Registration

Lay and Clergy Members of the Conference are asked to pre-register online at acregistration.holston.org no later than May 20, 2015. After May 20, conference members will register online upon arrival at the conference site. Name badges, worship books, and electronic voting keypads will be distributed at the Registration sites. Please note registration sites and times below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location and Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 7</td>
<td>Reynolds Conference Center in The Foundation for Evangelism (next to Bethea Welcome Center) 2:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 8</td>
<td>Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge ....8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 9</td>
<td>Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge ....8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 10</td>
<td>Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge .... 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 and pre-pay at acregistration.holston.org by May 20.
$20 per child per Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning/afternoon;
lunch must be provided or purchased. $10 per child per evening
(Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) or Thursday morning.

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 check in, 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.

Hotel and Cottage Rental Check-in ~ 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 7

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

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HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015
12:30 p.m. Black Methodists for Church Renewal Luncheon Lambuth Inn
2:00 p.m. Registration begins Reynolds Conference Center,
The Foundation for Evangelism Building (Next to Bethea Welcome Center)
3:00 p.m. First-time Appointed Pastors’ Training/Orientation Terrace Auditorium

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015
7:00 a.m. Cabinet Breakfast Terrace, Room 316
7:00 a.m. Society for Biblical Studies Breakfast Terrace, Room 319
12:00 p.m. Candler Alumni Luncheon Foundation for Evangelism
12:00 p.m. Lay Servant Ministry Luncheon Terrace, Room 319
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
5:15 p.m. Meet the Missionaries Dinner Terrace Auditorium

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015
6:30 a.m. Holston UM Renewal Breakfast (reservations required) Terrace Auditorium
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. Tennessee Wesleyan Alumni Breakfast Terrace, Room 319
7:00 a.m. Hiwassee College Alumni Breakfast Lambuth International
7:15 a.m. 5K Run/1-Mile Walk to benefit Conference mission offering Outside Stuart Auditorium
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
12:30 p.m. Leadership Holston Reunion Luncheon Terrace, Room 316
5:00 p.m. CFA – Q&A Session Terrace, Room 316
6:00 p.m. Duke Divinity Alumni Fellowship Harrell Center, 2nd level porch
8:30 p.m. Asbury Seminary Alumni Fellowship Terrace, Room 319
8:30 p.m. CCYM/Youth Night Shackford Hall

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015
7:00 a.m. United Methodist Men Breakfast Terrace, Room 319
12:30 p.m. Women in Ministry Luncheon Terrace, Room 319

This listing of Special/Fellowship Events is also on page 17 in the Book of Reports.
Blessed are the spiritually poor – the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Matthew 5:3 (The Voice)
All you who are poor, you are blessed for the kingdom of God belongs to you. Luke 6:20 (The Voice)

WELCOME TO THE 2015 SESSION OF THE HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Mary Virginia “Dindy” Taylor

This year, I invite and challenge you to ENGAGE in John Wesley’s Means of Grace. From the earliest beginnings of the Methodist movement, John Wesley taught that the grace of God is always working in and through us to make us holy, to make us more like God. Our faith is most relevant when we ENGAGE in a relationship with God and with others. In those early days, a “connexion” was a circuit of prayer groups. Today, The United Methodist Church defines “connexion” as the belief that “all leaders and congregations are connected in a network of loyalties and commitments that support, yet supersede, local concerns.”

We are called “Methodists” because we treasure the significance of spiritual practices or methods such as prayer, Bible study, worship, sharing in communion, and holy conferencing. These practices that God uses to make us holy describe what we will be about this week. God is working within us in a powerful way. United Methodists across Holston Conference are uplifting this conference in prayer.

In turn, God will inspire and challenge us to see, know, and serve our neighbors through acts of mercy such as feeding the hungry, doing good, and addressing the needs of the poor. Within the shadow of our churches, there are children who are living in poverty. Circumstances and situations can be transformed when the church is ENGAGED. Like the rhododendron in the cover photo, a small seed can take hold and produce great beauty even beyond that which seems locked in stone.

As we gather, be in prayer for the opportunities that are before us in our life together, in our witness to our neighbors, and in our work to transform the world as disciples of Jesus Christ. May we be open to the ways that God will ENGAGE us during our time together.

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, Stop Hunger Now and Society of St. Andrew donations Wednesday morning, and the Mission offering Wednesday 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. We very much appreciate your loyalty to us, and we do not take it for granted. We are striving to continue to live into our mission, “to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body,” and we hope that you can see it plainly in the spirit of our staff and our ongoing efforts to renew our lodging, meeting, and dining spaces.

We are particularly proud this year to welcome you to The Terrace, which is newly renovated and ready to meet your needs for lodging and meeting space with a beautifully updated style. In this phase of this extensive renovation we were able to completely renew the sleeping rooms, corridors, check-in lobby, and meeting spaces. Those of you staying in The Terrace this year are certainly in for a treat, and we invite those who are not lodging there to take time to visit the public spaces and see for yourselves the amazing transformation that has taken place. We hope that you will all consider The Terrace or the other lodging facilities at Lake Junaluska as a top choice for future events or even for a family vacation or a weekend away.

The Terrace renovation, along with improvements made to Jones Dining Hall, the Children’s Playground, and the lake front are just the beginning of great things to come at Lake Junaluska. We look forward to providing Christian hospitality to the Holston Annual Conference for generations to come.

We hope you enjoy your time with us at the 2015 Holston Annual Conference and pray that while you are here you will be “transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body.”

It is our pleasure to serve you.

Peace and Grace,

Jack Ewing, Executive Director
Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ORIENTATION GUIDE

1. What Is the Purpose of the Annual Conference?
Annual Conference is a yearly meeting of Holston United Methodists (lay and clergy) for spiritual renewal 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 itself 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?
Elected 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 (page 229) 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, 2015. 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. 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?**  *Engage: See, Know, Serve*

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).
5 Holston Annual Conference

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.

   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
   Check at the front desk where you are staying.
   For emergencies, call 911, or go to the emergency room at the hospital in nearby Waynesville.
   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 232) 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 232, 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 and District Superintendents; Extended Cabinet – 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.


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.

Diocesan 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 male 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 2015
JUNE 7-11 2015
Mary Virginia Taylor
Resident Bishop, Presiding

SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

Engage
See ~ Know ~ Serve

SUNDAY – JUNE 7, 2015

2:00 p.m. Registration opens – Foundation for Evangelism
3:00 p.m. Orientation for First-Time Appointees – Terrace Auditorium
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 and Lambuth
7:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music – Christ UMC, Chattanooga
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 8, 2015

8:30 a.m. Morning Worship with Bible Study & Holy Communion

BREAK

9:40 a.m. Hymn

   Organizing Motions – Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
   Adoption of Agenda
   Setting Bar of Conference
   Election of Ushers/Tellers
   Report from Committee on Rules and Order
   Blessing of Hands-On Mission Kits
MONDAY – JUNE 8, 2015 (cont.)

10:40 a.m.    Why Poverty Matters – Dr. Tammy Pawloski
              Closing Prayer for the Session

2:00 p.m.    Memorial Service – Rev. Gary Grogg preaching
BREAK

3:30 p.m.    Hymn
              How the Faith-based Community Can Matter
              More Than Poverty – Dr. Tammy Pawloski

5:00 p.m.    Cabinet Report
              Closing prayer for Session

7:00 p.m.    Hymn
              Welcome from Lake Junaluska

7:15 p.m.    Mission and Lifestyle: Pinpoint Relevance for Ministry –
              Dr. Tom Bandy

After session    Rehearsal for Tuesday morning Communion servers –
              Stuart Auditorium

TUESDAY – JUNE 9, 2015

7:15 a.m.    5K Run/1 Mile Walk - Outside of Stuart Auditorium

8:30 a.m.    Morning Worship with Bible Study and Holy Communion

9:55 a.m.    Partnership and Lifestyle: Working Together for Effective Mission –
              Dr. Tom Bandy
BREAK

11:05 a.m.    Retirement Recognition

2:00 p.m.    Hymn
              CFA Initial Budget Presentation
TUESDAY – JUNE 9, 2015 (cont.)
2:00 p.m. (cont.)

Holston Conference Higher Education and Ministry
  Francis Asbury Award Presentation
  Emory & Henry College
  Hiwassee College
  Tennessee Wesleyan College
  Recognition of Wesley Foundations
  Defining Moments Video

Board of Ordained Ministry
  Presentation of Local Pastor Licenses

BREAK

3:40 p.m.
  Discipleship Team
  Leadership Holston
  Witness Team
    Presentation of Denman Evangelism Awards
  Hispanic Ministry Team

Nurture Team
  Camping & Retreat Ministries
    Appalachian Trail Ministry
  Mission Team
  Outreach/Advocacy Team
  Stewardship Team

Closing Prayer for the Session

6:30 p.m.
  Gathering Music – Mt. Moriah Parish Choir, Bethlehem–Wiley
  Praise Team & Band, Stanley Drum Beat

7:00 p.m.
  Evening Worship Service

After worship
  Rehearsal for Wednesday morning Communion servers –
    Stuart Auditorium
WEDNESDAY – June 10, 2015

8:30 a.m.  Morning Worship with Bible Study and Holy Communion

9:45 a.m.  Congregational Development
           Lay Leader of Annual Conference
           United Methodist Women
           United Methodist Men

BREAK

10:45 a.m.  Hymn
           Personnel Resources Committee
           National Council of Churches
           UMCOR
           Imagine No Malaria
           United Methodist Publishing House
           Nominations
           Board of Pensions
           Trustees
           Archives and History
           Explanation of Mission Projects
           (Society of St. Andrew & Stop Hunger Now)
           Closing Prayer for the Session

1:00 p.m.  Society of St. Andrew Crop Drop - Outdoor Gym
           Stop Hunger Now - Kern Youth Center

2:30 p.m.  Hymn
           Equitable Compensation
           Approval of Holston Conference Ministry Funding
           Holston Conference Foundation
           Petitions & Resolutions
           General Council on Finance and Administration
WEDNESDAY – June 10, 2015 (cont.)

BREAK

4:05 p.m. Hymn
Holston Home for Children
Asbury Centers, Inc.
Cabinet Report
Minute Question #85 “Where Shall Annual Conference Be Held?”
Interim Business Resolution
Omnibus Motion
Thank You and Acknowledgements
Closing Prayer for the Session

6:30 p.m. Gathering Music - Greenbriar
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
Take up Mission Offering

After worship Ordination Rehearsal

THURSDAY – June 11, 2015

8:15 a.m. Ordinands, Provisionals and Associate Members, meet at the chapel on the sidewalk for pictures

8:30 a.m. Ordinands line up for Ordination Service

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

8:30 a.m. Lake Junaluska Singers

9:00 a.m. Service of Ordination, Commissioning, and Sending Forth
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, preaching and presiding
Lake Junaluska Singers
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
- On-line version of the Journal
- Charge Conference Forms
- On-line version of The Book of Discipline
- Age-level ministry resources
- The Holston Conference Foundation
- Health insurance and pension information
- Remittance of local church tithe

And so much more!
Check out www.Holston.org

For news and information from The United Methodist Church
Check out www.umc.org
Organizing Motions
for
2015 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 2015 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 2015 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 2015 Conference Journal.

Nominations for Ushers/Tellers
I move the election of the following Lay and Clergy members as Ushers/Tellers for the 2015 Annual Conference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TELLERS:</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
<th>Laity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abingdon</td>
<td>Timothy J. Best</td>
<td>Jane Carter</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. Jean Denton</td>
<td>Amanda Countiss</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James G. Denton</td>
<td>Leroy M. Hull, III</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Barbara A. Doyle</td>
<td>Leon Johnson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>James David Neel</td>
<td>Millie Saunders</td>
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<td>H. Michael Somers</td>
<td>Eva Sue Tilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Stone Gap</td>
<td>Harry P. Layell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jacqueline S. McGowan</td>
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<td>Paul H. McNalley</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Faith Ramer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daniel C. Theiben</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chattanooga</td>
<td>Bobby Black</td>
<td>Lisa Black</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christina DowlingSoka</td>
<td>Bryan Dantzler</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph E. DowlingSoka</td>
<td>Margaret Dantzler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charles D. Ensminger</td>
<td>Barbara Hartman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paul B. Longmire</td>
<td>Terryl James</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amy Suzanne Nutt</td>
<td>Christine Wotowiec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>John W. Crabtree</td>
<td>Amy Ballentine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patricia Hogan</td>
<td>Robert Donaghy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Andrew Curtis Lay</td>
<td>Sandra Donaghy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corey Douglas Miller</td>
<td>Thelma Hamilton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joe R. Phillips</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Hyberger</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa R. Smith</td>
<td>Becky Jaquish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Mae T. Wilkins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Schedule and Organization

**Johnson City**
Douglas Grove-DeJamett
Jacob William Herron
Patricia D. Muse
Richard Rudesill
Melinda Sherry Sturm

Judith Anderson
Lynice Broyles
Jan Goodsell
Lynn Mason
Bryan Sturm

**Kingsport**
Christopher J. Brown
Robert HuIts
Adam T. Love
David Poore
Joshua Kaleb Russell
Samuel T. Ward

Sally Blackburn
Judy Dean
Nellie Hickman
Darren Malcolm
Melissa Malcolm
Barbara Ruth

**Knoxville**
Teresa Atkins McClure
Diana L. Brown Taylor
John Gargas
Evelyn Boutz Harris
Bradley K. Hyde
Charla Sherbakoff

Jack Barry
Anne Loy
Don Loy
Shirley Napier
Ralph Skinner
Boyce A. Young

**Maryville**
Douglas Andrew Armstrong
Thomas Gilbert Harris, Jr.
Timothy W. Jones, Jr.
Asa L. Majors
Alvin O. Shaver
Kenneth R. Tucker, Jr.

John Clayton
Glenda Eastridge
Sam England
Cynthia Hulse
Nancy Lampe
Jennifer McIntyre
Carole Myers

**Morristown**
Martha M. Beamer
Wayne Allen Bromberg
William C. Rimmer
Charlie Williams

John Allen
Arthur Milo Bohanan
Kim Davis
Doyal Isenberg
Linda Kershaw
Susie Phillips
Jon Pursley
Hope Sibert

**Oak Ridge**
Brenda A. Poole
Darryll G. Rasnake
J. Michael Stallings
L. Knox Wimberly

Brenda Cleaves
Charlotte DeLozier
Karen Lawson
Cindy McGhee
Susan Montgomery
Michael L. Smith
Jane Whitaker

**Tazewell**
L. Brooke Atchley
Brian C. Burch
Leann Kaye Frazier Crandall
Betsy Elifrits Warren
Henry Daniel Ingram, Jr.
Kevin S. Richardson

Anna Atchley
Jim Brewster
Danny Coulthard
Sabrina Johnson
Barry Reese

**Wytheville**
Sharon Bowers
Carl T. Marshall
Darlene J. Marshall
Richard D. Mullan
William A. Schoeneman, Jr.
Pamela Sutherland

Gail Catron
Peggy Chappell
Timothy Hale
Lewis Shropshire
Doris Umberger

**Coordinator:** Rev. Tony Collins

~ Rev. Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., Conference Secretary
### Special Events / Fellowship Schedule

#### 2015 Holston Annual Conference

**Sunday, June 7, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Black Methodists for Church Renewal Luncheon</td>
<td>Lambuth Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration begins</td>
<td>Foundation for Evangelism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>First-time Appointed Pastors’ Training/Orientation</td>
<td>Terrace Auditorium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday, June 8, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Cabinet Breakfast</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Society for Biblical Studies Breakfast</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Candler Alumni Luncheon</td>
<td>Foundation for Evangelism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lay Servant Ministry Luncheon</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ministers’ Spouses Luncheon</td>
<td>Long’s Chapel UMC, Waynesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Peace with Justice/Outreach/Advocacy Luncheon</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Deacon and Diaconal Ministries Luncheon</td>
<td>Lambuth, Saville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Meet the Missionaries Dinner</td>
<td>Terrace Auditorium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday, June 9, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Holston UM Renewal Breakfast (reservations required)</td>
<td>Terrace Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Emory &amp; Henry Alumni and Friends Breakfast</td>
<td>Foundation for Evangelism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Extension Ministries Breakfast</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tennessee Wesleyan Alumni Breakfast</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Hiwassee College Alumni Breakfast</td>
<td>Lambuth International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 a.m.</td>
<td>5K Run/1-Mile Walk to benefit</td>
<td>Outside Stuart Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Associate Members and Local Pastors Luncheon</td>
<td>Lambuth International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Holston Retirees Luncheon</td>
<td>Terrace Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Higher Education Luncheon</td>
<td>Horton’s Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Leadership Holston Reunion Luncheon</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>CFA – Q&amp;A Session</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Duke Divinity Alumni Fellowship</td>
<td>Harrell Center, 2nd level porch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Asbury Seminary Alumni Fellowship</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>CCYM/Youth Night</td>
<td>Shackford Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>United Methodist Men Breakfast</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Women in Ministry Luncheon</td>
<td>Terrace, Room 319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ORDER

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I. CABINET
   a. Appointment Cabinet
   b. Extended Cabinet- Remove Steward of Clergy Concerns and Director of Wesley Leadership Institute.

VII. BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY - Remove Director of Wesley Leadership Institute and add Director of Clergy Services/Administrative Registrar

VIII. GROUPS RELATED TO THE CABINET AND ORDAINED MINISTRY
   c. Pastoral Counseling Center Supervisory Committee-remove Steward of Clergy Concerns and add Director of Clergy Services.

VI. DISCIPLESHIP TEAM
   c. Outreach and Advocacy –Strength for the Journey add the word Team to the title.
   Remove “Membership in Panels”, Total membership = 12: 9 elected, Cabinet Representative, staff, Director emeritus.

PROCEDURES

I. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

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…
   • Conference Leadership Groups

• 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.

~ Rev. Bradley H. Scott, Chair
~ Rev. 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; Director of the Wesley Leadership Institute; Steward of Clergy Concerns; 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. DISCIPLESHIP 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**: Membership in panels.

7. **Conference Representative to Holston Home for Children**

d. **Stewardship Team** Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, Cabinet Representative

e. **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). Administrative Registrar and Director of the Wesley Leadership Institute (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 (Diocesan)  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), Steward of Clergy Concerns. 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).

1. **Personnel Team of the Council on Finance and Administration**

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 four-year term. Members are eligible for a second four-year term, except where the Discipline of the Church or action of the Annual Conference provides otherwise.
   - 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.
   - The year a person is elected at the Annual Conference, or is appointed by the Extended Cabinet to fill a vacancy, shall be year “one” of a term. After completing year “four” of a term, a person is eligible to serve a second term of office or year “five” through year “eight.” If a person has served two consecutive terms in an office, he or she is ineligible to serve another term in that office, but is eligible to serve in another conference office. A person who has served two consecutive terms in an office becomes eligible again after four years.
   - 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 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.
Journal

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.
THE CABINET REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

This year we are being called to ENGAGE in our relationship with God, with one another, and with our neighbors. One of the strengths of our Methodist movement for over two centuries is the ability to go where the people are, to seek out those in need, to carry the Gospel to a hurting and hungry world. Our forte was in brush arbors on the frontier, a pit where miners gathered, prisons, jails, slums, workhouses, hospitals, and ... When John Wesley was not welcome in parish churches, he stood on his father’s grave and proclaimed “The world is my parish.” With these words he stated that the movement was into the world that God sent his Son to save.

We urge each local congregation to continue this strand of our story. It is critical that we quit only trying to attract people to our worship services and instead focus on leaving those services after worshiping God in order to reach out to our communities. Our goal is not to see how many people we can convince to step into the doors of our church buildings. Our goal it is to convince our people to step out of those doors and BE THE CHURCH.

In order to participate with God in the world, we must make new configurations for reaching out. Being in ministry in the twenty-first century, as it has in every century since the first Pentecost, means working where God is active in our communities. The Conference Mission Offering this year is for Children in Poverty within the Holston Conference. This offering is the most recent manifestation of how we band together to reach out with love and care.

To truly move forward in mission and ministry we will have to let go of some of the ways we have done this work in the past. God is the constant not our traditions. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow while our Methodist ways change and develop. We must cling to the True Vine while letting go of our own preferences, habits, practices.

As an annual conference we must align our structures and staff to better fulfill our missional opportunities. In the coming years it will be critical to adjust district boundaries and conference personnel to match changing populations and financial conditions. The Wesleys, Asbury, McKendree, and others in Holston’s history were constantly adjusting to the shifting population and their needs in order to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In the post-World War II era, Holston was one of the first conferences in Methodism to have what was then called an Inter-Board Council, the predecessor of Connectional Ministries. At that time, Holston organized into twelve districts to better connect local churches with the larger church. For the last sixty years Holston has had twelve districts (except for two very brief periods—one in which Holston had thirteen and another with eleven). We urge working to better align Holston’s districts, staff, structures, and resources to better reach the needs of people for our current and future ministries.

“I do not fear that the people called Methodist shall ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. I only fear that they shall exist as a dead sect having the form of religion, but not the power thereof, and that undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast to the doctrine, discipline, and spirit with which they first set out.” John Wesley, 1786
With sincere appreciation we say thank you to our colleagues David Graves and Joe Green who will be leaving the cabinet after serving the Kingsport and Cleveland Districts to serve local churches. These partners in ministry have served with diligence and integrity. We also are grateful for the ministry of Stella Roberts for her years of service as pastor, superintendent, and Director of Connectional Ministries. We are also thankful for the ministry of Dixie Miller as the Administrative Assistant in the Morristown District. Her work in the district office touched the lives of many people.

The United Methodist Church continues to struggle with how best to live out the ministry of Christ in many issues. Our witness according to Jesus is, “They will know you are mine as you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12. It is our hope that we will work together in love through our disagreements and differences.

In each district, local churches are working with the Risen Jesus in mission and ministry. Vital congregations are working in Jesus’ love to reach out to a broken and hurting world. It is with gratitude for the work of each local church that we serve as the superintendents of the twelve districts of Holston Conference. It is in the local churches that we see the Risen Christ alive and working within the Kingdom of God.

~ Charles W. Maynard, Dean of the Cabinet
RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE
PETROS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OAK RIDGE DISTRICT OF HOLSTON CONFERENCE

WHEREAS The Petros United Methodist Church located in the Oak Ridge District of the Holston Conference has served the community and the Conference offering grace and salvation of Jesus Christ since May 20, 1907, and

WHEREAS the congregation of the Petros United Methodist Church and the Superintendent of the Oak Ridge District agree that this church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized as stated in paragraphs 201-204 of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012); and

WHEREAS on the 22nd day of May 2013 the congregation of the Petros United Methodist Church 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 Oak Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building, and all Disciplinary requirements have been met;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Holston Annual Conference celebrating the ministry of this church, does hereby authorize the discontinuance of the Petros United Methodist Church effective June 10th, 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the remaining members be transferred to Oliver Springs United Methodist Church or another church of their choosing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all furnishings and fixtures owned by the Petros United Methodist Church be given to United Methodist congregations within the Oak Ridge District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the balance of funds be turned over to the Treasurer of the Holston Conference to be used to offset the cost of maintaining the property until such time as the property is sold; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all proceeds of the sale of the property be divided equally between the Oak Ridge District and the Holston Conference for congregational development.
COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

SCENES FROM THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP FRANCIS ASBURY’S VISIT TO THE
THOMAS AMIS HOUSE IN ROGERSVILLE, TENNESSEE

The Thomas Amis House was approved by the 2014 Holston Annual Conference as United Methodist Historic Site No. 498. Bishop Francis Asbury visited the house on four occasions in April and May of 1790.

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor presents the commemorative plaque to Wendy and Jake Jacobs, current owners, during the dedication ceremony. Wendy Jacobs is a fifth generation granddaughter of Capt. Thomas Amis.

Rev. Jim Douthat, Chair of the Conference Commission on Archives and History, addresses those gathered for the celebration on April 18, 2015.

~ James L. Douthat, Chair
Communications Advisory Council

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, and other communications-related training.

As Scripture so clearly shows us, the primary purpose of the church is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and tell the story of Jesus Christ so people become his disciples. The CAC works to ensure that our conference communications efforts support that primary purpose, in the process detailing the best practices of local churches living into the Great Commission.

To do this effectively, our media must work well in a technical sense, and all of our conference personnel must continually ask themselves, “How is Christ made known through what I am saying and writing?” We are blessed with communications professionals who are as committed to the truth of Christ as Savior as they are to maintaining their industry standards.

Since the rollout of the redesigned conference website at our 2014 Annual Conference, our ability to communicate digitally has improved dramatically. Comments about the new web design, and how it interfaces with other forms of social media, have been generally positive. We continue to seek comments that might lead to further technical improvement.

If you make use of the Holston Conference facilities in Alcoa, you may notice one technical improvement when you connect your computer or phone to the conference WiFi system. It has now been expanded dramatically to accommodate the large groups regularly meeting at conference headquarters.

The content flowing through our digital media also has improved in the past year. Our “Way to Go, Way to Give” campaign continues to highlight how lives are changed by our churches’ efforts. There also has been a marked increase in the availability of videos, including our first Spanish translation of a video. This is a reminder that we reach people with the message of Christ in multiple languages through Holston Conference churches.

We continue to support churches with more traditional media, too. Our print media department produced more than 100 separate products for local, district, and conference projects in 2014, all within budget and all delivered on-time. These products included a logo and banner for a new church start. Many of our print products continue to generate revenue for the conference, supporting communications efforts that would otherwise be impossible under current budget constraints.

The CAC also makes budget recommendations for conference communications. The budget request for 2016 again is essentially flat, coming in at just under $70,000. To maintain their current standards, our communicators will continue to rely on reserve funds of about $145,000 built up over several years. Most of these funds have been generated by the sale of printed materials.

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

~ Chuck Griffin, Chair
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The task of the Office of Congregational Development is to develop strategies to start new churches and revitalize existing churches. Our new church start “Shades of Grace” in Kingsport is reaching a significant number of people in a storefront on Sullivan Street in the downtown area. It has reached out to the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely. They are consistently having over 200 people at the 4:00 p.m. worship service. There is also a recovery ministry at Shades of Grace that meets on Thursday night.

We have partnered with Out of the Box in Hillsville, Virginia, and Mt. View in Dayton, Tennessee, in developing Recovery ministry communities. We have also helped sponsor Recovery Ministry at First in Lebanon, Virginia. Cokesbury Church in Knoxville has provided substantial support for these efforts.

A grant to New Mt. Olivet in Radford was provided to enhance their worship experiences. Bethlehem-Wiley in Chattanooga has also received a grant to strengthen their ministry in their historic sanctuary in downtown Chattanooga.

