent of MDiv students and 84 percent of all students receiving support. And our comprehensive financial literacy program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they serve—well into the future.

At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, Candler says goodbye and Godspeed to a handful of noted faculty as they retire: Barbara Day Miller, Luke Timothy Johnson, Steve Tipton, and Bishop Woodie White. Yet even as these legends take their leave after distinguished careers of scholarship and service, we look forward to welcoming a new crop of scholar-leaders who will join us in the coming months and grow with us in the coming years. We are especially pleased to welcome Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who will join the faculty as bishop-in-residence in the fall of 2016.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

~ Jan Love
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology
DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

A Cohering Vision: Curriculum, Community, Co-Curricular Initiatives

After much collaborative discussion, discernment, and evaluation of the current state of theological education, those of us who lead, teach, and support Drew Theological School have launched on an ambitious course. Nearly 150 years after our founding, we envision a future as bright as the best eras in our past. I am pleased to share with you here the concrete steps we have taken, and are taking, to bring this future to light.

First, our efforts have been attentive to the history of Drew, in particular its Methodist roots, its long commitment to the Church and its ministries, and draw from this wellspring for inspiration and direction. Also, we have honored our progress to achieve denominational, ethnic, gender, and racial diversity in our faculty and student body. This rich diversity has become both a hallmark of Drew and an expansion of our wellspring. Forces beyond our campus notably, that the reasons for pursuing a theological education and expected outcomes are shifting dramatically, further press the need for us to align our vision and its supporting systems with our communal reality.

Given this imperative, we are focused on the three “C’s” of our cohering vision: redesigning our curriculum, strengthening our community of learning, and deepening training through revived co-curricular initiatives. These three aspect of a Drew Theological School education will work together to enable us to empower creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace, and love of God, neighbor, and the earth, as well as uniquely position us to lead evolving expressions of Christianity.

Designing distinct pathways from curriculum to vocation

To remain meaningful and offer the greatest value to our students, each of the six degree paths that we offer must be as distinct as the ministry to which it leads. For example, our Master of Arts in Ministry program, which forms students for the broadest spectrum of theologically-informed advocacy and ministry, or our DMin program, which has become the “new” terminal vocational degree, must be custom rebuilt for current and emerging student needs and outcomes. This also holds true for our Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, PhD, and, most critically, our Master of Divinity programs.

We have achieved our roadmap for curricular change through a period of intentional discernment, which included discussion with consultants, and with colleagues at peer institutions, who led a curricular formation retreats with our faculty; through the discernment and guidance of our faculty, and with the generous financial support of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund. Our next steps include a comprehensive analysis of pedagogical and technological trends in theological education, enrollment, and outcomes. Our redesigned curricular paths will be announced in the fall of 2017, concurrent with the 150th anniversary of the founding of Drew Theological School and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Student experiences rooted in community

Despite the increase in students pursuing their education through evening classes and online enrollment, we remain committed to the on-campus experience of community. This begins with a student-centered educational experience that better attends to the scheduling needs of our students, offers broader course content and availability, and more intentionally integrates vocational or career aspirations with coursework.
The success of these efforts are inextricably linked to scholarship support. Only by removing the financial barriers for students pursuing vocations can we hope to attract and retain the most promising students and free them to learn and grow in community. Related to tuition support is the need for more affordable and modernized housing for those students who choose to live on campus. Together, scholarship support and housing relief will also unburden our students from unsustainable debt.

**Fostering innovation in ministry and the work of spirit-filled justice**

To round out changes in our curriculum and on-campus learning experiences, we are also reviving co-curricular initiatives. The existing Center for Lifelong Learning will be recast as the new Center for Innovation and Leadership in Ministry and serve students, alumni, and others seeking to find creative and courageous approaches to revitalizing ministry. Here, programming will train pastoral leaders, in particular, for service in rapidly changing church environments, as well as position them to lead fearlessly and prophetically.