We are also supporting a Thursday evening worship experience called Revival Next held at the Chuckey Doak Elementary School in the Johnson City District.

Our office also provides support for Natural Church Development and MissionInsit. Tom Bandy led a workshop in March on how we can use MissionInsit to understand the demographics of every local church so that we might See, Know, and Serve our communities.

The Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter Sermon Academy is a learning opportunity for local church pastors to have resources for preaching during these high holy days.

As with all Annual Conference sponsored resources, we are able to do what we do by the generosity of our churches. Our ministry is your ministry, and we invite you to contact our office in the conference center if we can support you in the ministry of your local church.

~ Rusty Taylor, Director of Congregational Development
~ Becky Hall, Chair
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. Those categories include: Formation, Administrative Responsibilities, Leadership, Preaching and Teaching, Appointment-making, Healthy Relationships, Initiatives of the United Methodist Church, Strengths of the Connection.

In our quarterly meetings, we have used part of the meeting time to focus on these categories, remembering that the evaluation process is not a one-time process involving lots of folks but rather a holistic approach involving healthy conversation that addresses issues and hopes along the way. It is also to help the people in the Annual Conference understand the variety of responsibilities the Bishop must balance.

Bishop Taylor sees the mission of the Annual Conference “to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” In order to do that, strong churches and strong pastors are needed. Healthy congregations are needed to be fruitful. When we launch new churches, we need to have both fertile ground and the right leadership. Resources are being developed to strengthen both churches and pastors and help them grow in areas where they need improvement.

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 is working to discern who we are as an annual conference, what we can accomplish, and how we can go about doing that. She is using the website and *The Call* to provide more opportunities for her to share her vision to the entire conference.

Bishop Taylor has placed her focus on building relationship with persons rather than focusing on individual groups or having separate meetings with different groups. She sees herself in partnership with the laity and works to make herself available to groups such as the United Methodist Men and the United Methodist Women. The Holy Land trip focused on young and newer clergy, and she also participates in the annual Bishop’s Day Apart with the ordinands. 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. It is an on-going conversation where she and the Cabinet prayerfully work together to get the best fit possible.

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. Part of the joy in that is to see the Church in other places. Bishop Taylor is always present at these meetings and is very 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 on 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 Committee on Equitable Compensation recommends a 2% increase to minimum salary requirements for 2016.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests a budget of $195,300 for Cabinet use.

Categories to be Funded and Schedule of Minimum Salary Levels for 2016

For full-time service by Conference Members:
- Full Member (M.Div.) or equivalent degree: $40,184
- Provisional Member (M.Div.) or equivalent degree: $37,893
- Associate Member: $36,385

For Service as Full-Time Local Pastors:
- M.Div.: $35,134
- Completed Studies: $34,203
- Beginning Studies: $29,651

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 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 S/PPR 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.

~ Natalie Smart, Chair
## Equitable Compensation Funds
### July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

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<tr>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>DI</th>
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This past year, the Conference Discipleship Team has continued to focus its emphasis on the major question, “How are we equipping and resourcing the local churches of the conference so that they can be, or continue to be, vital congregations?” As such, each ministry area has developed or expanded offerings that seek to meet and answer this important question.

We celebrate that the Missions Team has spent the year working in coordination with the new Conference Director of Missions, Rev. Mike Sluder. Already, evidence of an increased focus on missions at the international, national, and local levels is evident, and the possibilities for churches to participate in various mission opportunities at the local, district, and conference levels are ever increasing.

The Nurture team has focused this year on enhancing worship in the local church. A Worship Conference entitled “Discovering Authentic Worship: A Model for Worship Planning” was offered in the spring for local church worship leaders and planners. Seeing the importance of meeting the worship needs of adults of all generations, youth, and children continues to challenge the local church. This team is working to help alleviate or diminish these challenges so that vibrant worship can occur in every church in Holston.

Continuing to meet the stewardship concerns and giving patterns of a changing generation has been the focus of the Stewardship ministry team. Updating resources for stewardship, developing educational materials on stewardship for the local church, expanding the understanding of both stewardship and the work of the Holston Conference Foundation office, and hosting a Stewardship Conference have been the highlights of this ministry team this past year.

Encouraging and equipping churches and ministries to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing grant opportunities has been a continued focus of the Witness team. From children’s ministry, to young adult and family ministries, to recovery ministries, and from the rural community to the inner-city, the Witness team has sought to address the spiritual needs of many persons within the Holston Conference. In addition, plans are being made to offer an Evangelism Conference, “Reclaiming the Community for Christ,” in the spring of 2016.

The Outreach/Advocacy team continues to examine and raise awareness of many areas where justice, mercy, kindness, reconciliation, and understanding are greatly needed in God’s kingdom. The work of this committee has expanded our knowledge in issues of peace, creation care, the imprisoned, the oppressed, immigration, poverty, and human rights.

Finally, our team continues to be excited about the opportunities available through our communications team and the successful launch of the new Holston Conference website. We also continue to celebrate the work of the three major colleges supported by Holston, the five Wesley Foundations, the expansion and growth of the camping and retreat ministries, the training offered through Leadership Holston, and the wonderful annual events such as Resurrection, RezKids, Divine Rhythm, and Jubilation.

While we celebrate the accomplishments of each ministry team, we know that to maximize those accomplishments each local church needs to remember its connection to these teams as it discerns how to implement the resources offered by the ministry areas. Thus, it will continue to be the major goal of the Discipleship team to direct its mission to better enable each local church as they seek to become vital churches for God’s kingdom.

~ Glenna Manning, Chair
HOLSTON CONFERENCE DISCIPLESHIP TEAM
RESOURCES FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

In striving to meet the goal of providing resources and information for the local church so that they may become or continue to be a vital congregation, the following information is given as a resource file for helpful contact information.

### MISSIONS TEAM

**Mission:** Aims to invite, inspire, and involve the people of the Holston conference in God’s life giving, transformative mission in their own lives, their communities, and throughout the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE</th>
<th>CONTACT (Mission)</th>
<th>HC PROJECT NUMBER</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Tom Hancock</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td><a href="mailto:drill_sgt007@hotmail.com">drill_sgt007@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>423.322.7159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conf. Coord.</td>
<td>Mike Sluder</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikesluder@holston.org">mikesluder@holston.org</a></td>
<td>865.690.4080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church &amp; Community Workers</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Howe (Project Crossroads)</td>
<td>020 / 047</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hhowe54@yahoo.com">hhowe54@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>276.782.3339</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Stransky (Project Crossroads)</td>
<td>571 / 047</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fullcreel56@comcast.net">fullcreel56@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>276.782.3339</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koni Purscell (Big Stone Gap C &amp; C Renewal)</td>
<td>701 / 141</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nrmpkoni@yahoo.com">nrmpkoni@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>276.565.1316</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooke Atchley (Tazewell C &amp; C Ministry)</td>
<td>778</td>
<td><a href="mailto:batchley@umcmission.org">batchley@umcmission.org</a></td>
<td>540.358.4423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missionaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rukang @ Fresie Chikomb (Democratic Republic of Congo)</td>
<td>516 / 777</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rchikomb18@hotmail.com">Rchikomb18@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:fchikomb23@gmail.com">fchikomb23@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Bill Lovelace (Ukraine)</td>
<td>054</td>
<td><a href="mailto:whlovelace@gmail.com">whlovelace@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Roberts-Evans (Liberia)</td>
<td>705</td>
<td><a href="mailto:micradon@hotmail.com">micradon@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred &amp; Libby Dearing (South Sudan)</td>
<td>719</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fred103@gmail.com">fred103@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fran Lynch (Alaska)</td>
<td>032 / 264</td>
<td><a href="mailto:flynch@mtaonline.net">flynch@mtaonline.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce &amp; Emy P.; Rebekah S. (MOT)</td>
<td>008/572</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bruce.p@outlook.com">bruce.p@outlook.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Min.</td>
<td>Vicki Collins</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wahoohoospirit@yahoo.com">wahoohoospirit@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>865.548.2920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STEWARDSHIP TEAM

**Mission:** To provide training for clergy and laity on stewardship concerns so that stewardship in the local church can be enhanced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Debra Stokes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stokesdeb@aol.com">stokesdeb@aol.com</a></td>
<td>423.236.4442</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### NURTURE TEAM

**Mission:** Seeks to nurture and support growth in knowledge, experience, and expression of the love of Christ for the laity and clergy of Holston Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Leanna Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leanna@valleyequipment.com">leanna@valleyequipment.com</a></td>
<td>423.341.3511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Ministry Team</td>
<td>Gaye King</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gayeking@holston.org">gayeking@holston.org</a></td>
<td>865.690.4080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council on Youth Ministry</td>
<td>Laura McLean</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lauramclean@holston.org">lauramclean@holston.org</a></td>
<td>865.690.4080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Ministries</td>
<td>Keith Moore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Keith_Moore@wesleyutc.com">Keith_Moore@wesleyutc.com</a></td>
<td>423.266.3691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp &amp; Retreat Ministries</td>
<td>Randy Pasqua</td>
<td><a href="mailto:randypasqua@holston.org">randypasqua@holston.org</a></td>
<td>865.690.4080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Adult Ministries</td>
<td>Gaye King</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gayeking@holston.org">gayeking@holston.org</a></td>
<td>865.690.4080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## OUTREACH/ADVOCACY TEAM

**Mission:** Works to bring issues of social justice and advocacy to the attention of Conference members and congregations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Susan Montgomery</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smonty924@earthlink.net">smonty924@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>865.405.2653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion &amp; Race</td>
<td>Susan Lankford</td>
<td><a href="mailto:revsla@charter.net">revsla@charter.net</a></td>
<td>423.579.5491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church &amp; Society</td>
<td>Susan Montgomery</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smonty924@earthlink.net">smonty924@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>865.405.2653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status &amp; Role of Women</td>
<td>Linda Bass</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webfish@knology.net">webfish@knology.net</a></td>
<td>865.387.0063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation Care</td>
<td>Brenda Haymore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mollysmom40@comcast.net">mollysmom40@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>865.556.9966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace with Justice</td>
<td>Sheila Michel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sheilamichel4@hotmail.com">sheilamichel4@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>865.310.0130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength for the Journey</td>
<td>Larry Dial</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jnumcpastor@epbfi.com">jnumcpastor@epbfi.com</a></td>
<td>865.806.3278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug &amp; Alcohol Concerns</td>
<td>Rance Edwards</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rancesr@icloud.com">rancesr@icloud.com</a></td>
<td>423.470.4094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## WITNESS TEAM

**Mission:** To encourage, support, and resource evangelistic efforts throughout the bounds of the Holston Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Ray Amos, Jr.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:umcpastorray@gmail.com">umcpastorray@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>423.439.6846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Membership Congregation</td>
<td>Hugh Bryan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hpbryan@aol.com">hpbryan@aol.com</a></td>
<td>423.334.4130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team</td>
<td>Tony Collins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tonycollins@bellsouth.net">tonycollins@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>423.337.7903</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other Team Representatives and Resource Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPRESENTATIVE</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministry Rep.</td>
<td>Charles Harrison</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastorcharlieh@gmail.com">pastorcharlieh@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>423.892.0444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Board of Higher Education</td>
<td>Troy Forrester</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tforrester@fumcor.org">tforrester@fumcor.org</a></td>
<td>865.934.7284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Leader</td>
<td>Del Holley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:delholley@auburnalum.org">delholley@auburnalum.org</a></td>
<td>865.215.2515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Holston</td>
<td>Director of Connectional Ministries</td>
<td>connectionalministries @holston.org</td>
<td>865.690.4080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Advisory Council</td>
<td>Donna Hankins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donnahankins@holston.org">donnahankins@holston.org</a></td>
<td>865.690.4080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chuck Griffin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cwgriffiniii@gmail.com">cwgriffiniii@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>423.323.8142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Missions Ministry Team

The heart of the Holston Conference beats strong for missions, thanks to the devotion, commitment, and leadership of all those who have heard and responded to God’s invitation to participate in the transformative work of sharing the gospel and changing lives. There is much to celebrate this past year as God continues to reveal God’s redemptive plan for the world. Holston’s continued commitment is reflected in the re-establishment of a conference-level missions staff position—Rev. Mike Sluder was appointed as the Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Missions. Mike has provided additional vision and insightful leadership to invite, inspire, and involve the people of the Holston Conference in God’s life-giving, transformative mission in their personal lives, in their communities, and in the world.

Currently, the Holston Conference is actively engaged in mission in Africa, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Turkey, India, and throughout the United States. None of these missions could be possible without the devotion of all the missionaries, team leaders, and church leaders stepping out in faithful service. Holston once again celebrates over 200 short-term mission teams that have shown the love of Christ to our neighbors both near and far. In the coming year as you plan your mission trips, the Missions Team strongly encourages registering with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). Not only is UMVIM able to provide teams with valuable resources, but it strengthens our connectional system by enabling others to participate in and celebrate the missions efforts of the entire UMC.

Last year, the Annual Conference once again focused the Conference Missions Offering on our long-term relationship in South Sudan. Our focus addressed educational needs in the world’s newest nation for greater access to education, teacher training and resources, and student scholarships and supplies. Through your continued commitment and generosity, this offering totaled over $150,000. Since 2007, Holston has received $2.6 million through offerings and individual gifts; 42 mission teams have been sent with 157 participants; 36 wells have been drilled; 23 pastors have been trained; and seven permanent churches and nine school blocks have been built. Through Grace Home and Greenland Home 36 children have been given new hope. To God be the Glory! New possibilities continue to emerge with a partnership between Holston and Alfalit, an adult literacy program, and new potential covenants between our districts, other annual conferences, and villages in South Sudan. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this vital mission.

The success of Holston’s mission in South Sudan is the result of an intentional missions model. From the start, Holston has sought to resource, build capacity, and develop sustainability by equipping, educating, and encouraging our sisters and brothers in South Sudan. Additionally, an advisory team has assisted in supporting our missionaries, helped discern God’s vision for the mission, and developed strategic plans. This model is also being used as the Missions team explores other opportunities, such as the English Speaking UMC in Prague, The Czech Republic (currently supported through the Johnson City District). We would encourage this model to be used in developing missions at all levels as it seeks to help without hurting by walking alongside others to empower them to experience new hope and freedom through Jesus Christ.

Building relationships is also the foundation for the Muslim Outreach Team (MOT). Bruce and Emilie P have worked as missionaries for a number of years and were recognized for their devotion and service at last year’s Meet the Missionaries Dinner.
While Bruce retired in 2014, he and Emilie continue to work in the mission field six months out of the year. Bruce is also involved in translating the Ottoman Turkish Bible and working with members of the Wycliff Bible Translators. Rebekah S was evacuated from Northern Sudan in 2013 and is currently pursuing her education in conflict resolution and peace studies. Presently, the MOT is planning educational events throughout the conference where Bruce, Emilie, and Rebekah can share their experience and insights. Your continued prayers and support are appreciated.

Within the bounds of our conference, Holston is fortunate to have four Church and Community Workers (CCWs) assigned through the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). These missionaries work in local communities to restore hope, address physical needs, and spread the love of Jesus through service. Koni Purscell serves the Big Stone Gap District, Brooke Atchley serves in the Tazewell District, and Mark Stransky and Harry Howe serve at Project Crossroads in and around Marion, Virginia. The Missions Team continues to partner with the Jubilee Project in Hancock County, Morristown District, to hire an additional CCW to oversee the Jubilee Project. Thank you for your prayerful, faithful support of these missionaries and missions.

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.

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 Mission Project. Last year was another record-breaking year. You helped fill four shipping containers—one 40 foot and one 20 foot container were sent to both Liberia and Zimbabwe. Every district exceeded its goal with 8,651 kits donated valued at $194,187.84. Thank you to Rev. Jerry Russell for his leadership of this mission area and for your continued support and generosity.

Finally, Bishop Taylor has invited the churches and people of Holston to continue to demonstrate our heart for missions, our desire to change lives, and our extravagant generosity through this year’s Annual Conference Missions Offering. This year we are bringing it home to Holston with an in-conference offering focused on Children in Poverty. The total amount of the offering received in June will be distributed throughout the conference to support new and existing ministries which address the needs of children in poverty. We are asking that each church give a gift of $10, per worship attendee. This year, we are also asking you to take your giving to a new level. In addition to the $10 you give, we are challenging each church, in the coming year, to give 10 hours of your time, per attendee to address Children in Poverty in your community. Imagine the lives that will be touched and changed. I can’t wait to see what God is going to do through this offering and through the ongoing missions work of Holston.

~ Tom Hancock, Chair
2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the Hurricane Katrina Disaster. Our efforts this year are first, to remember the survivors of that storm, and second, to renew our efforts to be prepared if storms again strike in the Holston Conference and/or the Southeast Jurisdiction.

We can all remember where we were and how the storm affected us personally and as the church. We may have had family members or friends touched by the storm. We may have responded to serve the survivors and saw up close the property and persons devastated by that event. Those are events we will never forget.

As the time passes and we get further away from those images, we forget just how we must be prepared to serve. You may have trained to be an UMCOR Early Response Team member or a Spiritual and Emotional Care Team member. You may have served through your church in supporting the response and/or long-term recovery efforts.

If it has been more than three years since your training or you feel the calling to support your friends, neighbors, and community during a disaster or emergency, please visit the Disaster Response Ministries display table in the Harrell Center auditorium and register for a half-day recertification course or a one-day Basic Early Response Team training class.

We are especially looking for those persons who are retired and have the energy and experience of working with tools or home projects that will give you the knowledge we need. After you sign up, we will be in contact with you and announce the training schedule.

Please support Disaster Response Ministries. We are the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

~ Jim Fetzer, Disaster Response Coordinator
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>Missionaries Assigned to Holston Conference</th>
<th>CBGM Code</th>
<th>Holston Project No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rukang Chikomb</td>
<td>14959Z</td>
<td>516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country: Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresie Chikomb</td>
<td>3021434</td>
<td>777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country: Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country: Liberia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missionaries Around the World</td>
<td>00779Z</td>
<td>075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Any Amount)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

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

B. Africa

1. ISHE ANESU Project/Marta Hambane
   Zimbabwe
   Code: 13071A
   160

2. Africa University Scholarship
   Code: 3021028
   629

3. Imagine No Malaria
   Code: 3021190
   684

C. Mexico

"Give Ye Them To Eat" Hunger Program
   Code: 007629A
   074

D. Estonia

1. Baltic Mission Center
   Code: 010923-N
   055

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

E. Paraguay

New Horizon School
   Code: 302-1089
   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 GBGM Covenant Relationship with a missionary requires $2,500 per year, churches under 333 members provide $5 per member per year. Covenant Relationship forms and information can be secured from the Conference Mission Secretary. On the conference deposit slip, list the missionary’s name, code number, and the amount.

United States Advance

A. Missionaries Assigned to Holston Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covenant Code</th>
<th>Holston Project No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Appalachian Ministries Network</td>
<td>Code: 982041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Appalachia Service Project</td>
<td>Code: 982050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Cherokee U.M. Church, Cherokee, NC</td>
<td>Code: 731144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Four Corners Native American Ministries, Shiprock, NM</td>
<td>Code: 581254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covenant Code</th>
<th>Holston Project No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F. Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Kentucky</td>
<td>Code: 773265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, NC</td>
<td>Code: 731322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Fran Lynch Baxter Program Support</td>
<td>Code: 931520-355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Kentucky</td>
<td>Code: 773726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, VA</td>
<td>Code: 801600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, SEJ Jurisdiction, Birmingham, AL</td>
<td>Code: 901875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UMCOR Advance

A. Heifer Project International | Code: 982418 | 021 |
B. Heifer Project, Living Gift | Code: 982532 | 031 |
C. UMCOR Disaster Response in U.S. | Code: 901670-1 | 026 |
D. UMCOR Emergency Relief (Around the World) | Code: 982450-8 | 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>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Howe</td>
<td>Marion, VA</td>
<td>020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koni Pursell</td>
<td>Big Stone Gap, VA</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooke Atchley</td>
<td>Tazewell, VA</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred and Libby Dearing</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce &amp; Emy P.</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Strusky</td>
<td>Marion, VA</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Asbury, Inc.

C. Muslim Outreach Team Project

1. Rebekah S.

D. Campus Ministry and Wesley Foundations

(Fill in name of ministry you are supporting)

1. ETSU
2. Radford
3. UT Knoxville
4. UT Chattanooga
5. UVA at Wise

E. CONTACT Telephone Ministries

(Fill in name of ministry you are supporting)

1. Johnson City
   - 063
2. Concern- Concern of NE TN, Inc.
   - 413
3. Contact Helpline, Inc.
   - 183
   - Anderson/Blount/Grainger/ Jefferson
   - Knox/Loudon/Reynolds/Sevier/Union

F. Disaster Relief Within Holston Conference

G. District Advance (Indicate which project)

H. Habitat for Humanity Ministries

(Fill in name of ministry you are supporting)

1. Anderson Co.
   - 184
2. Blount Co.
   - 167
3. Holston
   - 067

I. Hispanic Ministries within Holston Conference

1. Galax, VA
   - 541
2. Maryville District
   - 542
3. Morristown District
   - 543

J. Holston Conference Camps

(Fill in name of ministry you are supporting)

1. Camperships
   - Buffalo Mountain
   - 238 Dickenson
   - Lookout
   - 276 Wesley Woods
   - Undesignated
   - 087

2. Camp Development Funds
   - Buffalo Mountain
   - 101 Dickenson
   - Lookout
   - 078 Wesley Woods
   - Undesignated
   - 484

3. Annual Ministry Funds
   - Buffalo Mountain
   - 486 Dickenson
   - Lookout
   - 487 Wesley Woods
   - Undesignated
   - 485

4. Strength for the Journey Scholarships
   (HIV/AIDS Retreats)
   - 300
Conference Advance
Continued

K. Holston United Methodist Homes for Children
1. Dermid Family Services, Bristol, Virginia 103
2. Holston Home, Greenville, Tennessee 002

L. Neighborhood Centers
1. Bethlehem Community Center 079
2. Wesley House Community Center 080

M. Student Aid, Conference Scholarship Grants
1. Emory and Henry College 085
2. Hiwassee College 045
3. Tennessee Wesleyan College 125

N. Support for Action Ministries
1. Angelic Ministries (KN) 637
2. Big Stone Gap Dist Church & Community Renewal 141
3. Blue Monarch 813
4. CASA of East Tennessee (KN) 493
5. CASA Corridor of East TN (CL) 611
6. CASA of the Tennessee Heartland (OA) 455
7. Coalition for Kids, Inc. (JO) 133
8. Crossroads Medical Mission (AB) 364
9. Emerald Youth Foundation-Just Lead (KN) 014
10. GATE-Gateway to Independence (MA) 612
11. Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. (JO) 066
12. Interfaith Health Clinic (KN) 492
13. Jubilee Project, Inc. (MO) 015
14. Morgan-Scott Project (OA) 013
15. Partners for Children 536
16. Plateau Home School (OR) 196
17. Project Crossroads Ministries (AB) 047
18. Second Harvest Food Bank 759
19. St. Andrews Center (CH) 540
20. Susannah's House (KN) 830
21. Unity Center (CL) 151
22. W.S. High Community Outreach PACE (CH) 362
23. Wesley Medical Clinic (AB) 674
24. Graceinside 828

O. Volunteer in Mission Projects and Personnel
Projects approved by the Conference
1. New Church Development/Orphanage in Guatemala 121
2. New Church Development in Costa Rica 161
3. New Church Development in Holston 380
4. New Church Development in Latvia 365

P. World Ministries
1. Connecting Churches World Evangelism 367
   -John J. Redmond
2. English Speaking UMC-Prague 716
3. Haiti Water Project 671
4. South Sudan Projects 537
5. Hope for Today—India 490
7. Mary Diana Samuel Orphanage—India 579
8. The Rescue Ministries—Philippines 676

Q. “Change for Children” 012

The Advance
Advancing hope in Christ's name
Holston Annual Conference 2016
www.holston.org
2015 Holston Annual Conference Mission Offering
Children in Poverty within Holston Conference

You don’t have to go far…

Every day children in our communities experience the stresses of poverty. Hungry tummies, sleepy bodies, tired minds, and worries for daily needs face over 78,000 children within the bounds of the Holston Conference every single day. You don’t have to go far in Tennessee, Virginia, or Georgia to find children in poverty.

So let’s go, Holston! Let’s See, Know, and Serve these children through our Annual Conference Mission Offering. This year’s challenge is for every worship attendee within Holston Conference to contribute $10 and 10 hours on behalf of children in poverty in our communities. Our neighbors need our care, our love, and our generosity. We need to engage and to connect with our neighbors so that we may be changed from strangers to friends, bringing out the best in all of us.

Just imagine what changes can be made if 68,500 worshipers give $685,000 and 685,000 hours of service for these children next door. Through your participation in the Annual Conference Mission Offering, grants will be made available to local churches in each district as we seek to transform the world in the name of Jesus Christ—one precious child at a time.

You may bring your offering to the worship service on Wednesday evening of Annual Conference. You may give online now at Holston.org and, yes, you may continue to give even after Annual Conference. Every penny will go to assist our children, our communities, our neighbors as we ENGAGE one another, as we see and know each other, and as we serve in the name of Jesus.

You don’t have to go far….So let’s go, Holston!
The image below can be downloaded from ACOffering.Holston.org for use by your local church as you track your goals and participation. Watch for ways to share your congregation’s stories and progress throughout the year.

Bishop Dindy Taylor and the Holston Conference Missions Team challenge Holston Conference United Methodists to commit $10 and 10 hours of service per average worship attendance toward eliminating childhood poverty within Holston Conference.

Our potential: $685,000 and 685,000 hours

children in poverty

changing one life at a time in holston
On Wednesday, June 10, at 1:00 PM you will have the opportunity to participate in a Society of St. Andrew Potato Crop Drop. The location will be announced during sessions at Annual Conference.

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 offset 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 Wednesday 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 Team
Annual Conference Mission Opportunity

On Wednesday, June 10, of Holston’s Annual Conference, you will have the opportunity to participate in packaging 10,000 meals. The Stop Hunger Now staff will be set up at the Kern Youth Center, located just at the end of the rose walk, ready for you to be a part of ending hunger around the world!

Everyone is invited to participate and we do ask the children to please bring a parent(s) with you.

We are asking for contributions of $5.00 (or more if you wish) to help offset the $2,500 cost of this important program. However, it is not required to participate in the packaging 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 packaging site.