Our second co-curricular center will be an expansion of the current Communities of Shalom. This initiative will focus on action, advocacy, and social justice work in both pastoral and lay environments. Projects will range from student interns supporting the work of A Future with Hope in our home state of New Jersey, advancing social justice in non-profit settings across the country and around the world, initiatives which seek to transform and end systemic poverty, expansion of our Partnership for Religion and Education in Prisons (PREP) program, and teaching residencies at Drew for prophetic leaders.

**Success so far through our One and All Campaign**

As the 14th dean of Drew Theological School, I am deeply committed to continuing our long and distinguished legacy. To this end, our vision is innovative, forward-looking, and grounded in the practical needs of our students—we hope, too, that it is an inspiration to the various constituencies we serve. I fully subscribe to the inimitable words of Antonio Machado, that “we make the road by walking.” The road to this bright future we envision will be made by the dedication, determination, and generosity of those who love Drew and believe in its future. Our vision is coming to light, in part, because of the generosity of our many alumni-donors and friends. Our One and All fundraising campaign has raised more than $12 million to date for the Theological School and has seed-funded many of our burgeoning efforts.

Also, I encourage our alumni to embrace your power of influence to help grow philanthropic support for Drew Theological School. Many of our largest gifts have come from the influence of alumni, particularly pastors who serve in our church communities. Yes, the needs ahead are many, yet our hope is high for a bright future for Drew Theological School. The road is made by walking. Let’s walk it together.

~ The Reverend Dr. Javier A. Viera  
Dean of the Theological School  
Professor of Pastoral Theology
DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The academic year 2015–2016 has been one of transition as Dean Richard Hays was diagnosed with cancer and forced to step down from his role as dean a year sooner than anticipated. Ellen Davis, Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology, accepted the invitation from Duke University President Richard Brodhead to serve as interim dean this year. A robust search committee to select candidates for the dean position had already been assembled, and they have spent this year conducting a thorough and thoughtful process to present final nominations to the president and provost of Duke University, who will make the final decision. The final slate of candidates was presented to the president and provost on Feb. 1, 2016, and we anticipate a final decision later this spring.

In the midst of this year of transition, we continue to engage with the church, academy, and society on important ecclesial and cultural issues. The heart of our work remains the preparation of men and women for Christian ministry and leadership within the church. This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2015, our total enrollment was 626 students: 449 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 36 in the M.T.S.; 19 in the Th.M.; 44 in the Th.D.; 71 in the D.Min.; 33 in the M.A.C.P.; 16 in the M.A.C.S.; and 12 who are special students. Thirty-eight percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 43 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Fourteen percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 8 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 22 other denominations or nondenominational churches.

This year we made a number of strategic staffing decisions to ensure that we are meeting the priorities of the Divinity School. Laceye Warner, associate professor of evangelism and Methodist studies, has been named our senior strategist for United Methodist collaborations. Warner, whose background includes academic administration, parish ministry, theological teaching, and denominational leadership, will bring oversight, guidance, and new ideas about ways that the Divinity School can work with our United Methodist partners in the work of serving local churches and local pastors. She has been named interim regional director and head of Course of Study at Duke, one of the largest Course of Study programs. She will build on the strong existing curriculum to explore new forms of pastoral formation, as well as develop more formal assessments about the effectiveness of Course of Study to ensure that it delivers the best preparation for local pastors and churches.

Warner has also worked with Pastor David McNitzky of Alamo Heights UMC in San Antonio, Texas, to create a certificate program. People in the church were interested in learning more about theology, church history, and biblical studies. The church offers courses and helps people use this training to be transformational leaders in their church and community, and Duke Divinity School recognizes this training with an approved certificate.

Jeff Conklin-Miller, the E. Stanley Jones Assistant Professor of the Practice of Evangelism and Christian Formation and Royce and Jane Reynolds Teaching Fellow, has been named the new associate dean for academic programs. He is also the director of the master of arts in Christian practice (M.A.C.P.) program. Conklin-Miller is an ordained elder in the California-Pacific Conference and has served local churches as an associate pastor, co-pastor, and senior pastor. In addition to his extensive church
ministry, he has experience in academic administration and Christian formation. In his role as academic dean, Conklin-Miller draws on these various aspects of his experience in order to ensure that academic and other formation programs at the Divinity School equip our students to further God’s work in the church and the world.

We are well aware of the changing landscape in theological education: fewer people express interest in pursuing theological degrees, and the costs of education continue to rise. As part of strengthening our commitment to the priorities of recruitment and financial aid, we have appointed Todd Maberry to the new position of senior director of admissions, recruitment, and student finance. Maberry, who earned an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and an M.P.A. degree from North Carolina State University, has served in academic administration and church leadership. Most recently he was the community pastor at the Church of the Resurrection (Downtown) in Kansas City, Mo., and he comes to Duke under appointment of Bishop Scott Jones in the Great Plains Conference.

Another notable new hire is the appointment of Meghan Feldmeyer Benson as Divinity School Chaplain, following the retirement of Sally Bates. An ordained elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference, she served for nine years as Director of Worship at Duke Chapel. Shortly after Rev. Benson began her chaplaincy last summer, both Richard Hays and Professor Kate Bowler were diagnosed with cancer, and she immediately demonstrated her gift for offering comfort and guidance to the Divinity School community through both skillfully designed worship and pastoral care. In the months since, Benson has continued to foster a spirit of prayerfulness, while also overseeing the Divinity School’s worship life and opportunities for spiritual formation.

Our initiatives, centers, and programs are a vital resource for us in connecting the work of Duke Divinity School with other disciplines and constituents. Our Thriving Rural Communities initiative hosted “Fan the Flame,” a weekend retreat on growth and sustainability for small-membership churches. In partnership with the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences, they also sponsored the 2015 Convocation on the Rural Church, “Living in Community,” to discuss issues important for transforming rural churches and communities. The Hispanic House of Studies, supported by both North Carolina Conferences, hosted a retreat for pastors serving the Hispanic and Latino/a community. Duke Divinity School remains committed to supporting local churches and local pastors, particularly in under-resourced communities.

Spirited Life, a holistic wellness program and behavioral health study conducted by the Clergy Health Initiative, has concluded its direct services to pastors, after working with more than 1,100 United Methodist clergy in North Carolina since 2010. The program provided resources for improving mental, spiritual, and physical health through evidence-based programs, coaching, and support. The initiative will continue to conduct and publish research, and will continue to offer information for clergy, congregants, and denominational officials to support the well-being of pastors.

Since 1979, the Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition has been a source of internationally acclaimed research and support for Methodist and Wesleyan studies. The Center hosts the Wesley Works Editorial Project, which this year published a new volume of the works of John Wesley and launched a new website. The new volume, *The Works of John Wesley Volume 27: Letters III (1756–1765)*, is the third of seven volumes devoted to Wesley’s correspondence. The new website provides information on the previously published work as well as other resources for the study of John and Charles Wesley.
Several initiatives, specifically in the areas of health care, reconciliation, and the arts, provide opportunities for theological reflection to intersect with the pressing needs in our world today. Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA), Theology, Medicine, and Culture (TMC), the Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS), and the Center for Reconciliation (CFR) each sponsored numerous speakers and events during this past year. Faith & Leadership, the online magazine published by LEADD, continues to reach over 300,000 readers and provide a resource for theological reflection and “traditioned innovation” for all in ministry. Their continued excellent work was recognized again this year with awards from the Associated Church Press “Best of the Christian Press” contest.