StopHungerNow.org for more information

Together we CAN END Hunger
NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM

The Nurture Team has the responsibility for age-specific ministries within Holston Conference:

• Children
• Youth
• Young Adults
• Older Adults
• Marriage Enrichment
• Camping & Retreat Ministries

We work hard to support the outstanding conference staff in the above areas that they oversee. The following pages will give you specifics of those age-specific ministries.

Holston Worship Conference

A new area for the Nurture Team to contribute has developed in the last year – Holston’s Worship Conference, “Discovering Authentic Worship,” took place in April. Our goal was to provide a two-day event that was full of ideas for how our congregations could lead worship that is vibrant, passionate, relevant, excellent worship and be more vital.

The conference was held at two convenient locations: Kodak UMC, in Kodak, Tennessee (April 23-24) and Mafair UMC, in Kingsport, Tennessee (April 24-25) so that travel would not be too demanding for parties on either end of the conference.

Key contributors for the conference were Rev. Barbara Day Miller, who led participants through worship planning using the POWR (plan, organize, worship, and reflect) method, and Dr. Tom Long, the featured preacher.

The conference offered something for lay and clergy alike—from the parking lot before worship to the benediction at the conclusion of worship. Breakout workshops covered the following:

• Radical Hospitality
• Starting a New Worship Service
• Worship 101
• Visuals in Worship
• Nuts and Bolts of Worship Music
• Using the POWR Model for Worship Planning
• Celebrating Holy Days in New Ways

If you missed the conference this year, watch for another opportunity to attend in 2017!

Thank you for supporting these important ministries of the Nurture Team. We hope you will recognize people you know and love in the stories that follow. People are coming to know Christ by participating in these programs, and God’s Kingdom is being furthered on earth. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

~ Leanna Johnson, Chair
“Sharing the Love of Christ in the Glory of God’s Creation” is the mission of Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries (CRM). We accomplish this mission through the combined ministries of Buffalo Mountain Camp, Camp Dickenson, Camp Lookout, and Camp Wesley Woods.

The Summer Camp ministry is the central aspect of our work. During the summer of 2014, we served 2,141 campers, an increase of 58 campers over the previous year. Campers responded in marvelous ways. 1,279 campers indicated a profound faith experience: 361 first time faith commitments, 555 commitment renewals, and 363 others grew in their faith. It is with great joy that we share these statistics. God’s love is very much alive at camp.

A great many decisions have been made during this last year regarding the Buffalo Mountain Camp ministries. Rev. David Elliott was able to lead the Board in an interim effort to make some significant decisions. After a long, prayerful and arduous process, the BMC Board brought to called meetings of the Kingsport and Johnson City District Conferences the recommendation to sell the current property, to purchase new property on Bays Mountain in the Kingsport vicinity, and to enter into a capital campaign effort to rebuild the camp ministry. The conferences were well attended. 97% of the voting attendees voted in favor of this plan. Rev. Jeff Wadley has been selected to be the Director of this new project. Please keep this rebuilding mission in your prayers.

In the fall of 2014, our director at Camp Wesley Woods announced that he would be leaving. Mr. Tony Lea comes to Camp Wesley Woods as its 6th director. The CWW Board continues to evaluate its ministries, facilities, and infrastructure as it deals with the issues of transforming an aging facility into a place to serve the next generation of guests.

Camp Lookout continues to experience steady growth in its ministry participation. The CL Board purchased neighboring property this year, which is enabling it to make positive progress toward realizing its strategic and master plans. Don Washburn is beginning his 17th year directing the Camp Lookout ministries.

Camp Dickenson experienced its largest single year increase ever in its summer camp ministry. The dedicated camp staff is making the love of Christ come alive for the people of southwest Virginia. The CD Board is making plans to build a multipurpose activity center for our guests and a new director’s residence. The newest addition to our Camp Dickenson family is Jude Michael, born to Jessica and Michael Snow.

Great thanks go to Holston Conference for the tremendous support it provides to its Camp and Retreat Ministries. Because of this support and the dedicated service of the camp staff, lives are being transformed through encounters with the love of Christ.

~ Ed Terry, CRM Board Chairman
~ Randy Pasqua, CRM Executive Director
**Children’s Ministry Team**

One of the greatest joys of the Children’s Ministry team is seeing how Change for Children impacts the lives of our children. Since 1999 churches all over Holston Conference have collected loose change and bills for Change for Children—nearly one million dollars! Those funds have impacted the lives of thousands of children right here in Holston Conference and across the ocean in Africa. Last spring an award of $22,000 went to the Ishe Anesu Project in Zimbabwe to support 88 primary students. You are making a difference in the lives of children through your generous, continued support of Change for Children!

The Children’s Ministry team also takes the safety of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults very seriously. In 2014, a “train the trainer” Safe Sanctuaries event was held at the conference office in Alcoa. Representatives from every district attended and were certified as District Safe Sanctuaries trainers. You may call on these district-based trainers to assist you with training in your local church. A list of approved trainers is available in your district office or by contacting Gaye King in the conference office.

The Children’s Ministry team continues to explore ways to equip local church workers with the tools they need to minister to the children in your congregation. District-based workshops are available to district ministry teams, and team members are willing to assist you in your local church. If you have specific needs, please contact any Children’s Ministry team member or Gaye King in the office of Connectional Ministries.

~ Gaye King, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries

**Conference Council on Youth Ministries**

The Holston Conference Council on Youth Ministries is, to put it simply, a group of young people with a heart to change the world. Our job is not only to strengthen youth involvement throughout the conference, but to give youth an opportunity to serve and give back. As the youth representatives of the Holston Conference, we have the privilege of helping to get youth excited about their faith. Throughout the year, we host various events and work with many organizations in order to equip youth with experiences that inspire them to grow spiritually and give them the tools to share that growth with other individuals. Thanks to these events, countless youth have discovered their call to ministry. Lifelong friendships have been formed, and spiritual growth has taken place as shared in a few testimonies from your very own CCYM members below:

“Holston Conference Youth in Mission is an opportunity for youth and leaders from all districts to join together and show God’s love through mission work. Participants engage in several types of work: minor construction, community Bible schools, etc. Relationships are also built with those in the mission field in order to gain trust and the opportunity to share God’s word. Youth in Mission 2015 will be an opportunity for us as a conference to reach out to a community of our very own. This year, we will go to the Tazewell district to serve. By staying in-conference, we hope to stress the importance of local missions. Many believe that the mission field must always be far away from home when, in reality, God gives each of us hundreds of opportunities every day in our very own backyards.”

~ Crystal Mayerchak, Social Concerns; CCYM Vice President
“One thing CCYM coordinates is YSF, or Youth Service Fund. This fund is money ‘raised by youth, distributed by youth, to benefit youth.’ YSF is something I hold very close to my heart. It’s a way youth can participate as active lay members within the church, and it shows that you do not have to be a grown adult to make a difference. CCYM uses YSF to fund grants that not only benefit youth in the Holston Conference, but also around the world. Knowing that you are directly helping someone on the opposite side of the world is liberating and amazing. Being an advocate for YSF and asking youth to financially support God’s kingdom is an amazing experience. I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

~ Bradley Miller, Spiritual Life; CCYM Chaplain

“Assembly is what other youth call ‘Resurrection on steroids’ that lasts for a week at Emory & Henry College. Assembly is a weeklong camp where youth can go to worship the Lord and have fun while doing so. While youth are there, they get to hear a speaker and a band or a singer. They also 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. Throughout the week, we have devotions that are led by youth which bring Senior and Junior High together. Everyone who comes to Assembly can see God working in the youth and see God’s Grace flowing in their hearts.

I have attended Assembly for the past five years now, and I still love it. Assembly is one of the memories that I will never forget from the events I have attended with the Holston Conference.”

~ Olivia Kelly, YSF Chair

“I attended Discovery a couple of years ago and had a wonderful experience. I started the weekend not really knowing what was going to happen and ended the weekend with new friends, a renewed passion for ministry, and a better understanding of my calling. Discovery is an incredible way for youth across the conference to meet other youth called to ministry, explore that calling, and grow in their faith. With testimonies from adults who are in full-time or part-time ministry, youth really have an opportunity to explore different ways to do what they love. Just three days at Discovery gave me so many tools to really be able to jump in to ministry. It was a truly life-changing experience that I got to share with people who love God.”

~ Alex Sprinkle, Leadership Development; CCYM President

“Resurrection is a weekend of revival and decisions for most youth, and for others it can be a call into reality about their faith and where it needs to go. This year’s Resurrection was unlike any year before. The theme for this year was ‘Be Known’ based upon a Bible verse from Jeremiah 31:33. Reggie Dabbs and the City Harmonic celebrated thirty years of worship with us, and it was awesome. With over 12,000 youth and chaperones coming together to celebrate and honor our one true God, it truly was one of my favorite weekends. Resurrection 2015 raised more than $25,000 for our Youth Service Fund—over half of our goal for this year. The energy also hit an all-time high for Rez this year, and I am very thankful I got to be a part of it. All in all, Resurrection was blessed this year, and I hope it will be the same for next year.”

~ Carson Stanfield, Communications; CCYM Secretary
Thanks to these events and the leaders of Holston, we have the chance to make an impact on the lives of so many youth. We have seen youth accept Jesus into their lives, accept their call to ministry, and go on to do amazing things. We believe that we are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but also the leaders of today. Thanks to these opportunities, we are changing lives not only across Holston Conference, but also across the globe! It is an amazing thing to be a part of a team of people with such big hearts and such big ideas. It is also amazing to be a part of a conference that shares those same hearts and those same ideas. Thank you, Holston, for being willing to let us affect the lives of so many young people—and thank you, Holston, for being world-changers with us!

~ Laura McLean, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries

MARRIAGE MINISTRIES

In 2014, the Clergy Marriage Enrichment Retreat expanded to two weekends. Since this represented a ten-year anniversary for the program, the focus was primarily on those who had attended previously but were interested in a refresher weekend. Multiple couples for both retreats attended in order to enrich and reaffirm their commitments. The success of these weekends led to a decision to again offer two weekends, this time for those who would like to attend for the first time. The dates for these retreats are April 10-12 and May 15-17, 2015.

Since Buffalo Mountain Camp is no longer available as a site for the retreats, a new convenient location was needed. Fortunately, Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport, Tennessee, was available. It provided very comfortable lodging and meeting space along with food service.

Another fortunate addition in support of the retreats has been a new sponsoring partner. Partners in Crisis has joined with the Holston Conference Nurture Team and the Board of Ordained Ministry to provide funding which enables participants to attend free of charge. For years, Partners in Crisis has worked to provide a safety net in the event of the dissolution of marriage among clergy and spouses. They have been gracious to now turn part of their work toward enrichment and prevention.

Additionally, a Leadership Training Workshop will be held June 26-30, 2015, for lay or clergy who wish to be trained to lead marriage education and enrichment programs. Workshop information and registration can be obtained from Ginny and Pete Rowlett (865-966-9776 or bee.rowlett@gmail.com).

~ Rev. Reed Shell

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

Older Adult ministries are alive and well in Holston Conference! Most of our districts have an active ministry, and we celebrate the addition of new district representatives in the Oak Ridge and Knoxville Districts in 2015.

It is our goal to have a ministry in each of our districts. In January, representatives from active and newly formed district ministries gathered to learn and share with one another. We talked about ways to grow ministries for older adults and shared resources with each other. Another meeting will be planned in the coming months.

Jubilation, our conference event for older adults, celebrated our 15th year in April with the return to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee—its original location. Our theme was “Our Story.” Each of us has a story to tell, and we enjoyed a time of sharing that story with
each other. District ministries have been encouraged to carry that theme into their local programs in the coming months.

One thing is certain—we are all getting older. As we age, we continue to evaluate and refine our ministries of faith formation. Some of our older adults live on a fixed income. We invite you to consider ways to help older adults in your congregation to attend the Jubilation conference and help us spread the word about the best kept secret in Holston!

~ Gaye King, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES**

How is your church reaching out to the young adults in its midst? Are they an integral part of your development, planning, and programming, or are they a passive audience? Young adulthood covers a unique period of time between the ages of 18 and 30. In that time, we expect people to put away childish things and take on adult things. One of the best ways to help young adults with this transition is by inviting them to participate in the life of the church and giving them the chance to make decisions and follow through with those decisions. God invites each of us to participate in his ongoing work of creation, including all of those twenty-somethings in your life.

The Young Adult Ministry team is made up of members from across Holston. Its members are your members. They are the young adults who sit at the table with you and minister alongside you. Because of this we are in a position to be a resource for the local church as it strives to walk alongside a new generation. Give us a call if you need help.

On behalf of its members throughout the conference, I thank you for your support and look forward to working with you in the months to come.

~ G. Keith Moore, Chair

**OUTREACH/ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM**

Our mission as a team 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 will offer the fifth regional Poverty Conference on August 28-29, 2015, at First United Methodist Church in Marion, Virginia. It is being organized by Koni Purcell, a Church and Community Worker who serves on the O/A team. The theme will be “Ministry WITH the Poor: Serve, Learn, Act.” Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball will be our keynote speaker.

Two elders from Holston Conference, Rev. Kristen Burkhart and Rev. Josh Kilbourne, attended the Young Clergy event in January 2015 at the General Board of Church and Society in Washington, D.C. They received an overview of the work of GBCS and plans for the future.

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.
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, more oversight of private prisons, and 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 2014, 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 acknowledge the contributions of churches in the Conference that are in ministry with 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.

On immigration and refugee issues, we continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform at both the national and local levels. We also stay locally connected to our immigrant neighbors in celebration and struggle. We are connected to the excellent work of the Hispanic/ Latino Leadership Team and hope to partner with them in growing Immigrant Welcoming Communities. In addition, we have participated with the General Board of Church and Society and Church World Service in Washington, D.C., to promote humane immigration reform.

At the Peace with Justice Luncheon at Annual Conference in 2014, Outreach/Advocacy presented Rev. Janet Wolf from the Children’s Defense Fund, who spoke on the intersection of poverty, race, and mass incarceration.

Our ministry team also offers support to GraceInside (the Virginia Prison Chaplaincy Service) and the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and we provide grants to address issues around HIV/AIDS. Through the Committee on Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and the Committee on Religion and Race, monitoring of inclusive participation at Annual Conference was observed and reported for 2014 and will be again this year.

We encourage members to be involved in the fifth Poverty Conference to be offered in 2015, 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 MINISTRY TEAM

“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.”

(God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action, 2009 United Methodist Council of Bishops)
Holston continues to sow seeds and drop pebbles, promoting environmental stewardship within our churches, in our conference, and throughout the world. Our Creator gave us the mandate to be caretakers of God’s creation and not the dominating masters we have become. God’s children suffer, and God’s creation suffers by the way we misuse it.

The global United Methodist environmental stewardship ministry, Caretakers for God’s Creation, is beginning its 3rd year of existence. Caretakers is “a transformative Christian witness, helping others to know God as revealed through creation, and motivating them to act on behalf of environmental wholeness and justice. We can all make this a reality by: 1) Raising awareness and becoming an integral part of promotion in annual conferences, church agencies, and local church life; 2) Supporting, equipping, and empowering ministry, providing training and resources to clergy and laity; 3) Promoting joyful stewardship through sustainable living; and 4) Creating an URGENCY for God’s voice for the earth, through public policy engagement and advocacy.” (www.creationcare.org)

This 2014-15 year, Holston Creation Care supported and engaged in:

- Continuing to assist churches in developing their own Creation Care Ministries;
- Continuing to be a strong advocate and faith partner by supporting Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light (TNIPL) by participating in prayer vigils and meetings. Several of Holston’s clergy and laity have delivered short messages and led prayers during vigils. Holston’s Creation Care chair is now on TNIPL’s executive board and the greater Knoxville chapter;
- Attended 2014 and will attend the 2015 Caring for God’s Creation Conference in Decatur, Georgia (formerly held at Lake Junaluska);
- Participating in the Global Climate March in New York City;
- Supporting Holston Camping ministries;
- Continuing to partner with Holston’s Outreach/Advocacy ministry teams;
- Continuing to partner and support Caretakers of God’s Creation denominational ministry.

We continue to expand Holston’s Creation Care ministry, but we need you to tell us what you and your church and district are doing to spread environmental stewardship in your corner of God’s world. If you are interested in being a part of Holston’s Creation Care and want information on speakers, brochures, and events, contact Brenda Haymore at mollysmom40@comcast.net, Gaye King at gayeking@holston.org, or the Director of Connectional Ministries at connectionalministries@holston.org.

~ Brenda R. Haymore, Chair

GraceInside (Virginia Prison Chaplaincy Service)

After being shot at point blank range in the face with a sawed-off shotgun, it is a miracle that Robert Ball survived. But what happened next is a testimony to the power of grace received. As a young man, left for dead, Robert Ball became a Corrections Officer intent on finding the man who had all but killed him. Twenty-five years later, he retired as a Captain from Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland, Virginia, having never found his perpetrator but having found forgiveness.
Called into ministry and convicted by what he had seen and lived, Robert Ball completed his theological education and returned to prison as a chaplain in 2006. Serving both Lunenburg and Baskerville Correctional Centers, Chaplain Ball is a living example of not only how God can transform a heart, but also how God can radically transform lives—of inmates and staff. Learn more about Chaplain Ball and other chaplains like him throughout our Commonwealth at www.graceinside.org.

United Methodist support helps Chaplain Ball and his colleagues continue saving 30,000 incarcerated lives (and the staff who tend to them) from the inside-out! The Holston Conference ensures that our chaplains in Southwestern Virginia receive the essential support needed to do their jobs.

GraceInside has employed chaplains since 1920. Although almost 100 years old, we are also brand new! 2014 was full of reasons to celebrate something new at GraceInside:

- New name—from Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc. to GraceInside
- New Facebook presence at GraceInside
- New Twitter presence @GraceInsideVA
- New YouTube channel
- New print and video materials
- New organizational structure

We celebrated a stronger presence in the community and heightened awareness of our ministry and mission. All those things make our real mission, saving lives from the inside out, more attainable! The Methodist church was among our founding denominations. Your support is ESSENTIAL to the survival of GraceInside. Without your continued help, we cannot do the job you have tasked us to do. We rely on you to keep us in your hearts.

Unique in the United States, Virginia is the only state in which state prison chaplains are NOT state employees. We thus employ expressly Christian Chaplains inside the prisons and can do this only because GraceInside obtains private funding. The prison mission field is extremely fertile and fruitful. Broken lives are open to the healing of Christian influence and the touch of Jesus. Through GraceInside, lives are truly saved, and entire families can be transformed. Sharing Jesus through worship services, baptisms, Bible studies, grief groups, recovery programs, and pastoral care, GraceInside’s 31 privately funded Christian chaplains provide hope for our most struggling brothers and sisters in Christ. Faith-Based Reentry (FBRE) programs have proven to reduce recidivism (returning to prison) by half!

We ended 2014 and entered 2015 with a renewed commitment to increase our efforts to provide our chaplains with the support they deserve as they visit those in prison on behalf of all Christians. We are grateful that six chaplains now can serve full-time for GraceInside (three in Southwest Virginia!), but we need to increase the hours that our chaplains have to share the ministry of Jesus Christ within the prison environment. We
at GraceInside thank you, Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church, for your support! We know that this vital ministry impacts all of us, whether we see it or not. It is our privilege to see firsthand that lives, through Christ, are changed from the inside out!

~ 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, campfire, 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.

2014 saw our campers enjoy a true “mountain top” experience. We moved our event to a new venue out of necessity, and the Smoky Mountains proved to be a great choice. Where we usually have two events a year, this past year saw one week, with more people. Over 40 campers came together with 15 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.

~ Larry Dial, Chair

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

The report of the Stewardship Team is related directly to the work of the Holston Conference Foundation and the Director of Stewardship, who is a member of the Foundation Staff. The Conference Stewardship Team is grateful to the Foundation for providing leadership to the Stewardship Ministry of the Annual Conference.

Since we last met as an Annual Conference, Rev. Bill Kilday, as Director of Stewardship, has continued to provide weekly “Offertory Moments.” These vignettes about giving with faithfulness and generosity are sent out by email every Wednesday to all pastors.
who are serving local churches. They give a short stewardship lesson to be used in preparation for the Sunday offering. We hope that pastors are finding these useful in encouraging faithful giving to help make Disciples of Jesus Christ. The Stewardship and Foundation websites now contain more than 250 of these Offertory Moments.

Much planning and organizing went into the efforts to bring three events to Holston this past spring. In March, with the partnership of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Holston Conference Foundation, Rev. Bill Kilday taught a workshop on Clergy Financial Management to the provisional elders who are being ordained at this session of Annual Conference. Several elders ordained last year were also included. Through the years, more than 150 pastors have benefitted from this training.

In April, Bishop Robert Schnase, Resident Bishop of the Missouri Conference, came to Holston to meet with the extended cabinet and to do laity/clergy workshops in Knoxville and Abingdon. Bishop Schnase is the author of several books, including *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, Five Practices of Fruitful Living... and Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences*. His work on “Extravagant Generosity” has been especially noted. These workshops were designed to enhance the culture of generosity for local church vitality.

In May, the Holston Conference Foundation partnered with the Board of Pensions to provide workshops for clergy and spouses concerning the understanding of clergy benefits in preparation for retirement. Two workshops were held with the participation of leaders from the General Board of Pensions, the Social Security Administration, and the health care providers for Holston Conference.

The Stewardship Team would like to especially thank Rev. Bill Kilday, Director of Stewardship, and Roger Redding, Director of the Holston Conference Foundation, for their excellent leadership in Stewardship throughout the Holston Conference.

~ Debbie Stokes, Chair

**Witness Ministry Team**

The Witness Team of the Holston Conference continues to seek ways that we can be a strong resource for our local churches in efforts of evangelism, helping people connect with Christ through discipleship ministries and growing in our love of God and our neighbors.

In 2014, the Witness Team was able to accomplish this goal in several ways. A total of $29,100 in grants was awarded to churches for evangelism programs specifically designed to reach those on the margins of society, to grow disciples, and to build the Kingdom of God. Through these funds, new worship opportunities were created at Kern in the Oak Ridge District to help connect the church with un-churched young adults and families in need of non-traditional worship times. Also, a grant was awarded to Camp Wesley Woods to create a District Day Camp program that will benefit several districts to help children and youth experience God’s love through Christian community and relationships during the summer time. These are only two examples of many outstanding programs by other churches who received funding for their efforts.

In addition to awarding grants for church evangelism programs, the Witness Team also recognizes individuals representing Youth, Laity, and Clergy with the annual Harry Denman Evangelism Award. This is a sign of appreciation for exceptional efforts in reaching out to others for Jesus Christ.
This year, the Witness Team is busy planning the next Evangelism Conference to be held on April 8-9, 2016, with the theme of “Reclaiming the Community for Christ.” This conference will center around a Wesleyan form of evangelism helping churches establish a stronger connection with their communities.

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**

This has been a great year for Hispanic/Latino Ministries in the Holston Conference. Last summer Bishop Taylor led us in working with the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries to acquire a matching funds grant for ministry over the next three years. This grant will enable us to strengthen our ability to reach out with new ministries in the areas of Leadership Development, Youth Ministry, and Justice Ministry.

In the area of Leadership Development, we will offer opportunities for training for lay and clergy leaders in our conference. This includes helping lay persons to be certified as Lay Ministers so that they can help their faith communities to grow by using their gifts and grace to assist pastors in the leadership of the congregation. We will support current clergy candidates in completing their training through the candidacy program, local pastor course of study, and/or seminary education.

Our goal with the youth ministry initiative is to introduce Hispanic/Latino youth to the opportunity to be leaders within the churches to which they belong and, eventually, within the conference. We will encourage and support participation in such opportunities as Resurrection, Holston Camping, Discovery, Youth Assembly, Exploration, and the new Young Clergy Initiative to identify clergy leadership called Defining Moments. We will trust that God will raise up from these youth those whom God wishes to call into full-time ministry. The Holston Conference will encourage youth involvement in these opportunities by providing information, scholarships, and assistance with the logistics to attend these events.

There are many ways in which our church throughout the conference can be involved in being advocates for justice in our communities. Although we recognize that there are deep feelings and political divisions among the people of the United States, we are called by the words of our Savior to “Love one another.” There are many ways in which our communities of faith have the opportunity to reach out to those who live within our communities to share God’s love.

The General Board of Church and Society has a “Welcoming Communities” program that helps churches discern how to reach out to the church’s surrounding community to welcome those who are not part of the church. This process can involve people of any type within the community with whom the church has not connected. The Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team will be glad to help connect churches to the resources needed for participating in this process.

Within eighteen months, we will host a training event, available to everyone in the Holston Conference, which will present the theological and practical aspects of addressing the justice and advocacy issues within our local communities. Please watch for information about this event in the near future.

We are also committed to having several people trained throughout the conference to help people with issues of immigration. These people will help us to be advocates for persons who are seeking to learn about the various changes in immigration processes.
The Holston Conference was also represented at the Third Consultation on Hispanic/Latino Ministries held this year at Duke University. Leaders throughout the United States gathered to discuss, to plan, and to build strategy about how to strengthen ministry with Hispanic and Latino persons. It is not surprising that their interests in leadership development, youth, and justice ministries are the same as ours in the Holston Conference. It is our hope that this collaboration with other conferences will help us to enhance our ability to address these issues. It is also our hope that the recommendations that come out of this consultation will help the National Plan to offer more training and opportunities to assist us in ministry here in Holston.

To accomplish this work, we have expanded the Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team. We ask that you pray for the team as we work to strengthen our ministry with Hispanic and Latino communities within our conference.

~ Tony Collins, Chair

**SMALL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATIONAL TEAM**

The Small Membership Congregation Team’s mission is to “Give help to small membership and rural congregations so they will be even more vital in mission and ministry and bear fruit within their local communities.”

The approach to realizing our mission is to:

- Partner with districts and provide mutually agreed upon help through the District Superintendent and lay leadership of the local small membership congregations;
- Conduct equipping events for small membership and rural congregations;
- Respond to requests for help by identifying and supplying resources that will enhance the ministry of individual churches or groups of churches.

With the emphasis on Rethink Church throughout our conference, this has been a year of rethinking how the SMCT can best utilize our resources to fulfill our mission in assisting small membership churches. As churches “rethink” their ministries, the SMCT, working with Congregational Development, is ready to help with the change processes needed to increase vitality and fruitfulness.