Our faculty continue to be recognized for their scholarship and interdisciplinary expertise. Xi Lian and J. Kameron Carter were both named Henry Luce III Fellows for 2015–16. Ross Wagner, Kate Bowler, and Jennie Grillo each received prestigious research grants and fellowships to support their book projects. Faculty continue to be in demand as preachers, speakers, lecturers, and conference presenters all over the world, from academic conferences to leading Sunday school classes, to preaching in churches.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by,
~ Ellen F. Davis, Interim Dean

ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we share the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

The Iliff School of Theology’s commitment to the Wesleyan ethos of providing hopeful, intellectually alive, and spiritually grounded theological education for each and every student over the course of their lifetime continues. Iliff’s identity is focused on educating leaders for three primary publics: the world, the church, and the academy. At Iliff, we refuse to choose between being a training home only for ministerial candidates, a center only for activists and scholar-activists, or a school only for academics. We believe all three are inseparable and enhance one another as we deliberately situate ourselves in the world and critically operate out of the world’s complexities.

As such, we recognize that the world’s religious landscape is changing and there is much at stake. Iliff recently completed its strategic plan, revised its curriculum, transformed its library, and initiated new relationships with other institutions. In collaboration with the people of Africa, we’ve started a discussion with Africa University (AU) to foster an educational alliance that will benefit Iliff and AU students. We have also joined a multi-institutional collaboration facilitated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the HANA Scholarship to create a pipeline for Hispanic students from United Methodist related secondary schools and historically black colleges leading to graduate level theological education.
Iliff’s enrollment continues to be strong with 365 students joining us this academic year, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist – all actively engaged in a host of ministry contexts. Their interest continues to be strong in Iliff’s online and hybrid classes. A concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities continues with many MDIV students participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a $250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Iliff’s numerous events for area clergy and supporters remains part of our foundation. Via forums and conferences on social justice, food justice, the role of faith in politics, environmental stewardship, theology and disability inclusion, and more. Campus speakers included Rev. Gerald Durley, nationally-known civil rights leader and this year’s Jameson Jones Preacher, Heather Jarvis, student debt reduction advocate, and more. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary’s Center for Faith and Service when we were named as one of the nation’s “Seminaries That Change the World” and our Master’s of Theology Program was ranked seventh in the nation by OnlineColleges.net.

We welcomed two new scholars to our faculty this year, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Leath, Assistant Professor of Religion and Social Justice and ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Rev. Michelle Watkins-Branch, Gerald L. Schlessman Professor in Methodist Studies and Assistant Professor of Theology and ordained in the United Methodist Church.

We continue to look forward with a courageous theological imagination. We are sincerely grateful for your support of theological education and the Ministerial Education Fund.

~ Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe, President and Chief Executive Officer

**UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio continues to educate a significant number of pastors and local church leaders for the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church.

United has always focused on developing faithful, fruitful, inspired, and inspiring pastors and local church leaders. 83% of the 2015 graduates of United are now serving in local congregations. 53% of the 2015 graduates from all other seminaries affiliated with the Association of Theological Seminaries are serving in local congregations.

Furthermore, 44% of the current 449 students at United are African American which makes United one of the most racially diverse seminaries in the United States. An average of 12% of the student body at most seminaries in the United States is African American. 43% of the students at United are female compared to an average of 33% at other United States seminaries.
United is one of the most racially and gender diverse seminaries in the United States and produces a higher percentage of local church pastors than most other seminaries in the United States.

United is also in the process of leadership transition. In November, 2015 President Wendy Deichmann resigned as President and, after a well-deserved sabbatical, will return to serving as a Professor of History and Theology. Under President Deichmann, United was listed as one of the 12 fastest growing seminaries in the United States largely because of the growing Doctor of Ministry program and our on line degree programs. 44% of United's students are in the Master of Divinity program, 41% are in the Doctor of Ministry program, and 15% are in other degree or certificate programs.

In January, 2016 The United Board of Trustees selected Dr. Kent Millard, former pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, as Interim President while they search for a new President.

St. Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy these words of advice:

"I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands." Second Timothy 1:6

United Theological Seminary along with the other 12 United Methodist Seminaries in the United States is committed to helping persons "rekindle the gift of God that is within" to provide educated, inspired and inspiring spiritual leaders for the United Methodist Church throughout the world.

~ Dr. Kent Millard, Interim President

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wesley Theological Seminary has been equipping and sending forth prophetic preachers, teachers, and leaders into diverse ministries throughout the church and around the world. Near and far, our alumni point to God's love even as they join the Spirit in making disciples and shaping healthy communities.

With more than 410 master’s-level students preparing for leadership in the church and the world, Wesley remains one of the largest and most diverse theological schools in North America.

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership informs more than 17,000 pastors and lay leaders on trends and ideas through its e-newsletter. The center has influenced more than 5,600 church leaders through leadership assessments, sexual ethics trainings, and fundraising trainings.

The new Institute for Community Engagement is forwarding Wesley’s mission of raising prophetic leaders in the public square through classes, partnerships, conferences, and resources.

Wesley Students Are Answering God’s Call

Wesley provides more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships to our students thanks to the consistent support of alumni, congregations and friends.
of the seminary. The Ministerial Education Fund and conference partners help us equip a broad range of students to serve the church as pastors and leaders. These include:

- Two Master of Divinity students who are exploring ordination in the UMC that have created outreach opportunities for people who ordinarily would not consider going into a church. Zach Spoerl and Matt Wilke, working with three United Methodist Churches and Wesley, have started Pub Theology in downtown D.C., drawing spiritual-but-not-religious young adults into Christian community.

- Master of Theological Studies student Jane Adams is working with denominations and congregations on issues of poverty and hunger in the U.S. As an intern at the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, she provides tools for building on charitable activities such as food pantries and backpack ministries. As a member of a local United Methodist congregation, she’s putting her knowledge to work in her local church and neighborhood, too.

Christian leadership must innovate for greater faithfulness and be able to engage the full diversity of people within our society even while holding true to the foundations of our faith and tradition. The people named above – as well as so many more of our students – exemplify these aims. Read more about our students at wesleyseminary.edu/stories.

Mourning the Loss of a Christian Leader

The Rev. Clementa Pinckney was a Doctor of Ministry student at Wesley in the Leadership Excellence track. He was working on a research project on the combined role of pastor and statesman, when his life was taken along with eight others at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. Rev. Pinckney exemplified the spiritually powerful and prophetic leadership that is at the core of our mission.

To ensure Pinckney’s legacy continues, Wesley has established scholarships in his name for Doctor of Ministry candidates seeking to empower their congregations, engage their communities, and influence public discourse. Additionally, Wesley has developed a Doctor of Ministry track exploring the intersection between public life and church leadership. This degree focus amplifies Wesley’s mission and location and, we hope, will raise up leaders to continue Pinckney’s legacy. https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/

Seeking Connection

We are on this journey of faith together. As you follow Jesus Christ, we pray and trust the Spirit will equip you to mentor future leaders and to help others identify God’s call to ministry on their lives. Let us know about someone you feel has the potential for Christian leadership by emailing us admissions@wesleyseminary.edu. And may God’s transformative, creative Spirit lead all of us, as the body of Christ, to new and faithful ways of sharing God’s grace and love with all God’s people, for the redemption of the world. Learn more at wesleyseminary.edu.
RESOLUTION TO CHANGE HOLSTON CONFERENCE VACATION GUIDELINES FOR CLERGY

Whereas it is written in the 1994 Journal that there is an expressed need to have some uniform guidance to the local Churches of Holston Conference as to the appropriate allocation of vacation, continuing education and an understanding of regular time off during a work week.

Whereas the Holston Annual Conference {1994} recommends to the local Churches of Holston Conference the following guidelines:

• The local Church or charge negotiate a vacation policy for the pastor with the help of the following recommendations, as suggested by the Lay-Clergy Committee on vacation guidelines:
  
  0 - 5 years: 2 weeks  
  6 - 10 years: 3 weeks  
  11 + years: 4 weeks  

• That the PPR Committee also negotiate a plan and policy for continuing education to include up to two weeks per year with sufficient financial assistance to aid the pastor in the pursuit of said education.