~ Hugh Bryan, Chair

**CHURCHES OF EXCELLENCE IN EVANGELISM**

**Abingdon District**

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### Big Stone Gap District

- **GOLD**
  - Three Bells
  - Hales Chapel
  - Horton’s Chapel
  - Mt. Vernon
  - Nottingham
  - St. Paul

- **BRONZE**
  - Dungannon
  - East Stone Gap
  - Holston View
  - Prospect
  - Rye Cove
  - Smyth Chapel

- **HONORABLE MENTION**
  - Appalachia
  - Bethel
  - Coeburn
  - Culbertson’s Chapel
  - Dryden
  - First, Pennington Gap
  - Fort Blackmore
  - Fort Gibson

### Chattanooga District

- **GOLD**
  - Christ
  - First-Centenary
  - Hixson
  - Signal Mountain
  - St. Marks

- **SILVER**
  - Bethlehem-Wiley
  - Chapel Hill
  - Eastdale Village
  - Community

- **BRONZE**
  - McKendree
  - Red Bank
  - Sanders
  - Signal Crest
  - Stanley
  - Sulphur Springs
  - Wesley Memorial

- **HONORABLE MENTION**
  - McFarland
  - New Salem
  - Payne’s Chapel
  - Pleasant Grove
  - Tyner
  - Washington Hills

- **HONORABLE MENTION**
  - Brooks Memorial
  - Fairview
  - Grace

### Cleveland District

- **GOLD**
  - Allen Memorial
  - Broad Street
  - First, Cleveland
  - First, Dayton
  - McDonald Mountain View
  - Ooltewah

- **SILVER**
  - Benton
  - Calhoun
  - Keith Memorial
  - Red Hill
  - Spivey
  - St. Clair
  - Wesley Memorial, Cleveland

- **BRONZE**
  - Apison
  - Burkett Chapel
  - Concord
  - Croft Chapel
  - Decatur
  - Englewood
  - Evensville
  - Mt. Zion
  - Pleasant Hill
  - Savannah

- **HONORABLE MENTION**
  - Spring City

### Johnson City District

- **GOLD**
  - Gray
  - St. Paul, Elizabethton
  - St. Paul, Piney Flats
  - Telford
  - Watauga Point

- **SILVER**
  - Bluff City
  - Boones Creek
  - Clear Springs

- **BRONZE**
  - Slagles
  - Sulphur Springs

- **HONORABLE MENTION**
  - Austin Springs
  - Edgefield
  - Fairhaven
  - First, Elizabethton
  - Limestone
  - Limestone Cove
  - Marvins Chapel

- **Munsey Memorial**
  - Taylor Memorial
  - Union Temple
  - Wesley Memorial

- **HONORABLE MENTION**
  - Albright
  - Centenary
  - Ebenezer
  - First, Johnson City

- **Gethsemane**
  - Grace
  - Greenwood
  - Jearoldstown
  - Jonesborough
  - Liberty Hill
  - Pleasant Grove
  - Roan Mountain
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## Oak Ridge District

**GOLD**  
Bradbury  
Central, Lenoir City  
First, Oak Ridge  
Harriman  
Sunbright  
**SILVER**  
Cawood  
Concord  
**BRONZE**  
Haven Chapel  
Jacksonboro  
Kingston  
Luminary  
Beaver Ridge  
Fincastle  
First Farragut  
First, Oneida  
LaFollette  
Martel  
Memorial, Clinton  
Midtown Valley  
Moore’s Gap  
Mt. Hermon  
New Century  
Rockwood  
Rugby Road  
Sinking Springs  
St. Mark  
Well Spring  
**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Andersonville  
Bell’s Campground  
Good Shepherd  
Mt. Pleasant  
Thompson Chapel

## Tazewell District

**GOLD**  
Cedar Bluff  
Clearview  
Main Street  
**SILVER**  
Bear Springs  
Green Valley, Eggleston  
Mountain View  
Wesendonck  
**BRONZE**  
Dailey’s Chapel  
Eggleston  
Falls Mills  
First, Bluefield  
First, Richlands  
Pisgah  
Rocky Gap  
Wesley’s Chapel  
Bailey  
Burkes Garden  
Christ First  
Coleman’s Chapel  
Concord  
Ebenezer  
First, Narrows  
First, Pearisburg  
First, Rich Creek  
Millirons  
Mt. Zion, Bland  
North Tazewell  
Pleasant Hill, Pearisburg  
Pocahontas  
Round Bottom  
Thessalia  
Tip Top  
Virginia Avenue  
Wrights Valley

## Wytheville District

**GOLD**  
Asbury, Rural Retreat  
Atkins Memorial  
First, Independence  
Flat Rock  
Glenwood, Barren Springs  
Mt. Ephraim  
Out of the Box  
Randolph Avenue  
**SILVER**  
Bethel, Radford  
Bishop’s Chapel  
Central, Radford  
Evergreen  
Fairlawn  
First, Hillsville  
Fulton  
Glenwood, Galax  
Mt. Zion, Wytheville  
New Mt. Olive  
Oakland  
Thornspring  
West End  
Willis  
**BRONZE**  
Auburn  
Carter Street  
Cecil’s Chapel  
Door of Heaven  
Ebenezer  
First, Pulaski  
Floyd  
Forest, Ivanhoe  
Franklin Street  
Fries Station  
Grove  
Max Meadows  
Mt. Olivet, Galax  
Parrott  
Rural Retreat  
**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Belspring  
Bethany, Independence  
Bethany, Max Meadows  
Bethel, Wytheville  
Blue Springs  
Bridle Creek  
Draper  
Dublin  
Fairview, Ivanhoe  
Fancy Gap  
Foster Falls  
Gladeville  
Graham’s Forge  
King’s Grove  
Locust Hill  
Marvin  
Morgan’s Chapel  
Mt. Olivet, Fries  
Mt. Olivet, Pulaski  
Mt. Vale  
Rockford  
Sidney  
Trinity, Pulaski
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES

2016 Apportionments

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) is recommending the continuation of an income-based approach for funding the Conference budget for 2016. 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, OR, 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 2016 will be $95,010 the same as the 2015 salary. The CFA will continue to determine annually the appropriate salaries for district superintendents as required by the Book of Discipline.

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.

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 advanced specials or other designated givings 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 2015 Conference Journal has been contracted with United Graphics, Inc., of Knoxville Tennessee. The price of the 2015 Journal will be determined at a later date. An electronic version will be available online @ 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 $50 per day, 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 2012 Book of Discipline).

E. 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

First the good news! 89% of our churches fulfilled their covenant and paid their tithe in full. The bad news is that 11% paid only a portion of the tithe which resulted in an approximate $1 million dollar shortfall in potential income. This is a typical pattern of pay-out for our conference contributions. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) is grateful for the overwhelmingly positive support of our conference financial needs for ministry. However, in light of this ongoing pattern, the CFA determined that we must reduce our 2016 budget requests by 10% to be in line with anticipated income. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) is allowing the various ministry teams to make the cuts where they feel they will impact the ministry the least. Please note that the Budget Summary reflects the 10% reduction.

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 Council on Finance and Administration encourages you to learn about our shared ministries through the resources found at www.waytogive.holston.org. There you will find a monthly video and bulletin insert that tell some of the wonderful stories of the results of our ministries. Thank you, Holston Conference! You’ll never know how many lives you have changed. Way to go! Way to give!

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. 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.

The people of the Holston Annual Conference have shown their commitment year after year. We are currently looking at changes in the structure of our conference and the way that we do business on a daily basis. Holston Conference Churches could fully fund the 2016 Requested Budget if 100% of our churches simply honored their commitment to pay the tithe. District Superintendents work very hard to help local churches pay these tithes. I will personally be traveling throughout the conference again this year, faithfully communicating financial strategies and answering questions, so that 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<td>Received on Profession of Faith - 2014</td>
<td>Restored by Affirmation - 2014</td>
<td>Correct Prior Year’s Reporting Membership by Numbers - 2014</td>
<td>Transferred In from Other UM Churches - 2014</td>
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<td>DISTRICT TOTALS - 2014:</td>
<td>164,481</td>
<td>2,004</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1,248</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 9.
Support the 5K Run/1-Mile Walk
to benefit the Annual Conference
mission offering: **Children in Poverty**
within the Holston Conference

If you didn’t register by May 20th,
you can still participate.
Event T-shirts will be first come, first served.
Come on out and cheer on your favorite Holston athlete!
### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

**Requested 2016 Budget and Proposed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Requested Budget</th>
<th>2016 CFA Proposed Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet</td>
<td>$1,826,854</td>
<td>$1,626,170</td>
<td>$1,644,982</td>
<td>$1,832,921</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
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<td>Information Technology</td>
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<td>Annual Conference</td>
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<td>Commission on Archives and History</td>
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<td>Board of Ordained Ministry</td>
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<td>Board of Higher Education</td>
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<td>Groups Related to the Cabinet and BOM</td>
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<td>Financial Services</td>
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<td>Lay Ministries</td>
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<td>Pensions/Trustees/Comp/Episcopal</td>
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<td>Congregational Development</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$10,220,435</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,463,448</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,790,602</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,711,542</strong></td>
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</table>

CFA asked for 10% Decrease of $1,070,060 to $9,711,542.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Approved</th>
<th>2016 Requested</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CABINET</strong></td>
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<td><strong>APPOINTMENT CABINET</strong></td>
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<td>Meeting Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total Cabinet Salaries</strong></td>
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<td>$1,430,428</td>
<td>$1,449,240</td>
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<td>Total Cabinet</td>
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<td>$1,626,170</td>
<td>$1,644,981</td>
<td>$1,832,921</td>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### 2016 Budget Requests

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<td><strong>General &amp; Administration</strong></td>
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Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
2016 Budget Requests

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Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

2016 Budget Requests
### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### 2016 Budget Requests

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## 2016 Budget Requests

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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

### 2016 Budget Requests

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### Holston Annual Conference

**2016 Budget Requests**

**Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church**

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<td><strong>Sub-Total Ministry Team Salaries</strong></td>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### 2016 Budget Requests

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2016 Budget Requests

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### Guidance & Support

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## 2016 Budget Requests

### General and Administrative

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### Wesley Foundations Programs

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### Capital Improvements

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**Subtotal Wesley Foundations**

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<td>Hiwassee</td>
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# Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

## 2016 Budget Requests

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>YTD 2014 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Budget Requests</th>
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**CONFERENCE JOURNALS**

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| Salaries and Benefits                    | $360,402                    | $340,628             | $340,628             | $350,411             |
| **Sub-total Administration Salaries and Benefits** | $223,288                    | $321,743             | $340,628             | $350,411             |

<p>| Total CFA (with Gcfa Apport)             | $3,644,318                  | $3,712,102           | $3,829,168           | $3,737,989           |</p>
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</table>
## 2016 Budget Requests

### COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual YTD</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Budget Requests</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary Supplements</td>
<td>$136,982</td>
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<td>Supplements-Mission Aid</td>
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**Subtotal**

|                | $189,828        | $175,550    | $175,100             | $192,550             |

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual YTD</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Budget Requests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting, Meal, &amp; Travel Expense</td>
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**TOTAL CONF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY**

|                | $0              | $1,100      | $1,100               | $1,100               |
### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2016 Budget Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual YTD</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>2015 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Budget Requests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE</strong></td>
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<td>$1,594,700</td>
<td>$1,624,900</td>
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# Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

## 2016 Budget Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>2014 YTD</th>
<th>2015 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2016 Budget Requests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
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<td>$112,857</td>
<td>$117,778</td>
<td>$115,202</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total Congregational Dev Salaries and Benefits</strong></td>
<td><strong>$104,451</strong></td>
<td><strong>$112,857</strong></td>
<td><strong>$117,778</strong></td>
<td><strong>$115,202</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$491,957</strong></td>
<td><strong>$487,178</strong></td>
<td><strong>$494,202</strong></td>
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To qualify for the Five Star Award, churches must pay the Conference Tithe in full and support at least one project in each of the four Advance Special categories.

### Abingdon District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>410204</td>
<td>Abingdon</td>
<td>First, Mountain Cty</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Laurel Springs</td>
<td>416704</td>
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<td>410693</td>
<td>Beech Grove</td>
<td>Lebanon Memorial</td>
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<td>Lebanon, Chilhowie</td>
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<td>Lebanon, Glade</td>
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<td>Carvosso</td>
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<td>410567</td>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>New Cove</td>
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<td>410875</td>
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### Big Stone Gap District

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<td>Alley’s Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>411380</td>
<td>Clintwood</td>
<td>Holston View</td>
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<td>411403</td>
<td>Coeburn</td>
<td>Mendota</td>
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<td>411436</td>
<td>Crab Orchard</td>
<td>Midway Memorial</td>
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<td>412214</td>
<td>Culbertson’s Chapel</td>
<td>Miller’s Chapel</td>
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<td>411505</td>
<td>Dryden</td>
<td>Nickelsville</td>
<td>411507</td>
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<td>411802</td>
<td>First, Pennington Gap</td>
<td>Pleasant Hill</td>
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### Chattanooga District

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<td>Christ</td>
<td>Looney’s Creek Chapel</td>
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<td>414144</td>
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<td>New Salem</td>
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### Cleveland District

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### Johnson City District

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### Kingsport District

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### Knoxville District

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<tr>
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<td>Bethel, Amherst</td>
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<td>Bethel, French Broad</td>
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<td>395973</td>
<td>Bookwalter</td>
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<td>418038</td>
<td>Christ, Knoxville</td>
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### Notes

- **Morrison District**: Includes locations from 420076 to 421471.
- **Oak Ridge District**: Includes locations from 414851 to 420588.
- **Tazewell District**: Includes locations from 421138 to 421242.
- **Wytheville District**: Includes locations from 422587 to 422521.
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

Our objective is to understand and communicate the significance of our Christian mission in higher education and ministry throughout the Holston Conference. We are blessed to partner with many gifted individuals in this vital mission field. Please take a few moments to read about their unique and effective ministries in the reports that follow.

~ Troy Forrester, Chair

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Grace and peace to you from the Office of Spiritual Life at Emory & Henry College! The 2014-15 academic year has been a time of growth and exploration in the lives of the participants in the Spiritual Life ministries on our campus.

The face of our office has changed a bit since last year. In August, we were notified that we had been awarded a grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry’s Young Clergy Initiative for our proposed program Defining Moments. We developed this ministry in partnership with the Holston Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, and several other groups to nurture the call to ministry in young people (high school students, young adults of college age and recent graduates, and young clergy). The pilot year is being funded by the YCI grant, and the College has committed to at least two additional years in order to help build the proper foundation for a program. Anyone in Holston Annual Conference is
welcome to nominate participants for this program that we hope will strengthen individual church leadership as well as develop a culture of call to ministry within the bounds of Holston and beyond.

In order to allow me to devote a significant amount of time developing and directing Defining Moments, we created the position of Associate Chaplain. The primary area of responsibility for this half-time position is to work with the student groups, especially the leaders, to provide students with the opportunity to nurture their faith and develop their leadership skills to prepare them for a life of strong church leadership as clergy and lay persons. We are pleased that Rev. Sharon Wiley Wright joined our staff in November 2014 as Associate Chaplain.

But I am ahead of myself. Let’s go back to August. Before most students arrived on campus, the leaders of our student organizations gathered for leadership training led by Rev. David Woody and myself. 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 Johnny Diaz. We welcomed off-campus groups to this event as well.

This year, we have had several opportunities each week for our campus community to gather for worship. Encounter, our contemporary worship service, explored the theme “Encounter God’s Love” on Sunday evenings. Preachers included students, professors, and even Bishop Richard Looney. On Wednesday afternoons, The Quiet Center provided space for worshipers to take a break from a busy day to spend time in prayer and contemplation. Emory UMC has weekly Sunday morning services, and FCA’s “The Echo” was offered at least once a month.

Campus Christian Fellowship (CCF) 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 activities that have included Jeopardy, game nights, karaoke, a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and everybody’s birthday. More serious programs included devotions, educational programs, and service projects.

Spiritual Life Housing continues to be an important campus ministry in House 17 and Inazu House. These students are committed to developing a strong Christian community among residents, participating 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.

Kerygma’s year began with a retreat at Camp Dickenson in early September, featuring speaker Travis Proffit, the new Associate Director of the College’s Appalachian Center for Civic Engagement. Regular 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. Several students also shared stories of mission trips and other powerful experiences in which God is working in their lives.

Expedition, formerly Higher Ground, changed its format to a time when students can talk about topics important to their faith. In the fall, a number of guest speakers (pastors, professors, and others) talked about God’s grace as understood from their particular tradition. The group also talked about the relationship between religion and science.

In January, our annual MLK Day Celebration examined the theme “In the Name of God: World Religions and Civil Rights.” Through a series of events to honor Dr. King’s legacy, presenters reminded participants how a variety of religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Baha’i, Buddhism, and Hinduism, have addressed the issue of civil rights.

January also included three weekends in Gatlinburg. During two of those weekends, five of our students supported the Spiritual Life, Alumni, and Admissions offices in recruiting students at Holston Conference’s Resurrection events. On the last weekend of January, fourteen of our students and two staff members participated in Divine Rhythm, an inspirational weekend where we were challenged to be radical Christians in all aspects of our lives.

During Spring Break, a team of seven students and two faculty members traveled to the Dominican Republic as a part of a study abroad class, Cross-Cultural Christian Mission, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to experience the Dominican culture.

Each year as the Chaplain at Emory & Henry College brings new adventures, challenges, and blessings. Associate Chaplain Wright and I are grateful to have the opportunity to support student groups and to attend to the spiritual needs of students, faculty, and staff in such a rewarding ministry. We serve in a community full of spiritual diversity and exploration. Being spiritual guides in such an atmosphere is an honor and privilege.

~ Mary K. Briggs, College Chaplain

HIWASSEE COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Greetings to you from the office of Campus Ministry at Hiwassee College! Our 2014-2015 year has been a time of great excitement. Opportunities for student ministry increased significantly this year due to our highest enrollment in seven years. We have taken full advantage of these opportunities by seeking ways to enhance our worship. Each Wednesday morning, we gather at 10:00 a.m. for a time of worship in our chapel setting. Currently, we are meeting in the Hiwassee
Performing Arts Center (HPAC). With the expanded area, we have grown our worship band and upgraded our audio/visual technology. These changes have led to greater participation within our times of worship.

This participation has spilled over into our Christian Student Movement (CSM) where we gather once a week for a time of fellowship, discipleship, and ministry to others. CSM meets each Wednesday night at Buckner Chapel for a meal and then a time of prayer and discipleship study. During our meeting times we plan mission events and fellowship times.

In the fall, we took a group from CSM to the NEXT Conference in Denver, Colorado. The NEXT conference is a UMC event developed by students for students. Their mission is to help current students reimagine what ministry could look like on their college or university campus. Then, they begin to equip these students with the tools they need to create this newly imagined ministry. It was a powerful weekend for our students, and they came back with some great ideas on how we could enhance our campus ministry.

The first idea has been the implementation of more vibrant and energetic worship during chapel. As we continue looking for ways to enhance this experience, we are now beginning to imagine how we can follow Jesus into our community, both within the campus and in the neighborhoods surrounding our campus.

I am excited to see how God continues to lead us as we seek to fulfill our calling to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

I am thankful and very grateful for all the ways you have supported our ministries at Hiwassee College. May God bless each of you in the same way you have blessed us.

~ Tim Jones, Chaplain

TENNESSEE WESLEYAN COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

The hallmark of campus ministry at Tennessee Wesleyan College continues to be the cooperation and interaction of the various campus ministries groups—Wesleyan Christian Fellowship, Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM), and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). While meeting separately each week, these groups work closely together on a variety of projects, from assisting freshmen and their families on move-in day to participating as a combined group in Lip Sync, the annual Homecoming talent show.

This year we have had a variety of chapel services for students, faculty, and staff. In addition to the regular Chapel/Communion on Wednesdays at noon, during the Fall semester we also offered four special chapel services on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel, located on the third floor of Old College. Several of our faculty spoke at these services on a variety of subjects, ranging from “Where is Home?” to the influence of German Christians in the resistance against Hitler.
Our Chapel/Convocation services continued to feature excellent preachers. Katie Morgan, a 2010 TWC and 2013 Duke Seminary graduate, currently serving as the ESL Coordinator for McMinn County Schools, spoke during the September Chapel/Convo. Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, provided the Fall Religion Lecture. In February, our guest speaker was Rev. Charles Ensminger, also a TWC alum and former faculty member. Finally, Rev. Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, Professor of Theology and Assistant Director of Women’s Studies at Seattle Pacific University, delivered the Spring Religion and Heritage Day lectures on March 2-3, 2015.

TWC Campus Ministry once again sponsored the Prayer Room during both Resurrection weekends, and twelve TWC students participated with the Young Adults of Keith Memorial UMC in the Divine Rhythm event in February in Gatlinburg.

Fall and Spring breaks provided unique opportunities for TWC students. Several students traveled with the chaplain on the biennial “East Coast Seminary Tour,” visiting Duke, Wesley, and Drew Seminaries during Fall Break. And Spring Break saw several of our FCA leaders participating with the TWC Center for Servant Leadership and Student Activities, and twenty other students in Kissimmee, Florida, where they served with Give Kids the World. Meanwhile, several BCM participants spent time volunteering at various local ministries.

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, College Chaplain

ETSU Wesley Foundation

We have had another great year at ETSU Wesley Foundation. I will be completing my fifth year and look forward with anticipation to future years of service as director. Campus ministry is a vital service of The United Methodist Church on our campus. I greatly appreciate the support we receive from the Holston Conference and the three districts that support ETSU Wesley (Kingsport, Johnson City and Morristown Districts). Without your support we could not offer this ministry for our students at ETSU. Thank you!

Some highlights from the year include the following:

• Averaging 74 in attendance for our Tuesday night worship service throughout the fall and early spring semesters. This is a 20% increase over last year!

• The annual barbeque and auction netted $16,468 this year. Since 2001, we have raised $314,751 through our annual barbeque and auction. Thank you for your support and continued support for the next one—please hold the date for next year: October 17, 2015!

• We had our first Alumni Day celebration on November 1, 2014. Several Alumni attended along with former ETSU Campus minister Rev. Bedford
Transou and his wife, Carol. Our next Alumni Day celebration will be September 26, 2015, at Wesley.

- 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. We also offer service on Sunday night occasionally with student-led devotions, worship, and prayer time.

- Our leadership team consists of four interns. Each intern has a ministry focus that supports the ministry of ETSU Wesley. The four areas of focus are Discipleship/Missions, Recreation, Freshmen/In-reach ministries, and Communications. Each group serves in their area of focus in ministry throughout the semester.

- We started a new discipleship ministry that we are very excited about. Ask me about the details! We feel like this model of ministry will continue to grow and expand.

- We are in the process of remodeling the Wesley Foundation parsonage for residential usage to house our leadership members serving in our new discipleship ministry. Donations are greatly appreciated for the parsonage remodeling.

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

- Two mission trips: One for Spring break to Mountain T.O.P. in Altamont, Tennessee, March 8-11, and the other to Four Corners Native American Ministries in Shiprock, New Mexico, May 10-16

- A fantastic worship band led by Chris Eger

- 26 attended Divine Rhythm 2015!

- Participated in the Shepherd’s Breakfast and Relay 4 Life and other local missions in the Johnson City area. We raised $700 for Relay for Life for Spring 2014.

- 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 $20,868.52 in book scholarship support! Donations to this important fund are still being encouraged and accepted.
• We welcomed two new staff members in May 2014. Chris Jacobs was hired as assistant director and Jessica Sanders as office manager. Both bring many gifts to the ministry, and both are serving in our new discipleship ministry. Our challenge that is before us is to find even more ways to reach out to the students on campus and offer Christ to them. With this challenge and opportunity we have formulated a mission statement, which is: “Reaching and encouraging students to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ through community, discipleship, missions, and servanthood”

We continue to show steady growth here at ETSU Wesley. With this new discipleship ministry we feel like we will continue to grow and meet more students and connect them to the Wesley Foundation ministry. I am so thankful for this wonderful opportunity to serve as Director of ETSU Wesley! Please pray for us as we continue to work with God in the building of a culture of discipleship here on the campus of East Tennessee State University.

~ John Ousley, Director

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 been a goal for our community during 2014-15.

Our students continue to express their appreciation for the home-away-from-home atmosphere at Wesley. Board members and students celebrate and cultivate this feeling of sanctuary where each is free to share, explore, and question personal values, theology, ethics, and life choices. Small group study creates a climate of tolerance and acceptance without judgment as students reveal, analyze, evaluate, and profess their personal beliefs and values. Larger group discussions present the opportunity for students to appraise and assess decisions of faith, to apply their beliefs to broader issues, and to stand up for those ideals. A tremendous part of our sense of home comes from fellowship and banter around the supper table on Wednesday nights. As they share food and fellowship, students build a spirit of community that follows them to residence halls, apartments, classrooms, and beyond. As students receive nurture and affirmation at Wesley, they leave seeking to reach out to others, build community, and share the good news wherever they go.

In Romans 12:13, Paul instructs us to care for those in need and to practice hospitality. In general, college students are strangers in need of welcome and assembly. The Wesley Foundation creates opportunities to gather, mingle, interact, agree, disagree, communicate and share…basically to connect with others in a place of warmth and safety. As they are welcomed, the students learn
to welcome. In October, our students took their Wednesday night program to the front lawn. They distributed flyers in the student apartments around our center, inviting everyone to “meet your neighbors.” Tall stacks of pizza boxes, soda, cookies, and bottled water were on the table. Friendly, smiling students eager to welcome new people were scattered across the front yard. Corn hole games and Frisbees were in place. Neighbors were hurrying back and forth on their way to and from class, the gym, and dinner. And we were off!! Some of our neighbors were cordial and responsive…some crossed the street…some politely refused…some ignored us…some stood across the street and taunted us…some just came and ate, said thank you, and left. Only one accepted our invitation to come back. He has been to every Monday and Wednesday program since that date. The fact that he is a self-proclaimed atheist has made for interesting interactions in the group. We cannot predict how God will work in this young man’s life, but he has been welcomed into our part of the body of Christ as Jesus taught us to do.

While at college, students are thrust into new settings with strangers who have similar and varying backgrounds, beliefs, and social customs. Student-led worship in our center melds social and cultural differences in a way that words and programs alone cannot approach. Because worship and play are key components in building a healthy family, other programs that foster and promote family connection are social and recreational in nature. Student participation as Board members, coupled with strong Board support and interaction, creates a mutual bond of shared purpose and ministry at the local level. We connect this local family with a widening circle of alumni who interface in person and from a distance, as well as financially, to fabricate and sustain the ties that connect us together as family. In The United Methodist Church we gratefully acknowledge a connectional cord that binds us to each other and to the communities we serve.

Our students serve others in many ways. Their involvement with the national Operation INASMUCH this Fall offered new opportunities to be in service to the greater Radford community. Our 20-year-old Tutor/Mentor program has struggled for child participants for the last few semesters. Seeking new ways to connect college students with this at-risk population of children led us to change our pick-up arrangements to enable more children to be involved. Our involvement with the New River Valley’s program for homeless men, To Our House, has made the difficulties of being homeless real for our students. Sharing a meal and a jigsaw puzzle with someone who has no place to lay his head brings a reality many college students have not experienced. When those people have names and faces and compliment the food you have cooked or beat you playing games, they become humans in trouble, not just a social issue.

Thank you, Holston, for giving our students the chance to receive hospitality as they learn to give hospitality in the name of Jesus Christ.

~ Martee Buchanan, Director
Greetings from your United Methodist Campus ministry in Chattanooga!

It has been a great year full of old friends and new faces. In September Katie Taylor, a UTC and Wesley Center alumna, took some time off from her last semester at Asbury Theological Seminary (ATS) to lead our fall retreat. The retreat was entitled “Future Shock: What to Do When Your Future Changes Before You Do.” Katie did a wonderful job, leading our students through the process of dealing with all of the rapid change they can face as college students. In December, Katie graduated from ATS and is now working in Kentucky as a marriage and family therapist. We are very proud of Katie, and we expect to see great things from her in the years to come.

Souper Thursday, our free soup lunch for the campus, saw record numbers this year. Students were lined up around the dining room and out the door. For many of these students Souper Thursday is a highlight of their week. Many of them end up returning later in the week to participate in our other events like Symposium, John Wesley: Life Coach, and Dogs ’N Doctrine.

Caroline Crawford, from Knoxville, scheduled our outreach to the folks at Mustard Tree Ministries by scheduling four Sunday night dinner events. She then organized the students to help prepare and serve the meals. Chad Pasinger (City Road Chapel in the Tennessee Conference) is our student minister. This March, he led our students to Mountain T.O.P in Grundy County for a spring break mission trip. Along with P.J. Burchfield (McMinnville) he also helped to get our students involved with outreach by working with Tenika Dye at the Salvation Army’s ReCreate Café.

So many faces, so many names, more than just numbers: the students who come to Chattanooga are always in need of an extended family to take them in. Hixson UMC is a wonderful example of this. When Abby Douglas (Oak Ridge) and P.J. found their way into the choir room way back in September, they were not sure what to expect. What they found was an extension to the family and support they had already found at Wesley. Abby, an education major, even found a way to put her interests to good use when Melia Warren invited her to participate in the children’s program on Sunday evenings. She, along with Stuart French – another Wesley Student, now helps teach children every Sunday evening.

These are the stories we like to tell. The participants, the Board of Directors, and the staff of the Wesley Center thank you for your ongoing support. With your help we look forward to sharing more stories of our young adults in the future.

~ Keith Moore, Director
Greetings to you from your Wesley Foundation at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville! This has been a year of wonderful growth in our 93rd 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 services have been lively and joyful times to gather and see what God is doing. Our student leaders have helped to form a new Wesley Choir to provide music for worship and to sing in the community. 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. We host “Divine Brew,” a pub ministry in Knoxville’s Old City, which has involved not only our graduate students, but also some alumni and young adults from the larger community. 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.

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 named a recipient of a grant from The Lilly Endowment to develop a new program in their Theological Exploration of Vocation Initiative. This five-year plan will help 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, 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
Greetings in Christ from the Wesley Foundation collegiate ministry at the University of Virginia’s College at Wise! For over 50 years college students have found a safe haven of faith, fellowship, and friendship within the walls of our building. Because of the support and contributions from Holston Conference, the Wesley building has a new roof and will house collegiate ministry in Wise, Virginia, far into the future. THANK YOU for your continued prayers and support. We could not reach students, faculty, and staff with the good news of Jesus Christ without you.

The Wesley Foundation at UVa-Wise continues to see lives transformed through a variety of ministries, including weekly worship and supper, weekly Bible and book studies, weekly prayer gatherings, and regular mission and outreach opportunities in the community, nation, and world. Among the most successful ministry programs which have enabled these moments of transformation this year were partnerships with other student organizations to host Bible studies and community outreach opportunities to our storm-ravaged community. Students explored their own calling to vocational ministry through study and leadership, including coordinating large events such as a Bluegrass festival to raise funds for our collapsed local food bank after severe winter weather impacted the county in which we are located.

Students, faculty, and staff answered a call to action this year by participating in being the body of Christ reaching out into the world. Opportunities for action included an alternative spring break mission trip to Florida serving with the Society of St. Andrew to glean produce, helping at our local homeless shelter, a fall break mission day, and adopting five local Angel Tree children.

The Wesley Foundation at UVa-Wise desires to continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and community for years to come. We are the presence of The United Methodist Church on our campus, joining in ministry to God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Please stop me and ask me about the Wesley Foundation at UVa-Wise when you see me at Annual Conference! Pray for our students who are being equipped and mentored to lead The United Methodist Church into the future! God continues to reach out to UVa-Wise through your connectional ministry at the Wesley Foundation!

~ Rev. Beth Tipton, Director
Grace and peace to you, Sisters and Brothers, in the Name of the One who was, and is, and is to come! Thanks be to God for the many and varied ways He calls each of us into ministry in His kingdom!

It is an honor for me to report on the work of the Conference Board of Lay Ministry during the past year. This hard-working group is made up of the twelve District Lay Leaders and conference leaders of Lay Servant Ministries, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. I am thankful for the time they commit to organizing the efforts of laypersons across Holston Conference to show the love of Christ through acts of joyful service.

Membership on Extended Cabinet: It is my privilege to serve as a member of Bishop Taylor’s Extended Cabinet in my role as Conference Lay Leader. I value the relationships I have developed with the members of that group and appreciate their willingness to hear input from the laity in planning and carrying out the mission and ministry of the annual conference.

Lay Servant Ministries: Jon Pursley and Art Bohanan, our Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries, have continued guiding lay servants and lay speakers to a better understanding of the Discipline paragraphs that impact the work they do in their congregations and districts. They have organized a group of representatives from each district to clarify and coordinate the processes of training and certifying lay servants and lay speakers. They are also exploring the relationship between certified lay speakers and certified lay ministers and seeking ways to insure that the work of these offices is complementary.

Prayer Ministries: During my tenure as Conference Lay Leader, the Board’s focus has been on enhancing the effectiveness of prayer ministry in Holston. We continue to coordinate prayer efforts around the Annual Conference session by providing opportunities and resources for prayer for those who are present at Lake Junaluska. This year, we have partnered with Rev. Laura Shearer in her capacity as chaplain of the Annual Conference to form a prayer team to help provide leadership in this regard and to be a critical part of future planning for the growth of prayer ministries at the conference level. This spring, we announced plans to invite members of local congregations to create and consecrate pocket prayer shawls to be shared with the lay and clergy members of the annual conference. We are excited about the ways God may use this opportunity to inspire new and creative ways our congregations can reach out in prayer to their members and communities.

Throughout the year, I am blessed by the sharing of stories of powerful ministries in our districts. From the Abingdon District, I heard the story of four congregations coming together to hold a Service of Prayer and Healing in the home of a parishioner who had experienced complications from recent surgery. Fifteen faithful saints surrounded their sister-in-Christ, praying for her and laying on hands. Sharing what she witnessed as part of this group, a participating pastor characterized her experience as “Pure love and truth poured out; pure love and truth returned!” Kingsport District holds prayer services that have witnessed powerful movement of the Holy Spirit among those in attendance – including
conversion and profession of faith in a service held this spring. In Knoxville, congregations have joined to support Logo UMC in South Sudan, and the District Transformation Team encourages churches to move beyond their walls and reach out in ministry to the communities around them. The Morristown District has a prayer team comprised of laity and clergy that distributes a monthly newsletter to its members identifying current prayer emphases and ongoing prayer points.

I know that the stories I hear only scratch the surface of the vital and growing ministries of the congregations of Holston Conference. On behalf of the Board, I encourage you to keep up the good work.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

~ Del Holley, Conference Lay Leader

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

Like many aspects of our church, men’s ministry is undergoing significant change. It would be easy to associate such visible change with a lack of growth or even decay. Not so fast...

**What’s Changed:** Men’s ministry has changed and is changing, and more change is yet to come. However, if one really looks closely, you find that the culture of men is changing. More and more men are looking for different ways to be in ministry. With changes to our society such as social media and instant communication, the desire to gather and socialize is competing with our busy lifestyles and the many other things that vie for our attention. As such, the physical meeting as well as the “men’s club” or “unit” concepts are less and less attractive to men.

**What’s Not Changed:** Men throughout Holston are engaged in dynamic and creative ministries that bring them closer to Christ and closer to each other and that serve their congregations and communities in immeasurable ways. Men engaging in ministry in meaningful ways continue to be an important part of congregational growth as well as individual spiritual health. While the method and type of men’s ministry may change, the purpose remains to “Declare the centrality of Christ” in men’s lives.

**What’s New in UMM:** Holston Conference United Methodist Men continues to try and communicate in as many ways as possible—through Facebook, Twitter, and the web. Developing leaders and encouraging organization at the district level remains an important focus. Many districts are forming “Men’s Ministry Teams” involving both lay and clergy, with the purpose of discerning district-wide opportunities for ministry as well as supporting or encouraging congregations in the development of men’s ministry.

Men’s ministry remains an important element of congregational development and of the health of The United Methodist Church. Men can and should play a vital role in sharing the love of Christ within our churches, communities, our region, and the world. Everyone should take an interest in participating or encouraging these ministries on every level. Every man, in every United Methodist Church, is a United Methodist Man. It remains to be seen what each one will do with that
knowledge and responsibility. I hope and pray we will continue to communicate with each other, embrace each other’s differences, support and encourage each other in ministry, and share Christ with the world around us, both near and far.

~ Eric Knoefel, President
Holston Conference UMM

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Since the 2014 Annual Conference, Holston Conference United Methodist Women have been busy doing the work of living out our purpose. 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.”

We assembled on July 17-19, for our “Mission U” Event (formerly called School of Christian Mission) at Central UMC in Lenoir City, Tennessee. Study Leaders Anne Travis, Teddy Stevens, and Becky Hall led the Spiritual Growth study entitled “How Is It With Your Soul”; Rev. Barry Kidwell led the geographic study entitled “The Roma of Europe”; Rev. Tom Binford and Rev. Brian Burch led the Social Action study entitled “The Church and People with Disabilities”; and Sharlene Spaulding led the children’s study entitled “Making a New Picture Together: Welcoming Persons with Disabilities Into Our Lives.” Music leaders were Dr. Trevor Smith and Gail Morris.

Our Social Action Workshop on August 9, 2014, was held at First United Methodist Church in Morristown, TN. Topics included CEASE—Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Inc.; Not Your Typical Homeless Shelter; Mustard Tree Ministry—Serving the Homeless in Chattanooga; and Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University.

Our 41st Annual Meeting/Officer Training was held at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, on September 13-14, 2014. Keynote Speaker was Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor. Loretta Bowers served as music leader and Nelta Buck as accompanist for this event, along with Lora Melton, handbell soloist. The attendees were blessed with a min-concert by Loretta Bowers and her two sisters. Marva Usher-Kerr from the United Methodist Women’s National Office conducted a focus group for Young United Methodist Women. Officer training for district officers was conducted following the business session of the annual meeting and included UMW 101 led by Willela Douthat. A new UMW Logo was presented for 2015-16 based on the Scripture from John 15:21: “Do You Love Me? Feed My Lambs.”

United Methodist Women’s Special Mission Project for 2014 was “Hispanic Ministries within the Holston Conference.” The twelve districts in the conference contributed $7,355 to this project. 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 UMC on May 23, especially for Hispanic-speaking women, youth, and children.

The Sisters in Service (SIS) Event was held March 14-15, 2015, at the River Plantation Convention Center in Sevierville, Tennessee. The theme for the event was “Best Yes—Redirecting Our Life’s Choices.” Kim Mink, Director of Family Ministries at Concord UMC in Knoxville, was the retreat leader. Persons attending the event stayed at the Governor’s Inn in Sevierville.

The Spiritual Enrichment Experience was held at Lake Junaluska on April 25-26. Rev. Amy Probst, Pastor of First Farragut UMC, 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.

For the second time, the women of Holston did not meet our Pledge to Mission. Our 2014 pledge amount was $304,900 and Mission Giving was $270,976.88. This is $33,923.12 less than our pledge.

~ Lynice Broyles, President
Holston Conference UMW
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
Nominees whose names are printed in bold are to be elected by the 2015 Annual Conference. Cabinet representatives will be appointed by the Resident Bishop and shall begin service following the close of the 2015 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
- Brenda F. Carroll
- Lauri Jo Cranford
- Sandra J. Johnson

Executive Assistant to the Bishop: Carol E. Wilson
Dean: Charles W. Maynard

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: Paul Goshorn
Secretary: Ashley Cross

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
- (C) Paul Goshorn (WY)(4)
- (C) Chuck Griffin (OA)(3)
- (C) Tim Jones (MA)(1)
- (C) Frank Trexler (MA)(2)
- (L) Corina Casson (JO)(3)
- (L) Ashley Cross (KN)(7)
- (L) Alex Fesmire (CL)(3)
- (L) John King (MA)(7)
- (L) Carolene Lamar (KN)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
- Editor, The Call: Annette Spence
- Information Technology Manager: Brent Sharp
- Multimedia Coordinator: Donna Hankins
- Print Media Specialist: Millie Meese
- Director of Communications: Carol Wilson
- Cabinet Representative: Charles Maynard

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Chairperson: Becky Hall
Vice-Chairperson: Ronnie Collins
Secretary: Brian Burch

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
- (C) Stephen Defur (KN)(1)
- (C) Brian Burch (TA)(7)
- (C) Ronnie Collins (WY)(2)
- (C) Ginger Isom (MO)(3)
- (C) Tim Paul (KN)
- (C) Arturo Reyna (MO)(1)
- (C) Bill Shelton (MA)(4)
- (C) Debbie Stokes (CL)(5)
- (L) Mary Baker (Bl)(3)
- (L) Arturo Reyna (MO)(1)
- (L) Bill Shelton (MA)(4)
- (L) Debbie Stokes (CL)(5)
- (L) Byron Williamson (KN)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
- Staff Resource: Rusty Taylor
- Cabinet Representatives: TBD, Carol Wilson
BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Secretary

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
United Methodist Women
United Methodist Youth

Members-at-Large:
Johnnie Bridges (KN)(7) Leanna Johnson (JO)(5) Kristin Alexander (KN)(3)
Harold Brown (CH)(3) Howard Hatcher (CH)(7)

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop
Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry
Assoc. Director of Lay Servant Ministry
Cabinet Representatives

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Secretary

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

(C) Brian Davis (CH)(1) (C) Ila Schepisi (WY) (L) Butch Jones (JO)
(C) Barbara Doyle (AB)(1) (C) Magan Stubblefield (TA)(1) **(L) Chris Lee (MA)(1)
(C) Natalie Justice (JO)(2) (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

Ex-Officio Members:
Staff Resource
Cabinet Representative

**Chris Lee (MA)(1)

Laura Lambert
Meg Taylor
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Chairperson          Glenna Manning
Vice Chairperson     Paige Wimberly
Secretary            Beth Tipton

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

(C) Elizabeth Hamilton (AB)(3) (C) Paige Wimberly (OA)(2)
(C) Glenna Manning (OA)(4)   (L) Lisa Black (CH)
(C) Carl Marshall (WY)(2)   (L) Pam Brewster (TA)(7)
(C) Will Shelton (CL)(3)    (L) Clayton Hensley (OA)(1)
(C) Beth Tipton (BI)(4)     (L) Renni Morris (OA)
(C) Estel Williams (JO)(2)  (L) Donna Tisdale (CL)

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop        Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Lay Leader  Del Holley
Chair, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Andrew Amodei
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

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson          Tom Hancock
Vice Chairperson     Jeannie Higgins
Secretary            LaRae Collins

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

(C) Chris Brown (KI)(3)  (C) Robert Nyaga (AB)(5)  (L) Sam Barnett (JO)(1)
(C) Randy Frye (KN)(2)   (C) Jerry Russell (MA)(4)  (L) Linda Bernick (WY)
(C) Jeannie Higgins (MO)(3) (C) Rosa Slavik (AB)(3)  (L) LeRae Collins (KN)(1)
(C) Tom Hancock (KI)(4)  (C) W. “Skip” White (CL)(7)  (L) Charlotte DeLozier (OA)(5)

Ex-Officio Members:
Chair, Advance         Norma Smith
Chair, Church and Community Worker Committee Terry Goodman
Chair, Native American Ministries Vicki Collins
Coordinator of South Sudan Missions Danny Howe
Districts Mission Secretaries
UMW Representative Marsheine McClurg
Volunteer in Mission Coordinator Bill Campbell
Director Connectional Ministries/Missions/Conference Secretary of Global Ministries Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative
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 (KI)(3) (C) Faith Ramer (BI)(4) (L) Vicki Collins (OA)(5)
(C) Mike Pinner (JO)(3) (L) Bomba Easter (OA)(7) (L) Patricia Guthrie (KN)(2)

Ex-Officio Members:
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder

NURETURE 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)(2) (L) Alan Eleazer (MA)(2)
(C) Daniel Ogle (KN)(4) (L) Leanna Johnson (JO)(5)
(C) Ken Sauer (CH) (L) Tina Morgan (CL)(2)
(C) Reed Shell (CH)(2) (L) Prue Oxendine (AB)
(C) Sarah M. Slack (MA)(7) (L) Joe Penland (MA)(5)
(C) Donald Swift (KN)(3) (L) Sybil Smith (KI)(5)

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: Elizabeth Rudesill
Vice Chairperson: Lindsey Piercy
Secretary: Ashley Wade

(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2015)
(C) Ray Bolen (WY)(1) (L) Lindsey Piercy (KN)(5) (L) Karen Throp (KI)(4)
(C) T. J. Burdine (CL) (L) Elizabeth Rudesill (JO)(4) (L) Ashley Wade (CH)(6)
(L) Tracy Gartman (KN)(3) (L) Jaymie Derden (AB)(1) (L) Melia Warren (CH)(3)

Ex-Officio Members:
Staff Resource: Gaye King
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES
(Members are elected by Districts)
CCYM President: Alex Sprinkle
Coordinator of District Coordinators: Pat Tipton
Coordinator of Youth Ministries: Laura Lambert
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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)(6)  (C) Christi Taylor (JO)(7)  (L) Evan Nester (WY)(3)
(C) Betzy Elifrits Warren (TA)(3)  (L) Jacob Ducote (CH)(3)  (L) Matt Park (CL)(6)
(C) Edna Warrick Lopez (MA)(1)  (L) Katie Jackson (JO)(1)  (L) Zack Roskop (OA)(1)
(C) Don Petty (MO)(3)  (L) Chris Lee (MA)(3)  (L) JaNae Swanson-Brown (KN)(3)

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
Ed Terry
Vice Chairperson
Jack Porter
Secretary
Sarah Varnell

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

(C) Brandon Berg (WY)(5)  (C) Joe Phillips (CL)(2)  (L) Leslie Bright (KI)
(C) Leann Crandall (TA)(2)  (C) Jack Porter (MA)(5)  (L) Hope Bruce (MA)(7)
(C) Charles Ensninger (KI)(3)  (C) Sarah Varnell (KN)(6)  (L) Mark Lay (CL)(2)
(David Grant (OA)  (L) Alan Ashworth (TA)(2)
(C) Matthew Hampton (KN)(2)  (L) Wes Bradley (JO)(2)

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)(5)  (C) Linda Stransky (AB)(3)  (L) Phyllis Miller (JO)(5)
(C) Rance Edwards (JO)(6)  (L) Brenda Haymore (KN)(5)  (L) Susan Montgomery (OA)(6)
(C) Roger Mathess (JO)(2)  (L) Gretchen Hakola-Penn (OA)(1)  (L) Rachel Patman (MO)(3)
(C) Elston McLain (CH)  (L) Anna Lee (KN)(3)  (L) Koni Purscell (BI)(3)

Chairperson, Religion and Race
Susan Lankford
Chairperson, Status and Role of Women
Linda Bass
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
Sheila Michel
Chairperson, Strength for the Journey
Larry Dial
General Board of Church and Society
Don Hanshew
Staff Resource
Gaye King
Cabinet Representative
Mike Sluder, David Tabor
STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY TEAM

Chairperson: Larry Dial
Vice Chairperson: Laura Rasor
Secretary: Tim Kobler

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

(C) Larry Dial (CH)(3)  (C) Dennis Loy (MO)  (L) Joseph Rhymer (AB)
(C) C. Don Jones (MO)(1) (C) Laura Rasor (MA)(3) (L) Betty Yeomans-Barton (JO)(1)
(C) Tim Kobler (KN)(3)  (C) Al Shaver (MA)(3)  (L) Chris Bowles (CH)(3)

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

COMMITTEE ON RELIGION AND RACE

Chairperson: Susan Lankford

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

(C) Walter Cross (KN)(5)  (L) Tepa Bigham (CL)(1)
(C) Susan Lankford (KI)(7)  (L) Elizabeth Hernandez-Lopez (WY)(3)
(C) Rochelle Maxwell (WY)(7)  (L) David Lee (AB)(6)
(C) Elston McClain (CH)(3)  (L) Georgia Lister (MO)(1)
(C) TaeHun Yoon (JO)(5)  (L) Terry Mullins (TA)(1)
(L) Dahyam Olivera (MA)(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: Debbie Stokes
Vice Chairperson: Jeff Wadley
Secretary: Bobby Black

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

(C) Shannon Marie Berry (MO)(2)  (C) David Jackson (AB)  (L) Carol Alley (KI)
(C) Bobby Black (CH)(6)  (C) Darryll Rasnake (OA)(3)  (L) Michael Hannon (MO)(3)
(C) Ricky Clowers (JO)(6)  (C) Debbie Stokes (CL)(7)  (L) Carol Myers (MA)(6)
(C) Mark Gooden (JO)(3)  (C) Edd Templeton (KN)(5)
(C) Terry Goodman (BI)(3)

Ex-Officio Members:
Staff Resource: G. William Kilday
Director of Connectional Ministries: Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative: Roger Redding
## Witness Ministry Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Ray Amos, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Rebekah Fetzer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Scott Layer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| Chairperson, Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team | Tony Collins                   |
| Chairperson, Small Membership Congregation Team | Hugh Bryan                     |
| Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization | Rusty Taylor                   |
| Director of Connectional Ministries         | Mike Sluder                    |
| Cabinet Representatives                     | Sandra Johnson                 |

## Small Membership Congregation Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Hugh Bryan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Steve Evans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Annette Warren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| Ex-Officio Members:                        |                                |
| Special Advisor                           | Richard C. Looney              |
| Staff Resource                            | Mike Sluder                    |
| Cabinet Representative                    | Joe Green, Rusty Taylor        |

## Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Tony Collins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Tommy Vanover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mickey Rainwater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| Ex-Officio Members:                        |                                |
| Conference Coordinator                    | Arturo Reyna                   |
| Staff Resource                            | Mike Sluder                    |
| Cabinet Representative                    | Thomas Ballard, Sandra Johnson, Nathan Malone |
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Chairperson
Kim Goddard
Vice-Chairperson
Don Hanshew
Secretary
Jeannie Higgins
Chair, Division of Elders
David Graybeal
Co-Chairs, Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members
Dale Gilbert, Kathie Wilson-Parker
Chair, Division of Deacons, Diaconal Concerns and Professional Certification
Nancy Hobbs
Chair, Committee on Provisional Mentoring and Recruitment
Paul Seay
Chair, Wesley Leadership Institute Committee
Dennis Flaugher
Chair, Conference Relations Committee
Randy Martin

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

Clergy
Ray Amos, Sr. (JO)(7) John Grimm (WY)(6) Paul Seay (KI)(5)
James Bennington (MO)(9) Kathy Hale (MA)(10) Michael Sluder (MA)(2)
Chris Brown (KI)(2) Don Hanshew (BI)(2) Crystal Smith (OA)(2)
Kristen Burkhart (MO)(2) Charles Harrison (CH)(10) Jane Taylor (JO)(2)
Dawn Chesser (OA)(2) Leroy Henry (AB)(3) Rusty Taylor (MA)(2)
Dennis Flaugher (CH)(9) Jeannie Higgins (MO)(7) Ramon Torres (CL)(6)
Dale Gilbert (WY)(9) Nancy Hobbs (BI)(9) Annette Warren (TA)(2)
Kim Goddard (KI)(6) Jodi Ihle (CH)(2) L. Lyle White (CH)(7)
David Graybeal (KN)(9) Randy Martin (CL)(2) Kathie Wilson-Parker (WY)(7)
James R. Green (MA)(10) Stella Roberts (CL)(9) David Woody (AB)(7)
Anthony Grills (TA)(3) Ann Robins (KN)(7)

Lay
Leah Burns (KN)(2) Laura Lambert (KN)(2) Nancy Tate (KI)(6)
Lucius Ellsworth (BI)(10) Roger Leonard (AB)(10) Mary Frances Tucker (KN)(9)

Ex-Officio Members:
Chair, Order of Elders
Donald Swift
Chair, Order of Deacons
Rebekah Fetzer
Co-Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors
Sam Johnson
Co-Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors
Al Shaver
Director, Wesley Leadership Institute
Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Coordinator, Extension Ministries
Mary Frances Tucker
Administrative Registrar
Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Cabinet Representatives
Sandra Johnson, Nathan Malone

PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER SUPERVISING COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Laura Plaster
Vice Chairperson
Kathy Ehmschwender
Secretary
Bob Ruth

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

(C) Sharon Bowers (WY)(1) (L) Kathy Ehmschwender (KN)(3)
(C) Laura Plaster (AB)(2) (L) Becki Garland (KN)(3)
(C) Bob Ruth (KN)(2) (L) David Hudson (CH)(1)
(C) Kenneth Taylor (BI)(1) (L) JoAnna Williams (OA)(4)

Representative, Board of Ordained Ministry
Ann Robins
Representative, Partners in Crisis
Nancy Ridenour
Steward of Clergy Concerns
Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.