• That the suggestions apply to all pastors under full-time appointment; local, probationary members, associate members, or full members.

Therefore be it resolved that this 2016 Holston Annual will revise the vacation guidelines to reflect the following:

• That each local Church or Charge include in their policy for pastor the change to the following vacation guidelines:
  
  0 - 5 years: 3 weeks  
  6 - 10 years: 4 weeks  
  11 + years: 6 weeks  

• That the SPPR Committee also include in their policy a plan for continuing education to include three weeks per year with sufficient financial assistance to aid the pastor in the pursuit of said education.

• That the SPPR Committee also be supportive of the pastor in providing for a full day off each week for the pastor for family and discretionary time.

• That this policy will apply to all full-time pastors under appointment, whether local pastor, probationary pastor, associate pastor or Elder in Full Connection.

• That these days off and these weeks of vacation be made mandatory for each pastor and that the requirements become a part of the evaluation process for reappointment.

Submitted by:  
~ Rev. Barbara Doyle
Be sure to stop by the Harrell Center Auditorium for all things **Cokesbury**!
COKESBURY MOBILE BOOKSTORE WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN HARRELL CENTER AUDITORIUM!

- Bibles
- Disciplines
- Bible Studies
- Robes
- Clergy Stoles
- Guidelines
- Devotionals
- Gifts
- Christian Novels

PLEASE VISIT THESE EXHIBITORS IN HARRELL CENTER AUDITORIUM AND OUTSIDE UNDER THE TENTS:

- Appalachia Service Project
- Appalachian Trail Chaplaincy
- Audio/Visual Library
- Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- Blessed Earth Tennessee
- Camping and Retreat Ministries
- Church and Community - Big Stone Gap
- Children’s Ministry
- Church Mutual
- Creation Care
- Deaconess/Home Missioner
- Disaster Response
- Discipleship Ministries
- Duke Divinity School
- Emory & Henry Admissions
- Emory & Henry Defining Moments
- General Board of Higher Ed and Ministry
- Grace Inside
- Henderson Settlement
- Holston Administrative Professionals
- Holston Conference Finance/Insurance
- Holston Conference Foundation
- Holston Conference Missions
- Holston Home for Children
- Holston Methodist Federal Credit Union
- Holston UM Renewal Fellowship
- Intentional Growth Center
- Jubilee Project
- Morgan Scott Project
- Muslim Outreach Team
- Older Adult Ministry
- Order of Deacons
- Outreach/Advocacy
- Partners in Crisis
- Project Crossroads
- Reconciling Ministries
- Society of St. Andrew
- South Sudan
- Stanley UMC Senior Citizens Grant
- Writing
- Strength for the Journey
- Susannah’s House
- Wesley Leadership Institute
- Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry

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Paragraph 251.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2012*: ...“The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the annual conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of conference.”

This guide is presented to assist you as you fulfill your responsibility to report to your local congregation about Holston Annual Conference 2016. We pray the guide will encourage you to keep a record of your experiences and perceptions, help you discover the heart and soul of the Annual Conference session, and assist you as you prepare your report and interpretation by suggesting topics and information that you might want to include. Remember to record both facts and your feelings to share when you return home.

While attending Annual Conference, be aware of the reports which indicate the state of the church, the dedication and work that is obviously reflected at all levels of leadership, how the decision-making process is used, and how the decisions reached will impact you, your local church, your district, and your conference.

There may be controversy. Whenever concerned Christians meet to make decisions, some controversy often occurs. The important thing is how we handle this controversy. Look for these points: (1) Were the issues presented fairly and openly? If not, why? (2) Was the process impartial? Did all have a chance to be heard? (3) Does the controversy center on different interpretations of the facts? (4) Does it concern a disagreement of beliefs? (5) Can the matter be resolved to everyone’s satisfaction? (6) What were the issues? How were they resolved? (7) Can you think of a creative way to resolve the controversy? (8) Are either the issues or the process of sufficient concern to warrant reporting it to your congregation?