Ex-Officio Members:
Cabinet Representatives
Joe Green, Adam McKee, David Tabor, Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
ADMINISTRATION
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

President Terry Muse
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 (WY)(1) (L) Doug Goddard (MO)(1)
(C) Wil Cantrell (AB)(3) (C) Knox Wimerly (OA)(1) (L) James H. Jones (TA)(7)
(C) Jason Gattis (MA)(3) (L) Sara Beamer (WY)(7) (L) Rebecca Littleton (CH)(7)
(C) Rhonda Hobbs (KI) (L) Keith Burroughs (KN)(1) (L) Art Masker (MO)(2)
(C) Jeff Lambert (MA)(5) (L) Don Cooper (AB)(7) (L) Terry Muse (JO)(7)

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

2016  2017  2018  2019
(L) Nancy Baker (L) Mickey Ellis (C) Mickey Rainwater (C) John Slater
(L) Betty Neeley (L) Linda Colvin (L) Jody Winghamton (L) Nancy Fitchpatrick
(L) Mike Crawford (C) Albert Bowles (C) Andy Ferguson (C) Todd Chancey

2020  2021  2022  2023
(L) Mary Ruth Richards (C) Clair Sauer (C) Gary Crum (L) Brent Clark
(L) Jim Snowden (L) Robert White (L) Oliver McBride (L) Diana Galloway
(C) Debra Stokes (L) Susan Rudell (L) Amy Westmoreland (L) TBD

Ex-Officio Members:
Pensions Director Rick Cherry
Chairperson, Joint Committee on Medical Leave (Incacity) 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)(3) (L) Evelyn Horton (KN)(7) (L) Robert Reedy (KI)(3)
(C) Dan Gray (JO)(2) (L) Debbie Icenhour (AB)(4)
(C) Jonathan Jonas (AB)(3) (L) Bob Lockaby (CL)(2)
(C) Amy Probst (OA)(1) (L) David McLain (CH)(3)
(C) Tom Robins (OA)(4) (L) Cody Quillen (KN)(3)

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Treasurer Rick Cherry
Cabinet Representative TBD
PERSONNEL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mike Eastridge
Vice Chairperson: Reed Shell
Secretary: Carolyn Kidd

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

(C) Shannon Marie Berry (MO) (C) Catherine Nance (MA)(1) (L) Bryan Jackson (CL)(1)
(C) David Harr (CH)(2) (C) Reed Shell (CH)(2) (L) Terrell James (CH)
(C) Jonathan Jonas (AB) (L) Mike Eastridge (JO)(6) (L) Carolyn Kidd (AB)(2)
(C) Harry Layell (BI) (L) Kathy Hoard (MO)(1) (L) Chris Lee (OA)(1)

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

Chairperson: Terry Goodman
Vice Chairperson: Jack Brewster
Secretary: Alice Marie Clark Danks

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

(C) Larry Carroll (KN)(5) (L) Thomas H. Becker (OA)(5)
(C) Bruce Galton (KN)(2) (L) Jack Brewster (TA)(5)
(C) Terry Goodman (BI)(3) (L) Brian Cotton (MO)(5)
(C) Angela Hardy Cross (KN) (L) Alice Marie Clark Danks (CH)(4)
(C) Jim Oxendine (AB)(5) (L) Donna Mosby (OA)(5)

Ex-Officio Members:
Conference Treasurer: Rick Cherry
District Superintendent: Brenda Carroll
Cabinet Representative: Carol Wilson

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Chairperson: John Eldridge

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

(C) Catherine Nance (MA)(6) (C) David St. Clair (AB)(5) (L) John Kernodle (OA)(6)
(C) Elston McLain (CH)(5) (C) John Thompson (MO)(5) (L) Ellen Moore (WY)(2)
(C) Larry Ousley (KN)(5) (L) John Eldridge (KN)(6) (L) Gene Rasor (AB)(5)
(L) Nancy Hickman Bollinger (MA)(5)

Ex-Officio Members:
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) Janet Edwards (KN)(3)  (C) Bradley Scott (TA)(7)  (L) Joyce Moore (AB)(6)
(C) Paul Longmire (CH)(3)  (L) Baden Duggins (OA)(7)
(C) David Jackson (AB)(3)  (L) Pat Marshall (AB)(6)  (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)(7)  * (L) Del Holley (KN)  (L) Mary Margaret Denton (KI)(3)
(C) Carl Marshall (WY)(1)  (L) Brian Dantzler (CH)(6)  (L) Tamara Harrell (MA)(1)
(C) Laura Rasor (MA)(6)  (L) Gene Frazer (KN)(3)  (L) Linda Franklin (MO)(3)
  (L) Gary James (CH)(3)  (L) Jane Robinson (MA)(2)

3 Appointed by the Bishop:
Jean Henderson (CL)(6)  Beth McCoy (AB)(7)  Mary Frances Tucker (KN)(6)
*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, Carol Wilson

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson or Representative of the Committee on Episcopacy: Mary Frances Tucker
Chairperson or Representative of the Board of Trustees: David McLain
Chairperson or Representative of the Council on Finance and Administration: Don Cooper
Representative of the Cabinet: Rick Cherry, Meg Taylor
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

Chairperson: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Secretary: Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.

District Superintendents:
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), Meg Taylor (WY)

Extended Cabinet:
F. Richard “Rick” Cherry, James D. “Del” Holley, Roger Redding, Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., J. Russell “Rusty” Taylor, Mike Sluder, Carol Wilson

Chairperson of the Discipleship Team: Glenna Manning

Presidents:
United Methodist Men: Eric Knoefel
United Methodist Women: Lynice Boyles
United Methodist Youth Representative: Alex Sprinkle
Clergy Member-at-Large: Catherine Nance

Ex-Officio Members:
Religion & Race Chair: Susan Lankford

District Representatives:
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)
SUPPORT GROUPS

UNITED METHODIST MEN

President
Honorary President
Northern Vice President
Southern Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Scouting Coordinator
Prayer Advocate
Cabinet Representative
District President: Abingdon
District President: Big Stone Gap
District President: Chattanooga
District President: Cleveland
District President: Johnson City
District President: Kingsport
District President: Knoxville
District President: Maryville
District President: Morristown
District President: Oak Ridge
District President: Tazewell
District President: Wytheville

President: Eric Knoefel
Honorary President: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Northern Vice President: Powell Kidd
Southern Vice President: Dan Taylor
Secretary: James Sink
Treasurer: Tom Mitoraj
Scouting Coordinator: TBD
Prayer Advocate: Tom Mitoraj
Cabinet Representative: Nathan Malone
District President: TBD
District President: TBD
District President: TBD
District President: TBD
District President: TBD
District President: Powell Kidd
District President: TBD
District President: Joe Cunningham
District President: Paul Zimmerman
District President: Joe Thompson
District President: Jeff McMillion
District President: John Toothaker

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
MC/Spiritual Growth
MC/Education & Interpretation
MC/Social Action
MC/Membership, Nurture & Outreach
Secretary of Program Resources
Communications Coordinator
Chairperson, Committee on Nominations
Cabinet Representative

President: Lynice Boyles
Vice President: Carolyn Haerr
Secretary: Kay Phillips
Treasurer: Karen Adair
MC/Spiritual Growth: Donna Tisdale
MC/Education & Interpretation: Marsheine McClurg
MC/Social Action: Gussie Ridgeway
MC/Membership, Nurture & Outreach: Peggy Dalton
Secretary of Program Resources: Nelfie Bragg
Communications Coordinator: Amy Thomas
Chairperson, Committee on Nominations: Johnnie Bridges
Cabinet Representative: Sandra Johnson, Meg Taylor
Have you visited the displays in the Harrell Center Auditorium today?
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

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: Joey Barber, Brandon Berg, Kenneth Conner, Terry Goodman, Don Hanshew, Nancy T. Hobbs, Mark Kilbourne, Harry Layell (Chair), Jacqueline McGowan, D. Layne Pennington, Bill Porter, Brad Stapleton, Richard Wright

Lay: Mary Baker, Lana Stallard

Chattanooga District
Clergy: Donald E. Allison, Bobby Black, Brian Davis, Douglas Fairbanks, Reece Fauscett, Dennis Flaugher, W. David Hall, Charles Harrison (Chair), Jodi Ilfe, Elston McLain, Keith Moore, Reed Shell, Mary Thompson

Lay: Dobbin Callahan, Shirley Hixson, David Lamb, Gwen Scott

Cleveland District
Clergy: Hugh Bryan, Pat Hogan, Dwight Kilbourne, Terril Littrell, Randy Martin, Ray Petty, Kenneth Scoggins, Melissa Smith, Debra Stokes, Betsy Switzer, James Thompson, Michael Travis

Lay: Kay Freeman, Becky Jaquish, Martha Kidwell

Johnson City District
Clergy: Ricky Clowers, Dan Gray, Doug Grove-DeJarnett, Kimberly Isley, David Lovelace, Lon Tobin (Chair)

Lay: Lynice 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, Kenny Faught, Don Ferguson, David Graybeal, Angela Hardy Cross, Dennie Humphreys, Richard Isbell (Chair), Ann Robins, David Smith, Sarah Varnell

Lay: Shirley Napier, Mike Slimbarski, Sharon Vaughn

Maryville District
Clergy: Kenneth Abbott, Lisa Blackwood, Ronald Fisher, Kathy Hale (Chair), Gene Lovell, Asa Majors, Laura Rasor, Sarah Slack

Lay: Robert Ergenbright, Larry Martin

Morristown District
Clergy: Ginger Isom (Chair), Rick Spell, John Wilson

Lay: John Allen, Linda Franklin, Nancy Renner

Oak Ridge District
Clergy: David Grant, Wayne Hedrick (Chair), Sue Lynn Johnson, Keith Knight, Micah Nicolaus, Steve Parker, Crystal Smith

Lay: Bob Colvin, Luther Kirklin, Renni Morris, Barbara Osborne

Tazewell District
Clergy: Steve Aker, Amy Beth Bartee, Brain Burch, Betzy Elifrits Warren, Paul Hite, Rodney Lawson, Gordon McBride, Bradley Scott, Don Scott, Kenneth Sprinkle, Aubrey Whitlow

Lay: Jane Johnson, Rick Waddell, Jean Walk

Wytheville District
Clergy: Paul Goshorn, Scott Robertson-Gouge, John Grimm, Maria Grimm, Hugh Kilgore, Robert Smith, Joe Mack Taylor, Amy Whatley, Kathie Wilson-Parker (Chair)

Lay: John Causey, Mike Pugh, Carolyn Snow, Melissa Webb
**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 2015:** Ed Ashley, Danny Ruble (Chair), Scott Spence
- **Class of 2016:** Donnie Lee Bailey, Harry Cuskey, Marvin Tate
- **Class of 2017:** James Lyttle, Leonard Smith, Betty Webb

**Big Stone Gap District**
- **Class of 2015:** Lucius Ellsworth (Chair), Larry Hobbs
- **Class of 2016:** Joe Barber, Nancy Dickenson, Nancy Hines
- **Class of 2017:** Ed Blair, Wayne McClelland, Richard Williams

**Chattanooga District**
- **Class of 2015:** Terry Huffer, Kenneth LaDuke, Kim O’Leary
- **Class of 2016:** Don Keff, Ronald Ramsey (Chair)
- **Class of 2017:** Jacqueline Brown, Andrew Cotton, Brad Folsum

**Cleveland District**
- **Class of 2015:** Edith Jones, Donna Tisdale, Wendell Whaley (Chair)
- **Class of 2016:** Johnnie Humbard, Rick Lay, James Ferguson
- **Class of 2017:** Arthur Bigham, Ramon Torres, Betty Ward

**Johnson City District**
- **Class of 2015:** Olen Haynes, Scott West
- **Class of 2016:** Bob Goodsell, Jacob Herron
- **Class of 2017:** Erin Johnson, Earl Maden

**Kingsport District**
- **Class of 2015:** Roy Adams, Frank Marsh (Chair)
- **Class of 2016:** Cloyd Clipse, Jeri Newcomb
- **Class of 2017:** Sheila Postell, Jack Edwards

**Knoxville District**
- **Class of 2015:** Bill Sewell, Charla Sherbakoff
- **Class of 2016:** Sandra Barry, Clay Pilkinton, Thomas Seay (Chair),
  David Petty, Henrietta Jenkins, Tim Paul
- **Class of 2017:**

**Maryville District**
- **Class of 2015:** Ken Lambert, Ruben Payne, Kyle Petree, Steve Tuck
- **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 2015:** Linda Franklin, Brad Peters, Tom Rush (Chair)
- **Class of 2016:** Bill Brown, Frederick Hammer, Linda Rozar
- **Class of 2017:** Diana Comett, Danny Hensley, Guy Jones

**Oak Ridge District**
- **Class of 2015:** Walter Cross, Bill Hicks, Doug Underwood
- **Class of 2016:** Bill Kilday, Keith Knight
- **Class of 2017:** Knox Wimberly (Chair), Lily Rayson

**Tazewell District**
- **Class of 2015:** Erin DeHart, Tom Miller, Kevin Richardson
- **Class of 2016:** Danny Coulthard (Chair), Barbara McMillian, Paul Hite, Barbara Meredith
- **Class of 2017:** Jason Crandall, Ben McGuire, Barbara Parker

**Wytheville District**
- **Class of 2015:** Dean Edwards, Lisa Graham, William Kidd
- **Class of 2016:** Gleasanna Dixon, Ruth Looney, Linda Porter (Chair)
- **Class of 2017:** C. G. Akers, G. W. Catron, Richard Gregory
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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, 2014 Conference Journal

President
Sandra Davis
Vice Chairperson
Guy Wilson
Secretary
Marsheine McClurg
Treasurer
Beth Stubbs

Board of Directors 2014-2015:

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, 2014 Conference Journal

President
Sam Coulter
Vice Chairperson
Lynne Fugate
Secretary
Angel Norman

PANEL OF 2015
Sarah Beamer
Sam Coulter
Dennis Falls
Lynne Fugate
Mike Hincher
Craig Ingvalson
Cheryl Light
Wanda Moody
Will Pugh
Mike Reynolds
Mike Stice
Mary Frances Tucker

Chair, Audit Committee
Sam Coulter
Chair, Conference Relations
Lynne Fugate
Chair, Gift Acceptance Committee
Angel Norman
Chair, Grants Committee
Dennis Falls
Chair, Investment Committee
Charlie Harr
Chair, Nominating Committee
John Anderson
Chair, Personnel Committee
Mike Fields

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Treasurer
Rick Cherry
Executive Director
Roger Redding
Legal Counsel
Jackson Kramer

PANEL OF 2016
Leonard Fant
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
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, 2014 Conference Journal

Chair

Bradley J. Bower

Vice Chair

Nancy P. Casson

Secretary

Debra B. Oldenberg

Treasurer

Jeffrey J. Monson

Panel 2015                  Panel 2016                  Panel 2017                  Panel 2018

Bryan A. Jackson          Gregg Bostick          Bradley J. Bower          Stephen W. Brumit
Ronald Jones              Nancy P. Casson          Ivy M. Leonard            John B. McGuffin
Donnie Ratliff            Fred Crabtree          Jeffrey J. Monson         Jim Moody
James O. Sexton           Mary Margaret Denton      Debra B. Oldenberg         Brenda T. Stevens
Barbara Street            Peter L. Palmer

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, 2014 Conference Journal

Members:

Mr. Phil Andrews          Mr. Tom Hilton          Mr. Bill Reis
Mr. Gerald Boyd           Dr. Mark Johns          Dr. Jim Tramontana
Mrs. Leigha Edwards       Dr. Dan Lenoir          Mr. Jim VanderSteeg
Mr. John Eschenberg       Rev. Dr. Adam McKee, III  Mr. Glenn Zahn
Mr. Clay Good             Mr. Alan Parker
Mr. Parker C. Hardy, III  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, 2014 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.
- Kyra Kegley Bishop
- Jeoffrey B. Bodenhorst
- Carolee J. Bondurant
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- Donald R. Youell, Jr.

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  Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
- Abingdon District Superintendent, Holston Conference
  Sandra J. Johnson

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- Robert G. Palmer

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- Albert J. Bowles, Jr.
- William Eddie Harmon
- Douglas W. Hulme (honorary)
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- John E. Stewart
- John D. Wood

Panel of 2017
- Halei LeQuire
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- Reuben N. Pelot, III
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…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Bill Parker
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Jackie Taylor
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Mike Vengrin

Panel 2017……………………………………………………………………………………………Susan Caldwell
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Dina Deaton
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Marcy Harless
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Heather Rowland
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Ginny Tompkins

Panel 2018……………………………………………………………………………………………Bill Hubble
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Ann Lambert
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Matt Shelor
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Joe Mack Taylor

Panel 2019……………………………………………………………………………………………Donna Judy
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Jerry Krebs
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Suzannae Steel
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Scott Wilks

Students .....................................................................................................................................TBD
Alternates ............................................................................................................................ Donna Worrell

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Campus Director, Wesley Center ........................................................................................Martee Buchanan
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Panel of 2016…………………………………………………………………………………………..Lillian Cook
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………David Hall
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Cheryl Morgan
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Nancy Smith

Panel of 2017…………………………………………………………………………………………..Cindy Beale
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Tracy Mozingo

Panel of 2018…………………………………………………………………………………………..Steve Barham
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Rebekah Ducote
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Stuart French
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………James Hamby
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Diane Meadows
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………Daniel Oakley
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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Mark Wilson
Vice-Chair: Rachel Elliott
Secretary/Treasurer: Les Fout

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<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Carter Cross</td>
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<td>Will McAlexander</td>
<td>Heather Perry</td>
<td>Amanda Madson</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. A. McCrae</td>
<td>Alex Shaffer</td>
<td>Mark Wilson</td>
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Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Director: Tim Kobler
Program Director: Heather Godsey
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Conference Staff Representative: Laura McLean
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Vice-Chair: Jacob Somervell
Secretary: Samantha Burton
Treasurer: Pat Bowden

Panel of 2016
Dale Gilbert
Jacob Somervell
John Wright

Panel of 2017
Samantha Burton
Norman Clark
Paul McNalley

Panel of 2018
Patricia Bowden
Richard Galyean
Sara Schill

Panel of 2019
Bruce Ecker
Susan Herron
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: Betzy Elifrits Warren
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Member Emeritus: Catherine South

Ex-Officio Members without vote:
Campus Director, Wesley Foundation: Mary “Beth” Tipton
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**Board of Ordained Ministry**

As a part of our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, the Board of Ordained Ministry is entrusted with the responsibility of guiding persons who desire to respond to God’s call to servant ministry, through a process of inquiry, discernment, and testing of that call in order to determine how they might employ their gifts, grace, and fruits for ministry in the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. We work closely with the twelve District Committees of Ordained Ministry (DCOMs) who are introduced to exploring candidates when they enter the candidacy process. An Orientation to Ministry, describing the varieties of set-apart ministry, is required of all who enter into candidacy. This orientation takes place during a candidacy summit, which begins the ministry process for candidates to obtain the assessment, education, training, and credentials needed to serve in licensed or ordained ministry. Once certified, candidates can be recommended by the DCOM to participate in Local Pastor’s Licensing School and, if appointed, can receive a license for pastoral ministry at Annual Conference. This year we conducted four Regional Training events for DCOMs in order to strengthen the connection between the district committees and the conference board, and to provide information and resources to assist DCOMs in their critically important work.

If a certified candidate chooses to apply for Provisional or Associate Membership, he or she seeks the recommendation of the DCOM upon completion of educational requirements and then is invited to respond to Disciplinary questions in preparation for an interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry. The purpose of this interview is to determine a candidate’s readiness for ministry in the Holston Conference. A recommendation for commissioning and provisional membership begins a three-year period of retreats, mentoring, covenant groups, and theological reflection upon the practice of ministry. This year, the Board of Ordained Ministry decided, after a year of study, to extend and enhance this provisional period from two years to three years in order to provide adequate time for evaluation, for building relationships, and for establishing strong practices and foundations upon which to build one’s future ministry in the conference. At the end of the second year, a provisional member can apply for full membership and ordination as a deacon or an elder. At this point in the process, effectiveness in ministry is evaluated.

At the 2014 session of Annual Conference, we ordained and received into full conference membership fourteen elders and one deacon. We recognized the orders of one person from another denomination, and we commissioned nine provisional elders and two provisional deacons. Two persons were received as associate members. We celebrated the retirement of 30 clergy and gave thanks for their 736 ½ years of service to the church. During the 2014-15 conference year, we offered two candidacy summits with a total of 37 persons beginning candidacy for ministry. We offered Local Pastor’s Licensing School for 25 persons hoping to be licensed for the practice of ministry. We interviewed candidates for elder, deacon, and associate membership and made recommendations regarding their readiness and effectiveness for ordained ministry. We held retreats and mentoring groups for 25 provisional elders and deacons. Finally, in cooperation with the Wesley Leadership Institute, we coordinated the continuing education and leadership development endeavors for our conference clergy.
Greetings from the Licensed Local Pastors (LLP) and Associate Members (AM) of the Holston Conference. In the past year (2014) we had 18 individuals that completed the Conference LLP introductory course, enabling them to be licensed by the Bishop, and 3 individuals become Associate members. This year, we had 25 complete the LLP Conference introductory course, many to be licensed at this Annual Conference, and 3 to become Associate Members. 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, during this Annual Conference, LLP’s who have completed the 5 year, 20 Course of Study classes, will be able to cast votes for the clergy delegates to next year’s General Conference. All AM’s will also have the right to vote. Currently, the LLP’s and AM’s are not eligible to run for General Conference delegate, but we are encouraged by the right to vote for our Conference’s ordained clergy delegates. We do not take this opportunity lightly, and will not only vote, but be in prayer for all our delegates, both laity and clergy during voting, their time of preparation, and attendance at General Conference.

~ Al Shaver, Co-Chair

WESLEY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Wesley Leadership Institute coordinates the continuing education needs of the Board of Ordained Ministry for our conference clergy. Our mission is best described in Ephesians 4:12, which is to equip the saints for ministry, for building up the body of Christ. A primary task of WLI is to oversee planning for the annual Minister’s Convocation, which is under the direction of a Dean selected by the WLI Director. The WLI Director and the Dean give periodic reports to the WLI committee for review and information. Sue Weber, the Holston Conference Staff representative to the WLI team, plays the crucial role of detail coordination. This year’s WLI Minister’s Convocation was held in a new location at Music Road Hotel in Pigeon Forge, TN. Rev. Dr. Mike Slaughter was our plenary speaker. Our music groups were Alathea and Jimbo Whaley & Greenbriar, which were viewed as a welcome departure from the traditional/contemporary dual format we have used for worship in past Convocations. All went extremely well, and the big winner was Music Road. The new location received rave reviews, and the plan is to return to Music Road next year for the 2016 Convocation with the Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, from Candler School of Theology, as our plenary speaker and preacher. The dates of the 2016 Clergy Convocation will be February 22 – 25, 2016, again at Music Road.

~ Stella M. Roberts, Chair
In addition to the Minister’s Convocation, WLI encourages and supports all local churches, districts, and conference events that foster continuing education for clergy. WLI is available, upon request, to the district superintendents of the Holston Conference for support in any continuing education needs identified within their district. My thanks to the Rev. Dan Taylor for his work and leadership as the WLI director of Holston Conference, to the Rev. Joey Manis for his leadership at this past year’s Minister’s Convocation, and to the conscientious and capable administrative leadership of Sue Weber who is in the weeds all the time, keeping them from choking out the harvest we reap.

~ Dennis Flaugher, Chair
Wesley Leadership of the Board of Ordained Ministry

**HOLSTON CONFERENCE PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER**

The ministry of Pastoral Counseling in Holston Conference was established more than 35 years ago by the Board of Ordained Ministry to serve the clergy by providing a confidential listening ear and emotional and spiritual support for clergy and their family members in time of need. This ministry has provided a ministry of presence and availability to hundreds of people in the intervening years. The Pastoral Counseling ministry offers support for the churches of Holston as well, both indirectly through ministry to the clergy families and directly by providing programs to congregations and other Conference groups that benefit our spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Support to the Conference has been expressed in many ways, including counseling, education and leadership in the journey of our life together.

This year has been one of making a conscious and intentional effort to be present and available to the clergy of the Conference in every district. I have visited clergy meetings in six districts and will continue in the effort to show support to all the Conference clergy throughout the geographic area of Holston in as many places as is possible. Churches in the Conference participate in this ministry by offering private spaces to be used by the counselor for counseling sessions and clergy group meetings.

The Conference administration, this year, affirmed this important ministry as a valuable resource for the work of ministry and for clergy support. In that spirit I look forward to seeing where God leads in the growth of services that can be provided. The valuable support of the ministry by clergy and laity enables and encourages the visioning for what God has in mind for the future.

Although the primary work of this ministry is confidential, the counselor is surely positioned to sense the needs and spirit of the churches and the pastors and families. It is from this unique position that I reflect with you on the important matters regarding the talk across The United Methodist Church of division. I pray that we will decide another way that we might preserve our common life and also move beyond our great impasse to grow in faith and understanding of Jesus Christ and to participate ever more fully in the continuing work of Christ in this world.

The Breath of God, God’s Spirit, blows in Holston Conference. Do you sense it? Are you aware? The movement of the Spirit, as always, calls us to faithfulness to God in Jesus Christ. We may not be able to agree on what that looks like. But perhaps we can agree that we are called to remain open to God’s teaching and to hear God’s word in present circumstances. We have only to read the gospel
stories about Jesus to know that God’s Spirit always calls us to remain open to hearing the story of those we see as “other.” The Spirit calls us to sit at the table with those whose life experience brings them to a conclusion that is different from our own. God’s Spirit reminds us that we all are God’s family.

At times we act like we have forgotten. It is easy to share our beliefs with those we assume think like we do or to remove ourselves from an uncomfortable situation. Can we remember that we all belong to God? God’s Word to Israel in the 43rd chapter of Isaiah is written to Israel, but we may hear it as God speaking to us. “I have called you by name and you are mine” (emphasis is mine). May we reconsider in the present circumstances what it means that God claims us. In our response to that claim are we not compelled to listen to the heart of one another even when we don’t want to?

As General Conference approaches, we likely will want to once again climb into our trenches on opposing sides of matters we have deemed critical to our faith. When we want to pull out, let us recall that what we believe we cannot do ourselves, God’s Spirit enables. May we remember.

~ 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
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

- Beginning in January 1, 2016 there will be two options for conference health insurance. The first option will be a hybrid of the previous High and Middle Plan. The second option will be a Health Savings Account (H.S.A.). Material will be published stating coverage and benefits. Please see the accompanying coverage summary for details.

- Please see the accompanying 2016 rate sheet for cost information.

- 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.

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 2016, 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 $559 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 2016 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. Continue retirement moving expense 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 2016 are listed on the Rate Sheet included in this report. These rates may be revised downward if the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits receives 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 New Plan to a H.S.A. plan must be completed by November 30, 2015, in order to take effect on January 1, 2016. All participants in the 2015 High and Middle plans will automatically be converted to the New Plan.

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. CPP Changes: Return-to-work (RTW) incentives 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. 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.
   - 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 $26,439,733 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, 2014, our reserve balances are $29,870,228.76 to pay future pension obligations and $11,577,527.76 for paying health insurance claims.
Incapacity Leave 2015-2016

In accordance with ¶357, *The Book of Discipline 2012*, the Conference Board of Pensions recommends the following active ministers and local pastors be continued subject to the renewal of their eligibility for disability benefits from the Comprehensive Protection Plan for the conference year 2015-2016: Bobby Barton, Janice A. Cate, Thomas A. Conley, Michael Duane Ward, John L. Sheldon, David R. Vaughn, Henry Karnes, Mike Ladd, Vicky Neese, Paula Dell Campbell, April Milligan, Kenneth J. Blevins, Jimmy D. Darnell, David W. Olinger Jr., William L. Hill. (In process) George Boles, John Brewster.

Special Grants 2014-2015 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 Book of Discipline 2012*

The Holston Conference will continue to provide funding for pastors that have requested incapacity leave, after receiving approval from the joint committee on incapacity until they are approved or denied by the General Board of Pensions. These loans will require the participant to sign a promissory note and the participant can only receive an advance for a maximum of 3 months or until approved for CPP, whichever is earlier. If denied, these funds may be deemed a grant to the recipient.

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.
### Summary of 2016 Plans:

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<th>Service</th>
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<th>HSA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Co-pay Specialist</td>
<td>$60 in-network; 60% max allowable charge after deductible - out</td>
<td>70% after deductible in network; 50% max allowable charge after deductible - out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Services</td>
<td>80% after deductible in-network; 60% of max allowable charge after deductible - out</td>
<td>70% after deductible in network; 50% max allowable charge after deductible - out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Deductible – Ind/Family (In-Network)</td>
<td>$2,000/$4,000</td>
<td>$2,600/$5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Deductible – Ind/Family (Out-of-Network)</td>
<td>$4,000/$8,000</td>
<td>$5,200/$10,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual out-of-pocket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind/Family (In-Network)</td>
<td>$4,500/$9,000</td>
<td>$6,000/$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind/Family (Out-of-Network)</td>
<td>$9,000/$18,000</td>
<td>$12,000/$24,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescription Drugs</th>
<th>PPO Plan</th>
<th>HSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Network/ Plus 90 Network/ Home Delivery Network (1 month supply)</td>
<td>$25/$40/$75</td>
<td>$25/$40/$70 after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus 90 Network/Home Delivery Network (2 or 3 month supply)</td>
<td>$50/$80/$150</td>
<td>$50/$80/$140 after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-Network</td>
<td>You pay all costs, then file claim</td>
<td>You pay all costs, then file claim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2016 Insurance Rates

#### REGULAR PLAN MINISTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Individual Coverage</th>
<th>Employee + 1</th>
<th>Family Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Invoice</td>
<td>$673.00</td>
<td>$673.00</td>
<td>$673.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>$185.00</td>
<td>$405.00</td>
<td>$560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$858.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,078.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,233.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANCO Discount</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### H.S.A. MINISTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Individual Coverage</th>
<th>Employee + 1</th>
<th>Family Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Invoice</td>
<td>$673.00</td>
<td>$673.00</td>
<td>$673.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
<td>$151.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$778.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$783.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$824.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANCO Discount</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### REGULAR PLAN LAY EMPLOYEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Individual Coverage</th>
<th>Employee + 1</th>
<th>Family Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>$395.00</td>
<td>$867.00</td>
<td>$1,230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claimant</td>
<td>$185.00</td>
<td>$405.00</td>
<td>$560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$580.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,272.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,790.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANCO Discount</td>
<td>$(7.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### H.S.A. LAY EMPLOYEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Individual Coverage</th>
<th>Employee + 1</th>
<th>Family Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>$395.00</td>
<td>$867.00</td>
<td>$1,230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claimant</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
<td>$151.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$498.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$977.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,381.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANCO Discount</td>
<td>$(7.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### REGULAR PLAN EARLY RETIREE-_MINISTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Individual Coverage</th>
<th>Employee + 1</th>
<th>Family Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premium</td>
<td>$595.00</td>
<td>$1,294.00</td>
<td>$1,825.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANCO Discount</td>
<td>$(7.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
<td>$(14.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PERSONNEL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Personnel Resources Committee (PRC) has been tasked by the Holston Annual Conference to oversee the management of staff and personnel who serve on behalf of the ministries of the Annual Conference. In this role, the Committee not only reviews job descriptions, compensation, and benefits of Conference employees, but more importantly, it seeks to help equip and support the work of the Conference through the dedicated efforts of persons who have committed their lives to carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Personnel Resources Committee continues to examine the structures and models for staffing that enhances the goal of achieving excellence in the manner in which our Conference seeks to fulfill its mission. This includes a vision for expanding efforts to nurture vital and effective ministry in individuals, local churches, and districts throughout the Conference. This objective remains the overarching goal of the Committee’s efforts.

One continuing priority of the PRC is to insure that the Conference staff is equipped with the resources and support they need to fulfill this call to ministry through administration. In evaluating the 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, and churches vitalize local congregations.

In the past year, the Personnel Resources Committee has managed several key challenges and personnel changes in the Conference – including new camp directors, executive team members and staff. The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the Rev. Stella Roberts – who postponed her retirement for two years to provide transitional leadership in the role of Director of Connectional Ministries. We are pleased to report that these transitions have gone smoothly and new members of the administration have been warmly welcomed to their new positions. The PRC also recognizes that change is always a constant reality and that change offers opportunities for new ideas and visions to enhance the growth and effectiveness of the Church’s mission.

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. The 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 serve in ministry and to transform and create vital congregations throughout Holston Conference.

~ Michael A. Eastridge, Chair
Board of Trustees

Trustees Focus of Methodist Connectional Systems of Ministry

During the 2014-2015 Conference Year, the Board of Trustees of the Holston Conference has been very active, working closely with other Boards and ministries within the Conference. The Board has actively sought a closer working relationship with the Conference Council on Finance, met with representatives from the Committee on Episcopacy, discussed short and long range planning ideas with the Council on Higher Education, established a close working relationship with the Office of the Chancellor, and continues to actively seek ways in which the efforts and expertise of the Board of Trustees can enhance the mission of our Annual Conference. Over this past year, your Board of Trustees has strived to live out the strength and reality of our connectional systems of ministry in supporting the Local Church, District, and Conference efforts to make Disciples for Jesus Christ and the transformation of the world.

Managing properties, investments, and risk on behalf of the Holston Annual Conference continues to be an important task of the Board of Trustees. In addition, the Board has provided extensive technical assistance and staff support to Districts and local Churches of the Conference in matters related to church owned properties, cemetery operation, corporate and tax filings, real property tax status, insurance and risk management, as well as Bank/Lending Institution relations. During this past year, your Board of Trustees has continued their response to requests for providing training to District and local Church Boards of Trustees and District Boards of Church Location and Building.

Over this past year, the Board of Trustees has been honored with the opportunity to provide technical assistance and support to our Wesley Foundations and Conference Camps in matters related to property, real property market considerations, short and long range planning related to real property considerations, and risk management.

Insurance and Risk Management

The Board of Trustees efforts in the area of Insurance and Risk Management have continued to grow. These efforts have yielded very positive results. At this time, 100% of the Churches of the Holston Conference offer complete Workers Compensation Insurance Protection for the pastors and all staff positions, no matter how causal their employment may be. With complete coverage in place and proper risk management, our Conference Wide Loss Rate has continued to drop. The net result has been, and will continue to be, to free funds from administration and redirecting the gifts to ministry.

All Conference and District held properties are insured with a single master property and liability program. This single source responsibility and coverage has saved the Conference and the Districts over $61,000.00 in its first year. Our coverage value has increased by 50% and our deductibles have been reduced by 25%. The Board of Trustees has implemented a similar Conference Wide Personal and Personnel Liability Insurance program that offers uniform coverage for all Conference, Foundation, and District Boards of Directors.
This new expanded program offers significant protection related to defense against professional misconduct of all sorts and claims with coverage up to $1,000,000.00. This represents a 200% improvement over past coverage levels. Through proper management, your Board of Trustees expects to reduce that cost by an additional 5% in 2015-2016 and to begin to benefit from “Safety Dividend Earnings”.

In the coming year, the Board of Trustees intends to extend the insurance program and cost savings on to the local church. The Board will further its efforts in developing its risk management program and partner with Church Mutual Insurance to offer a completely voluntary property and liability commercial insurance package. This insurance package will immediately reduce the insurance rate of the existing Church Mutual clients by 5%, offer this same saving to new clients, and provide all enrolled churches with an opportunity to earn up to a 20% premium dividend.

**REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

The Board of Trustees continues to work toward fully implementing the Conference Policy on the Discontinuance of Local Churches that was adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference and is proactively working with the District Boards of Church Building and Location and the District Superintendents to assist in the management of this process.

Over the past year, the Board of Trustees has continued to refine its property management role and address the following tasks and objectives:

- Visit all real property held by the Conference, document condition, evaluate property and liability insurance coverage, and update written management plans for every site.
- Reviewed Titles and Deeds of properties held by the Conference and/or the Districts.
- Full implementation of a standardized method to receive, manage, and dispose of real property in accordance with the complex requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Annual site visits to every Conference-held Historic Designated Site and completion of a “condition survey.”
- Assisted Districts and individual churches in the implementation of a step-by-step procedure for the consideration and eventual sale of Church/Charge owned Parsonages.
- Assisted several churches in inserting standard “Trust Clause” language into Church, District, and Conference-held property where said clause had been omitted.
- Completed a full assessment of the mortgage debt associated with Holston Conference Center and the development of a plan to accelerate retirement of this debt.
- Provided extensive staff support and technical assistance to Churches within the Conference that are currently in mortgage distress.
• Assisted several churches and one District in negotiating settlements of serious property encroachment issues related to property management and sale.

Below is an inventory of properties that are held by or in the process of being transferred to the Holston Conference Holding Company, Inc. The planned disposition of these properties is noted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Planned Disposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellamy’s Chapel - BSG</td>
<td>BSG</td>
<td>Private Negotiated Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumbo - BSG</td>
<td>BSG</td>
<td>Holding Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marble City – KN</td>
<td>KN</td>
<td>Under Contract for Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Grove - AB</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Under Contract for Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinette - BSG</td>
<td>BSG</td>
<td>Holding Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Chapel - BSG</td>
<td>BSG</td>
<td>Sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Chapel - KI</td>
<td>KN</td>
<td>Held by District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Memorial – CL (Community Center)</td>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Held by District – Risk Mang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harden Valley – OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Held by District – Risk Mang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Pleasant – AB</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Pleasant Parsonage – AB</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riceville – CL</td>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riceville Parsonage - CL</td>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyth’s Chapel – AB</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West View – KN</td>
<td>KN</td>
<td>Sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West View Parsonage – KN</td>
<td>KN</td>
<td>Pending District Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shady Grove – CL</td>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Pending District Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coeburn – BSG</td>
<td>BSG</td>
<td>Holding Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Creek – CL</td>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Pending Title Issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conference Center, Alcoa TN**

The Board of Trustees continues to maintain the Holston Conference Center to the highest standard as a “state of the art” professional office complex. During the past two years, the HVAC System for the second and third floor of the complex has been upgraded to provide a more balanced climate. The Trustees commissioned a study of the complete HVAC Systems for the Complex and are implementing recommended modifications over time to achieve a more balanced environment.

The 1st floor tenants of the complex exercised an early buy-out of their lease due to corporate downsizing. This area has been vacant since July of 2011. Initially the Trustees listed the available space with a commercial real estate company. However, this six-month listing yielded no credible leads. Two additional Real Estate Leasing Agents were engaged and it has resulted in no creditable interest in the space. Finally, the Trustees completed a direct marketing plan of the space with 5000 mailers and other direct advertising. It yielded no interest in the space.

During this same period of time, the Conference has taken advantage of the 1st floor file storage space and provided additional space for Connectional Ministry storage and fiscal records storage.
At the request of the Extended Cabinet, the Trustees, through the efforts of Conference Staff, have developed the large open space on the first floor as common meeting space. Internet connection and furnishings have been purchased and the area is being used regularly.

Working with Conference staff, the Trustees continue to look for the best use of this office and meeting space to advance the ministry of the Holston Conference. To that end the, the Board of Trustees has commissioned an Architectural Study of the current space and programing needs. In the coming year, the Board will begin to address long term planning needs.

Working closely with the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of Trustees has approved and implemented a plan to retire the full debt on the Conference Center when the current mortgage balloons in 2017. On a monthly basis, the Treasurer of the Conference is encumbering and designating about $32,000.00 of “un-designated” funds and the interest they generate to be held in reserve for mortgage pay off. To date, $256,360.00 of principal and the interest earned from that set aside have been encumbered for this purpose.

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE

The Trustees are committed to maintaining the Episcopal Residence at the highest possible standards. To that end, the Board has committed $60,000.00 to repair, maintenance, and window replacement. These repairs and upgrades have been completed and have improved the market value and appeal of the residence.

This past year, the Trustees have been working in partnership with the Committee on the Episcopacy and its Sub-Committee on the Episcopal Residence to consider additional improvements to the property that will enhance its value and improve its livability. The Trustees remain prepared to support the efforts of the Committee on the Episcopacy.

HIWASSEE COLLEGE LOAN DOCUMENTATION

The Bishop, Cabinet, and Council on Finance and Administration affirm that Hiwassee College is a ministry of the Holston Conference. As such, the Bishop, Cabinet, and Council on Finance and Administration determined that the Conference would provide the College with financial assistance to meet its current obligations (2014) and build a stable base leading to future improved accreditation.

The Conference Board of Trustees was then charged with the responsibility of developing commercial loan documentation and securing collateral to protect the interest of the Holston Conference.

The Bishop, Cabinet, and Council on Finance provided a $250,000.00 loan to Hiwassee College which is secured by a bequest to the College that is currently part of an open estate. Upon settlement of the estate, the loan is due and payable in full.

The Bishop, Cabinet, and Council on Finance and Administration has also extended a $1.4 Million Dollar “line of credit” to the College that carries a 1% rate of interest with the loan and interest to be paid in full by December 31, 2019. This loan is secured by a general security agreement and 1st mortgage position on
various pieces of real property. In the fall of 2014, the Conference and Hiwassee College jointly launched a fund raising campaign. All funds generated directly from that campaign are being applied as payments on the principal of this loan. This loan agreement was fully executed and filed October 30, 2014.

ASSISTING DISTRICTS AND LOCAL CHURCHES

Over the past years, a number of questions have been raised related to the possible sale of church/charge owned parsonages. In an effort to answer the questions raised, fully comply with the Discipline, and maintain consistency in operations, the Trustees have developed a step by step guideline for the sale of Church/Charge Owned Parsonages. This procedure has been provided to each of the Districts and is available through the District Superintendent.

Working directly with the District Superintendents, the Trustees have been actively working with select churches to resolve complex issues of local cemetery ownership, operations, oversight, loss control, and general operations. Staff, on behalf of the Trustees, have logged hundreds of hours working through individual issues and questions of legal obligation and liability. The Trustees have developed and are continuing to refine a standard set of operating guidelines for local cemetery operations.

HISTORIC SITES

The Board of Trustees continues to work closely with the “caretakers” and “stewards” of the Conference-held historic sites. During the past year, the Trustees have offered “Matching Fund Grants” to these sites and have assisted them in maintaining these sites.

During the coming year, the Trustees will invest an additional $25,000.00 in the Cox House and consider the needs of our other sites.

The Board of Trustees has recognized its responsibility to provide facilities that are fully accessible to individuals with physical handicaps. Further, the Board understands that it should be the goal of the Districts and the churches within the Conference to be fully accessible. To that end, the Trustees have completed Handicapped Accessibility Surveys on nine District Offices and provided each District with a report of its findings. Working with the Holston Conference Foundation, the Trustees will attempt to identify and offer matching grant-type funding for improvements to accessibility of these offices.

REAL PROPERTY ASSETS (OTHER THAN DISCONTINUED CHURCH HOLDINGS)

- Holston Conference Center $2,800,000
- New Episcopal Residence (Blount County) $400,000 (Note 1)
- The ETSU Wesley Foundation $1,200,000 (Note 2)
- The Radford Wesley Foundation $450,000 (Note 2)
- Acuff’s Chapel Shrine $110,000
- Cox House $200,000 (Note 3)
- Page’s Meeting House $100,000 (Note 3)
Note 1: Corrected Value based on Current Market Appraisal completed during 2011

Note 2: Properties to be transferred to individual Foundations with appropriate Trust Clause language

Note 3: Adjusted value based on current condition and market

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS ON DEPOSIT IN THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION (01/31/15)**

- Conference Foundation Trustee Endowment Acct. #1220 - $569,800.00
- Spend Account for Endowment #1220 – Acct. #1611- $140,123.00
- Conference Foundation Trustee Endowment Acct. #1172 - $375,554.00
- Spend Account for Endowment #1172 – Acct. #2005 - $40,656.00

The Treasurer and Conference Trustee Staff have developed a new reporting format for all specific Trustee Accounts that offer a transparency of balances, available funds, and transactions.

**CHANGES IN TRUSTEE STAFF SUPPORT**

Over the past four plus years, the Board of Trustees has retained the services of Rev. Ed Blair to provide staff assistance in the development and implementation of real property management plans, programs, and day to day operations. For the past two years, the Trustees have increased their focus in the areas of insurance and risk management. Rev. Blair’s role has also increased to include these new areas of focus.

In 2015, Rev. Blair expressed a deep desire and call to focus his gifts and energy on full-time pastoral ministry. Therefore Rev. Blair’s services will no longer be available to the Board of Trustees. His experience, expertise, and willingness to work with Conference Staff, District personnel, and local churches will be greatly missed. The Board of Trustees thanks Rev. Blair for his dedication and hard work and wishes him well in this next stage of ministry.

Moving forward into 2015-2016, the Conference Finance and Administration Staff will assume many of his duties.

Your Board of Trustees will continue to work hard to support the ministry of our Annual Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

~ David McLain, Chairman
COVENANT BETWEEN HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND ASBURY, INC.

The United Methodist Church has a history of care and service to older adults through the arm of its social welfare agencies. Asbury, Inc. takes pride in being affiliated with the Holston Conference and being part of this long tradition of ministry to seniors.

IDENTITY

Asbury, Inc. is a not-for-profit senior service organization affiliated with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church.

MISSION

Celebrate Life - Every day, through every circumstance, with every person, in every way.

VISION

To be a partner in life’s journey.

CORE VALUES

· Commitment to compassionate quality service
· Adherence to integrity and respect for all
· Creating secure environments
· Promoting individual wellness
· Strengthening our organization and communities

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church agrees to:

· Receive and confirm members who are elected to the Board of Directors of Asbury, Inc. in keeping with Asbury’s charter and bylaws.
· Fill one ex-officio position on the Board of Directors, which will be the presiding Bishop.
· Continue to provide benevolent support to Asbury, Inc. through channels such as support of Circle of Care offerings and Advance Specials and encouraging its people to make special gifts and be supportive of Asbury’s programs of planned giving and fund development.
· Permit Asbury to use elements of the name and logo of the United Methodist Church and/or the Conference, including a reference to the relationship.
· Cooperate with Asbury in furthering the promotion and interpretation of Asbury’s mission and programs.
· Communicate with Asbury any changes in the rules and actions of the Annual Conference and of the General Conference which may affect Asbury.
· Receive an annual audited financial report from Asbury.
Maintain, for its own benefit, liability insurance against direct human service liability, and include Asbury, Inc. as an additional insured.

Asbury, Inc. agrees to:

- Submit names of all elected board members to the Conference for confirmation at Annual Conference.
- Offer one ex-officio position on the Board of Directors to the presiding Bishop.
- Provide a copy of Asbury’s charter and bylaws, and any changes thereto, to the Conference.
- Follow guidelines as approved by the Annual Conference, in any matters of collaborative fund development.
- Furnish an annual report to the Annual Conference.
- Submit an annual audited financial statement to the Conference.
- Maintain, for its own benefit, liability insurance against direct human service liability, and to include the Holston Conference as an additional insured.

Neither Asbury, Inc. nor the Annual Conference accepts any legal or financial responsibility for the operations of the other. Asbury, Inc. and the Conference mutually agree to hold each other harmless for any liabilities arising out of their relationship.

This Statement of Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at the call of either party, with appropriate notice.

By action of the Board of Directors of Asbury, Inc. meeting on August 16, 2013.

___________________ Signed ______________________________________________________________________
Date                        Chair

By action of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in session on _________________________.

___________________ Signed ______________________________________________________________________
Date                        Chair
In our book there are over 100 million reasons to be grateful as 2014 is now history. Despite another year of doom and gloom headlines (Ebola, Ukraine, airplane crashes, etc.) the Foundation enjoyed a wonderful year of growth adding 79 new accounts and ending the year with a new all-time record high of $101,812,158 of assets under management. These results did not come about by themselves, but instead reflect oversight of a supportive board of directors, a dedicated staff, and the trust and generosity of many donors, churches, and ministries across the conference.

Investment offerings and excellent performance, especially over the long-term, drive our reputation and opportunities for new accounts each year. Our BALANCED GROWTH FUND was up 7.76%; EQUITY GROWTH FUND up 10.19%; INTERMEDIATE INCOME FUND up 3.42%; and SHORT-TERM INCOME FUND up .59% in 2014. The BALANCED GROWTH FUND has a trailing average annual return of 6.81% for the past 10 years (benchmark 6.62%) and this track record helps explain why this option is by far the most popular option for endowments and other long-term oriented funds. While record low rates still exist in CD’s and other similar investments, we certainly offer attractive options for churches and other ministries to consider.

About 40% of all funds in the Foundation belong to local churches; 5% to districts; 13% to the conference; 9% institutions; and 33% are trusts/endowments/legacies created by donors that benefit the churches and ministries selected by the donors. Several of these funds offer grants and scholarships each year. During 2014 $3,705,975 in funds were distributed back to churches and ministries, including $704,632 in grants and scholarships awarded through our Grants Committee. You may explore grant and scholarship opportunities on our website at www.foundation.holston.org.

The Holston Conference Foundation operates as a unique stewardship resource for people, churches and ministries related to the Holston Conference. The Foundation is a separate, but closely related entity that is governed by an all-volunteer board made up primarily of business and professional lay men and women who are members of Holston Churches. We not only offer professional investments and trust managerial services, but are equipped with a trained and dedicated staff to assist churches and people to explore planned giving, endowments and legacy options. We are thankful for the trust and generosity of many people who are willing to share their resources and stories to strengthen the church and its many ministries.

We look forward to new opportunities to listen and share possibilities in 2015. As always we invite you to call us at 865-690-8124, send us an email or sign up for our free newsletter, The Circuit Rider Dispatch, at www.holstonlegacy.org

We are your servants,

~ Roger Redding, Executive Director
~ Sam Coulter, 2015 Board President
Holston United Methodist Home for Children

In true Wesleyan tradition, Holston Home provides a ministry of hope and healing to children who have been rejected by their families, whose behavior is unacceptable to the community, or who have lost their hope in a world they don’t understand and are not equipped to deal with. But lives change when they find a warm, secure place to live which emphasizes developing God-given potential, and most important, teaches them about the love of Christ Jesus.

Today, children and young people continue to receive help through the many services provided by Holston Home. Thank you for your part in answering God’s call to frustrated, alienated, broken children and families.

Some Highlights of the Year Include:

- Fifth Sunday offerings and Advance Specials grow each year. During 2013-2014, 654 of the 887 churches in the Holston Conference responded to the ministry to help needy children through Holston Home.

- 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 help beautify our campus. They also enjoyed helping decorate for the Easter Drama and Beacon School Prom. 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 across the campus.

- We established a cross country track. Nine schools, including Beacon School, participated in the first meet. We hope the track will continue to draw visitors to the campus.

- The Independent Living and Christian Counseling has recently been inaugurated.

- UMA awarded Rev. Charles A. Hutchins with the Olin E. Oeschger Award. This award is the highest award given by the UMA and recognizes a lifetime of achievement. The award is not an annual award and is only given out for exceptional examples of leadership in our field. This award was last issued in 2006. UMA is an association of health and welfare service ministries like Holston Home affiliated with The United Methodist Church. Please join us in congratulating Charles for such an esteemed accomplishment.

What we do:

- During 2013-2014, care was provided for over 700 children. At Beacon School (our accredited on-campus school) 26 children completed 12 years of school by receiving a high school diploma or GED. Over the last couple of years through the Christian Life program, 85 children made a profession of faith in Jesus and 76 were baptized.

- Brumit Center provided preparation for adult living services for 37 youth.
- **Residential Centers** provided nurture, care, education and treatment for 317 adolescent boys and girls.

- **Home-To-Stay Program** successfully reunited 60 children and youth with their families.

- **Foster Parents** provided loving care in a family setting for 198 children and youth. There were 135 active foster families this past year. Of these, 139 children were served through our three Family Service Centers in TN and 59 children were cared for in Southwest Virginia.

- **Intercountry Adoption Program** had 7 placements. Our staff also assisted 45 other families in completing adoptive home studies.

- **Early Childhood Education Centers** served 215 preschool children and both continued to receive the highest rating of three-star by the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Friends of Children events were successful 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 the 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, and vulnerable members of our society. We are grateful to the Pastors and the Ambassadors for their good work in promoting Fifth Sunday Offerings. We believe that God has called us all to be His ambassadors, in partnership with the members of the churches of the Holston Conference.

Plan to visit the Greeneville campus and experience firsthand 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.

James 1: 27
Romans 8: 28

~ Bradley S. Williams, President
~ Rev. Charles A. Hutchins, VP Development & Church Relations
HOLSTON CONFERENCE SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION (HCSA)

Our 2014 HCSA Annual Conference and business meeting was held on September 18-19, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Workshop topics included Safe Sanctuaries (Gaye King, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries—Children’s & Older Adult Ministry; Outreach/Advocacy); Social Media and Technology (Rev. Chris Luper, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte, NC); and a Missions Panel.

The Missions Panel included Koni Purscell (Church and Community Worker, Big Stone Gap District); Harry Howe (Project Crossroads, Marion, Virginia); Danny Howe (First Broad Street UMC, Kingsport, Tennessee); Rev. Melissa Smith (Allen Memorial UMC, Athens, Tennessee; and UMVIM Jurisdictional Secretary); Jim Fetzer (Disaster Response, Holston Conference); and Rev. Mike Sluder (Associate Director of Connectional Ministries—Missions).