Consider these suggestions for how you share, what you share, and when you share with your local church:

How? A panel of you and other members who attended from your church; a discussion between clergy and lay members; an interview by someone in the congregation; an article in your church newsletter or bulletin.

What? All items that impact you, your church, your district, your conference; your overall impression of the spirit of the session; programs or ideas that made you enthusiastic; information that you feel your church can put to good use.
When? A Sunday morning worship service; adult Sunday school classes; Administrative Board or Church Council meetings; United Methodist Women or Men; a special all-church meeting.

**Notes on Bible Study Sessions:**

*Monday morning:*

________________________________________________________________________

*Tuesday morning:*

________________________________________________________________________

**Notes on Business Reporting Sessions:**

*Monday morning:*

________________________________________________________________________

*Monday afternoon:*

________________________________________________________________________

*Tuesday morning:*

________________________________________________________________________

*Tuesday afternoon:*

________________________________________________________________________

**My impression of the Business of the Annual Conference:**

________________________________________________________________________
My impression of Evening Sessions:

Sunday evening Worship:

Monday evening Night of Inspiration with Inky Johnson:

Tuesday evening Mission Celebration:

My impression of the Memorial Service:

My impression of the Retirement Recognition:

My impression of the Society of St. Andrew Crop Drop event:

My impression of the Ordination & Sending Forth Service:

My overall impression of Holston Annual Conference 2016:
FORM FOR MOTION OR AMENDMENT TO REPORT
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

“All motions presented to the Conference and amendments to any paper shall be in writing and placed in the hand of the Secretary immediately following the presentation.”

Standing Rule 32, 2015 Journal

Date __________________________

Agenda Item ________________________________________

Motion /Amendment

Name of Maker ________________________________________

Clergy Member ☐  Lay Member ☐

Motion ________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

Seconded by __________________________________________

Conference Action

Approved ☐

Voted Down ☐

Referred to __________________________________________

for ________________________________________________

Other ________________________________________________

Thank you for assisting the Secretarial staff by the completion of this form!
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016
12:30 p.m. Black Methodists for Church Renewal Luncheon Lambuth Inn
2:00 p.m. Registration begins Reynolds Conference Center, Foundation for Evangelism

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016
7:00 a.m. Cabinet Breakfast Terrace, Room 316
12:00 p.m. Candler Alumni Luncheon Foundation for Evangelism
12:00 p.m. Ministers’ Spouses Luncheon Long’s Chapel UMC, Waynesville
12:00 p.m. Peace with Justice/Outreach/Advocacy Luncheon Terrace, Room 316
12:30 p.m. Deacon and Diaconal Ministries Luncheon Lambuth, Saville
5:00 p.m. Council on Finance and Administration - Q&A Terrace Lobby
5:15 p.m. Mission Dinner Terrace Auditorium
8:30 p.m. CCYM/Youth Night Shackford Hall
8:45 p.m. Meet and Greet with Inky Johnson Outside Stuart Auditorium

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016
7:00 a.m. Emory & Henry Alumni and Friends Breakfast Foundation for Evangelism
7:00 a.m. Extension Ministries Breakfast Terrace, Room 316
7:00 a.m. Holston UM Renewal Breakfast (reservations required) Terrace Auditorium
7:15 a.m. 5K Run/1-Mile Walk to benefit Conference Mission Offering Outside Stuart Auditorium
12:00 p.m. Society of St. Andrews Crop Drop Outside Gym
12:00 p.m. Associate Members and Local Pastors Luncheon Lambuth International
12:00 p.m. Holston Retirees Luncheon Terrace Auditorium
12:30 p.m. Board of Higher Education Luncheon Horton’s Home
6:00 p.m. Duke Divinity Alumni Fellowship Harrell Center, 2nd level porch

This listing of Special/Fellowship Events is also on page 17 in the Book of Reports.