Rev. Betty Furches (Friendsville UMC, Friendsville, Tennessee) and Rev. Melissa Smith led us in worship and communion. Billie Baxter (Friendsville UMC) was the accompanist. Mollianne Reese (Camp Wesley Woods, Townsend, Tennessee) guided us in some camp-style songs while Rev. Chris Luper provided the final devotion. For our mission project, we collected food for Second Harvest. Our group donated 555 pounds of food—that’s about 444 meals!

The Holston Conference Secretaries Association (HCSA) is open to any administrative/secretarial/ministry assistant or treasurer who is employed by the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church, its institutions, agencies, or churches on a full-time, part-time, or volunteer basis. The purpose of this group is to provide:

- A better understanding of our various roles in the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church, its institutions, agencies, or churches
- A chance to network with others with similar interests and to exchange ideas
- Opportunities for fellowship and training that will
  - Deepen spiritual understanding and enrichment;
  - Improve job quality and performance;
  - Promote individual growth and personal development;
  - Increase understanding and knowledge of new technologies.

We would like to thank our conference pastors for supporting and financing the professional development of their ministry assistants through membership in HCSA and participation in our annual conference in September. The 2015 HCSA Conference will be September 17-18, 2015, at MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For more information regarding HCSA membership or the 2015 HCSA Conference, please email hcsa@holston.org.

~ Karen Wright, President
On February 10, 2015 Lake Junaluska, the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, the United States, and the world lost a great leader. Rev. Dr. R. Wright Spears died at the age of 102. He served as a pastor to multiple churches in South Carolina and as the President of Columbia College for 26 years, a time during which he helped that institution navigate momentous social changes. Dr. Spears and his wife Mary Blue retired to Lake Junaluska in 1977 where he continued to promote social justice in all forms. Few organizations have in their history a person as influential as Dr. Spears. He had a vision for Lake Junaluska, and spent his years here quietly encouraging us all to more fully live into the Kingdom of God through our mission of Christian hospitality. Arguably the most influential person at Lake Junaluska in the last 50 years, in both formal leadership roles and quiet behind the scenes work, he understood the importance of balancing the budget while offering a great experience to our guests. He urged us to offer great programming, and at the age of 95 was instrumental in launching the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference. Dr. Spears understood that offering Christian hospitality goes beyond simply welcoming our paying customers. At our best, we are what he envisioned us to be: a place that welcomes all and provides transforming and renewing spiritual experiences and a place that pays attention to the bottom line and is operated more like a college than a church camp. We have a long way to go to be the perfect fulfillment of Wright’s vision for Lake Junaluska, but we are further along that path today and more inspired to fulfill our mission “to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body” than ever thanks to his influence.

For the third year in a row, we ended the year “in the black.” 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 always “live within our means.” 2014 was a record breaking year for charitable giving. We received $1,079,994 from 1,257 individuals. This represents a 34.4% increase in total giving over 2013 and a 2.6% increase in number of donors.

We continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our facilities, grounds, and programs. Plans were approved in 2014 to begin an extensive renovation of The Terrace hotel, a project that will have a significant impact on the quality of the guest rooms and public spaces in that facility and will influence the level of service provided to all of our lodging guests. We completed all of the projects planned in 2013 including converting the Jones Dining Hall into a year round facility, renovating the children’s playground at the Wilson Children’s Building, and numerous improvements to the lake front consisting of a new boat storage area along with a boat dock and fishing pier just to the north of the swimming pool and a beautiful meditation garden to the south. We are 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.
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 and to carry on the legacy of Dr. Wright Spears.

If you haven’t already, please pick up a copy of our 2015 program, Discover Lake Junaluska. 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 more than 178 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. We have been busy working on a number of important projects designed to strengthen our college, further our mission, and position us for growth.

- Following recent approval by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), a new Doctor of Physical Therapy program is set to begin classes in August. This will be Emory & Henry’s first doctoral-level degree program. The teaching and lab space has been constructed at the former Smyth County Community Hospital property in Marion, Virginia that was donated to the college, modern equipment is installed, a Dean of Health Sciences, DPT director and faculty members have been hired, and the inaugural class of 32 students has been accepted. This is the first step in a planned School of Health Sciences, which could include programs in physician’s assistance, occupational therapy, and speech pathology.

- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has approved Emory & Henry’s acquisition of the former Virginia Intermont College equestrian program located on 120 pristine acres off Exit 10 of Interstate 81. VI closed its doors in May of 2014 following years of financial struggles. The newly christened Intermont Equestrian at Emory & Henry College takes over an equine studies degree program, as well as a competitive riding program that has won seventeen national championships, including the Intercollegiate Dressage National Title in 2014.

- Construction is complete on the new $21.8 million Woodrow W. McGlothlin Center for the Arts on the main campus and a formal grand opening is planned for September 11 and 12, 2015. This state of the art facility will attract more students interested in visual and performing arts while showcasing their talents to the larger community.
• Emory & Henry has received a $100,000 grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in support of its Young Clergy Initiative. This new ministry, which we are calling “Defining Moments,” is designed to nurture the call to ministry in youth and young adults in Holston Conference and will commence in July of 2015 with a week-long event for rising high school juniors and seniors on our campus. Additionally, a similar program for college-age young adults will begin in October. Directed by Chaplain Mary K. Briggs, these programs will involve clergy under the age of 35, who will mentor participants. Emory & Henry is excited about partnering with the Holston Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Council on Youth Ministries in this important endeavor designed to help transform the ordained ministry across our denomination.

• The Rev. Sharon Wiley Wright, an ordained elder in the Holston Annual Conference and graduate of Emory & Henry College and Candler School of Theology, has been hired as an associate chaplain to assist with the Defining Moments initiative.

We have much to be thankful for as Emory & Henry continues to be recognized by outside observers for its exceptional value, successful student achievements, and superior faculty.

• Emory & Henry has been included in a 2014 listing of “America’s Best Religiously Affiliated Colleges and Universities” compiled by Forbes and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity. Randolph-Macon College, Mary Baldwin College and Liberty University were the other Virginia institutions included in the listing.

• Emory & Henry was the top rated Virginia institution among the “Top 100 Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities” in the nation by Washington Monthly. Four Virginia institutions were included in the respected publication: Emory & Henry (37th), Washington and Lee (69th), Hollins (73rd), and University of Richmond (88th). Rhodes College (15th) and Maryville College (85th) made the list from Tennessee.

• With more than 4,500 degree granting institutions of higher education in the United States today, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has again included Emory & Henry among a prestigious group of 361 institutions in the nation designated with a Community Engagement Classification. In order to be selected, institutions had to provide descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement that showed alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices. Emory & Henry, which was first designated in 2008 and reaffirmed in 2015, and the University of Richmond, named in 2010, remain the only private institutions included on the listing from Virginia.

• For the fifth consecutive year, Emory & Henry has been named as a leader among institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. The Corporation for National and Community Service announced that Emory & Henry
was named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. In 2009, Emory & Henry was one of only six colleges or universities nationwide to win the President’s Award, and remains the only Virginia college or university to ever be so honored.

• An Emory & Henry professor of Spanish, Dr. Alma Ramirez, was awarded the 2014 Rising Star Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges. She becomes the second E&H professor to be honored by the VFIC since it began its awards program seven years ago. The award for Ramirez represents the 17th time in 26 years (and the seventh time in the past six years) that an Emory & Henry professor has won a state or national award for teaching excellence.

The Rev. Mary K. Pope Briggs (E&H ’86), continues her spiritual outreach to faculty, staff and students of all denominations. She oversees Spiritual Life programming and continues her strong leadership with our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities. And finally, we are pleased that a number of our recent graduates are attending divinity school at such distinguished destinations as Princeton University, Duke University, Iliff School of Theology, and Wesley Theological Seminary.

I think that Methodists of the Holston Annual Conference who founded Emory & Henry more than 178 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.

As an ordained minister in my native Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, I want to thank you for the warm welcome I have received from members of the Holston Annual Conference. 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
Hiwassee College Receives $220,000 Grant to Provide Dental Care to East Tennessee

The grant will be used to acquire and equip a mobile dental unit to expand student-learning experiences as they serve children, adults and senior citizens in Monroe and surrounding counties. This grant will improve the oral and physical health of the individuals who will be served through the services provided by:

of Tennessee

Hiwassee was awarded the Grants that Grant from the Holston Conference. Pictured here are President Robin Transy, Paul Bowman and Katharine Frank.

The Honorable Gordon Witt, pictured here right with President Transy and Chapel Hill Jesus spoke to students for Constitution Day.
Our very own Kara Graham, Hiwassee graduate and faculty member, won the 2014 Tennessee Walking Horse Competition.

We Graduate
World Grand Champions
HIWASSEE COLLEGE
Equine Program

www.hiwassee.edu

Before and for right: students take a hands-on approach to Stable Management

Amelia Wein's internship with the Tusher Foundation took her across the US training horses
Focus on: Serving our Community

We are proud of the turnout and results from the Dog Creek cleanup day.

Forestry student class activity:
Clockwise from left middle: Building a nature trail, Dog Creek Trail; students planting seedlings, stocking Dog Creek with Bluegill Fingerlings; tree measurement close-up; tapping maple syrup from trees on campus.
Holston Annual Conference

The 59th Annual Scholarship Gala was a wonderful success. We raised more money this year than ever before.

Sponsored by the Warm Weather Balloon Festival, the gala will be held on September 19 & 20 at Hiwassee College.

The Warm Weather Balloon Festival supports students from Hiwassee who are pursuing a college education.

Drama

Hiwassee College’s Theatre Department has presented several productions since the opening of the new millennium, including the popular “Little Shop of Horrors.”

Professional Development

Our own Beth Wales presented at the 7th 21st Century Learning Conference in Hong Kong.

Professional development is critical for our faculty to stay current in their field.

Cheyenne Spring annual selection show has grown just like the campus. It’s now being used for campus seasonings.
Engaging our Community!

The Second Annual Madrigal Feast, dinner in the style of medieval England, was enjoyed on December 2 & 4.

RELAUNCH OF LIFE
American Cancer Society

Missors hosts the Monroe County Relay for Life.

Hoffman hosts the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Banquet and won first place for our Equine Department themed table.

The 3rd Annual Love Matters performed by students was a huge hit to the whole community.

Hoffman hosts two high schools in a yearly Mock Bowl for $50,000 in scholarships. Top scorers continue to regular and state levels.

Hoffman will host the 4th Tiger Games for local high schools in April.

The Second Annual Madrigal Feast, dinner in the style of medieval England, was enjoyed on December 2 & 4.

J. Bass of the "Body Farm" from the University of Tennessee's Forensic Anthropological Research Facility spoke again at Hoffman College on Wed., March 17, 2015.
Fall 2015 Hiwassee experienced its highest enrollment in seven years!
With a 15% increase!

Above: Students sign the Hiwassee Promise book each fall
pledging to uphold the standards of honesty and responsibility.

Left and above left: Students enjoyed a packed
Student Life calendar with activities like rafting
the Ocoee and bowling.

Above: CSU students joined Chaplain Tim Jones
at the N.F.Y.T. Conference in November.

~ Dr. Robin J. Tricoli, President
Tennessee Wesleyan College had a wonderful year in many ways. We received approval to offer our second master’s program at the college, and consequentially, launched an online MBA in the fall. Tennessee Wesleyan is currently seeking approval to offer a bachelor’s degree in communications and is considering several new graduate degrees in the future.

The Center for Servant Leadership continues to excel and achieve higher levels of impact in the region. In its fifth 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 several mission trips including service work in the Appalachian region and Florida. 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 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, will focus 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 2014 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 several spiritual life presentations throughout the year:

- August 26, 2014: "Where Is Home?" Featuring several TWC faculty
- October 28, 2014: Sermon, Dr. Chris Shutz, Professor of History
- November 4, 2014: "Saints in Poetry" Dr. William Ruleman
• November 20, 2014: "How Are the Children? Translating Faith for a New Generation", Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, United Methodist pastor in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference and Professor of Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary

• March 2 and 3, 2015: "Turn the Pulpit Loose: Two Centuries of American Women Evangelists" and "Holiness in Black and White: Women, Race and Sanctification", Rev. Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, Professor of Theology and Assistant Director of Women’s Studies at Seattle Pacific University

• September 30, 2014: Sermon, Rev. Katie Morgan, a 2010 TWC and 2013 Duke Seminary graduate

• February 10, 2015: Rev. Charles Ensminger, 1994 TWC alumnus and former faculty member, currently serving as pastor of Harrison UMC in Chattanooga, TN.

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
AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University is privileged and deeply grateful to be celebrating a 100% investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment by the Holston Conference.

In 2014, Holston was one of 31 annual conferences—the highest number to date—to invest 100% of their asking in the AUF. Thank you for your prayers and for affirming the impact of this ministry by being consistent, faithful, and generous with your investment. The leaders and local church members of the Holston Conference have started a good work in Africa University and nurtured it for over two decades with second mile gifts for scholarships and other needs.

As you gather for the 2015 Holston Annual Conference, we pray that you will continue to invest 100% of the asking to the Africa University Fund, and to other shared ministries, for years to come.

Strategic Priorities: Africa University is currently engaged in a vigorous review of its academic programs and service delivery. This effort is aimed at enhancing our students’ potential for life-long success. Professor Munashe Furusa took the helm in July 2014 as the fourth vice chancellor in the university’s 23-year history. He was formally installed in March 2015 and has put fiscal accountability, student quality of life, and support for academics, at the top of his agenda.

Student Enrollment: Full-time student enrollment at Africa University held steady in 2014 with 1,478 young men and women from 25 African countries. Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe accounted for the largest proportion of the students. Female students were a record 53.4% of the total enrollment in a context where women lag behind men in access to higher education.

Graduation: In June 2014, 480 young people were awarded degrees from Africa University at the 20th graduation ceremony, bringing to total number of alumni to just under 5,300. Without your support, a college education would have been unattainable for the majority of these students.

Training and Research: Africa University is addressing critical skills and capacity gaps in sub-Saharan Africa. A collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden supports a new master’s degree program in Human Rights, Peace, and Development. Africa University is also preparing to launch its first PhD program, which links issues of Peace, Leadership, Governance, and Development, and targets policymakers.

Leadership and Service: Africa University graduates are answering the call to serve, heal, and uplift communities. They are helping communities to experience God’s love and care through service as Global Mission Fellows and longer-term missionaries in Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

Together, we give thanks to God for this Ebenezer moment (1 Samuel 7:12). But the work is not yet finished. For every individual who has been touched by the ministry that is Africa University, there are many others—tens of thousands, in fact—who are awaiting the miracle of an answered prayer.

Please continue to pray for Africa University.

Encourage your local church to become an annual scholarship donor.

Bring fellow leaders in your church or district together to explore the possibility of investing in an endowed scholarship which can support one student a year in perpetuity.
Hello Colleagues in the Holston Annual Conference:

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! In this anniversary year, Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) celebrates 175 years of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. We especially celebrate our students, alums, and church partners, with whom we seek to serve God as transforming leaders in a multitude of local and global communities.

BREAKING NEWS

- The **Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Leadership** is well underway with outstanding students and eager teachers. In its first year, the program has attracted two cohorts of students from three countries, eight faith traditions, and a variety of church, educational, health care, and other faith-based contexts.

- BUSTH celebrated art and creativity with four major **art exhibits and receptions**: James Crane’s *motive* cartoons; Robin Miller’s “African America in Art and Poetry”; John August Swanson’s poster art; and Beth Neville’s paintings.

- The **STEWARD program**, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, is preparing students for stewardship of all of life, including spiritual, physical, and financial life.

- **Raices Latinas**, funded in part by the United Methodist Church Young Clergy Initiative, has begun! It invites and supports Latino/a young adults toward a life-giving journey in ministry. BUSTH also works closely with the UMC in leadership of the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy. Both focus on education, mentoring, service learning, and spiritual formation.

Remember to include Africa University in your will as you make your personal estate plans.

And thank you, Holston United Methodists, for your outpouring of love and support for missions and ministry in Africa. May God bless and keep you always in abundance.

Submitted by:
Mr. James H. Salley
Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
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Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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Submitted by:
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Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.
MILESTONES

• **175 Years:** The founders of BUSTH were abolitionists, pastors, and lay leaders who envisioned a school to carry the spiritually rich, socially transformative, leadership-forming legacy that centered their own lives. Our annual theme, *Leading in Transformation*, honors that vision and reflects on how to reshape it in response to changing social realities.

• **Women in the World:** This year, the Anna Howard Shaw Center celebrates 30 years of its Women in the World Conference, a witness to women’s leadership in the church and a celebration of their brave, audacious ministries.

PARTNERING FOR TRANSFORMATION. Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

• **Partnering in transformational learning** through courses in congregations with church leaders and students together.

• **Serving the church** through workshops and mutual projects, especially in church renewal, mission, and the cultivation of difficult conversations that enhance dignity and justice.

• **Traveling across the globe** through seminars where students engage with diverse cultures and traditions. In this year, students and faculty have explored the Arizona-Mexico Border, Israel and Palestine, Ephesus, and Mexico.

CELEBRATING JUSTICE: From Selma in 1965 to the Arizona-Mexico border and the streets of U.S. cities, we celebrate transformational leadership and explore paths to just peace.

• **Retracing history** by commemorating civil rights milestones with: Walter Fluker, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership; and a panel of alumni and faculty on “Selma at 50, Ferguson Today.”

• **Moving forward** to understand and build justice, engaging with Cornell William Brooks—BUSTH alumnus and President of the NAACP—and with our students, faculty, and alumni who seek to build justice in Boston, Ferguson, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Uganda, and beyond.

As we look back on the last year—and the last 175 years—we celebrate transformational leaders who have loved God and cared mightily for God’s world. Their living legacy gives us hope and courage for the future.

*Blessings and gratitude,*

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean
For 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, more than 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. Here, students are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus. This unique approach ensures that our graduates are ready to serve wherever God leads.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. We are 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 the city of Atlanta offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century world. 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.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, Candler celebrated its Centennial, marking our 100th anniversary with a series of commemorative events highlighting memories of the past and visions for the future. The yearlong celebration began in the fall of 2014 with the dedication of the final phase of our new LEED-certified building and the premiere of Religion and Reason Joined: Candler at 100, a new book on our history. The commemoration continued through the spring of 2015 with guest lectures, exhibits, and “Prophetic Voices,” a major academic conference addressing the challenges and opportunities facing theology in the 21st century.

Not only has Candler expanded its physical space this year—we have expanded degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler introduced five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Religious Leadership, the Master of Religion and Public Life, and two dual degrees with social work and development practice.

Candler’s student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 447, with 320 seeking the Master of Divinity, 43 the Master of Theological Studies, 14 the Master of Religious Life, 20 the Master of Theology, 29 the Doctor of Ministry, 10 the Doctor of Theology, and 11 enrolled as Non-Degree students. The student body is 52 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and the median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 42 denominations, with nearly half identifying as United Methodist.

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
The academic year 2014–2015 has been an exciting year as 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. As part of that mission, our initiatives, centers, and programs continue to be a vital resource for us to extend the good news of God’s invitation into all spheres of a complex and hungry world. Far from being an ivory tower, Duke Divinity School is a place where faculty, students, and staff are eager to use the training for ministry in order to serve others and serve as a light to the world.

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA) recognizes that the arts shape the imagination of a community and provide the forms through which many people most directly and compellingly encounter the message of the gospel. On Palm Sunday, Duke Chapel hosted the American premiere of the new *St Luke Passion*, written by the eminent Scottish composer James MacMillan. The work was commissioned by Duke Divinity School in conjunction with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and the City of Birmingham (U.K.) Symphony Orchestra. During the process of composing the piece, MacMillan met several times with a group of theologians and biblical scholars from Duke Divinity School and the University of Cambridge to reflect on the shape and meaning of Luke’s narrative. In addition to this stunning choral work, DITA has sponsored lectures by visiting scholars and hosted the first artist-in-residence, Malcolm Guite.

The newest of our initiatives, Theology, Medicine, and Culture, builds on the extraordinary faculty resources offered by four physicians who hold joint faculty appointments in the Medical School and the Divinity School at Duke. Working together with other members of the faculty who share an interest in healthcare and medical ethics, they are developing a range of programs that seek to clarify and strengthen Christian witness and action in the complex world of healthcare. One program, Walking Together, sponsors conferences that address care of the mentally ill in faith communities. Another, Reimagining Medicine, will gather health professionals at a summer conference to consider proposals for the ways in which local communities might draw on Christian perspectives to shape the delivery of medical care.

The Center for Reconciliation (CFR) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, and this has been a time of transition for the center. Co-founder Chris Rice accepted a role with the Mennonite Central Committee in Korea, and he will retain his connection to Duke as senior fellow for Northeast Asia. In that role he will coordinate the emerging work of the Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia, which will be modeled on the successful development of the Great Lakes Initiative (GLI) in East Africa. Duke has helped to support the GLI for the past seven years, and this year full leadership transitioned to local African leaders. The Divinity School has received a major gift commitment to endow a faculty position that will also serve as director of the CFR, and a search has begun to fill that position. In the coming years we intend to strengthen our emphasis on issues of racial reconciliation in local contexts.
Leadership Education at Duke Divinity (LEADD) draws inspiration both from the Christian theological tradition and from the best recent studies and practices of leadership and entrepreneurship. In partnership with the Lake Institute, this year LEADD offered an executive certificate in religious fundraising. LEADD also offers a program for denominational and institutional leaders, Foundations in Christian Leadership. *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.

The Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition has been a source of internationally acclaimed research and support for Methodist and Wesleyan studies since 1979. This center offers courses for both Course of Study and Divinity students, provides access to outstanding research resources for students and scholars of the broad Wesleyan tradition, and supports the production of critical editions of the texts of John and Charles Wesley in print and online formats. The center also sponsors the Summer Wesley Seminar, led by professors Randy Maddox and Richard Heitzenrater, which invites application from scholars to spend an intensive residency at the Divinity School to facilitate their study of Wesleyan heritage.

In addition to our major initiatives, Duke Divinity School has a number of other programs that extend the good news of God’s salvation to disparate parts of our society. Our program in prison ministry sends divinity students into prisons in order to take classes alongside people who are incarcerated. The certificate in prison studies provides students with the opportunity to engage specifically with people in prison and the system that imprisons them in the context of theological education and formation for ministry. Thriving Rural Communities, a partnership between Duke Divinity School, The Duke Endowment, and the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of The United Methodist Church, helps divinity students, pastors, laity, districts, and conferences cultivate and strengthen Christian leadership and United Methodist congregations in rural North Carolina. The Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation continues to offer high-school students an opportunity for intensive theological engagement and practice.

Several of our faculty were recognized this year for their scholarship and interdisciplinary expertise. Willie Jennings, associate professor of theology and black church studies, was given the prestigious 2015 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his book, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. The Grawemeyer Award in Religion, an annual $100,000 prize that honors and promotes insights into the study of religion, is given jointly by the University of Louisville and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Norman Wirzba, professor of theology and ecology, was named a Henry Luce III Fellow for 2014-15, and he also received a major Sabbatical grant for Researchers from the Louisville Institute. These awards are supporting his current work on two book projects: *From Nature to Creation: Christian Life in a Postnatural Age*, and *Creation, Creatureliness, and Creativity: An Essay on the Human Place in the World*. Jennie Grillo, assistant professor of Old Testament, received a 2014 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological
Promise and a W. F. Albright Institute of Archeological Research fellowship to conduct research in Israel. Maria Doerfler, assistant professor of the history of Christianity in late antiquity, was named a visiting research fellow at New York University’s Institute for the study of the Ancient World. Curtis Freeman, research professor of theology and director of the Baptist House of Studies, was appointed to chair the Baptist delegation in a five-year international dialogue between the Baptist World Alliance and the World Methodist Council. Richard Payne, Esther Colliflower Professor of Medicine and Divinity, was named to the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee of the National Institutes of Health by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. This is a federal advisory committee that supports pain research and promotes collaboration across the government to improve understanding of pain and pain-related treatments.

We continue to welcome students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2014, our total enrollment was 656 students: 462 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 36 in the M.T.S.; 12 in the Th.M.; 45 in the Th.D.; 54 in the D.Min.; 24 in the M.A.C.P.; 15 in the M.A.C.S.; and 3 who are special students. Thirty-nine percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 46 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Fourteen percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopal, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 7 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the remaining 9 percent from other denominations or nondenominational churches.

In addition to the ongoing excellent academic and field education work done by students each year, several students had notable achievements. Two of the top three prizes in the Student Essays in Christian Wisdom competition sponsored by The Living Church magazine were claimed by Divinity School students: Kevin Rose M.Div.’16 won second place and John Zambenini M.Div.’15 won third place. Second-year M.Div. student Jacob Drake was selected to present a paper to the Oxford University Byzantine Society International Graduate Conference held in Oxford, England. Michelle Wolfe M.Div.’14 was awarded a fellowship by FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics) to participate in a two-week program in New York, Germany, and Poland for an intensive study of contemporary ethics. Four divinity students, part of a research group in American religious history, were among the winners of grants for research projects using the Religion in North Carolina digital collection. Other students did exemplary work in organizing conferences for ministry to the sexually abused and issues in pastoral care for military veterans.

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 Dean Richard B. Hays
Greetings from Garrett-Evangelical!

Early in the calendar year, I met with various constituencies of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, including alums, faculty, staff, trustees, and students regarding their hopes and concerns for the school. As a result, we began the 2014-2015 academic year with the following priorities:

• To prepare and equip our graduates as public theologians,
• To nurture a more diverse community at Garrett-Evangelical so that the entire community develops cultural competency,
• To value and promote inclusivity at Garrett-Evangelical, and
• To construct a sustainable model for theological education.

Public Theology

This year we launched a Public Theology Lecture Series to help the Garrett-Evangelical community understand more about the intersection of theological perspectives and shared values held in the public arena as persons in ministry work with others toward the common good and the wellbeing of all persons and creation. The lecture series included:

• October 15, 2014: Rev. Janet Wolf, Director of Haley Farm and Nonviolent Organizing for the Children’s Defense Fund, lectured on various Children's Defense Fund programs including restorative justice, mass incarceration, cradle to prison pipeline, and freedom schools.
• December 3, 2014: Dr. Mark Lewis Taylor, Maxwell M. Upton Professor of Theology and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary considered structures of the global orders and everyday living which public theologians may claim to engage and where “the powers and principalities” are always in contestation in “public” life.

In the fall, we will offer a course, “Public Theology in the City,” taught by Dr. David Frenchak, former president of Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE). The class will collaborate with the mayor’s office in Evanston on an anti-violence initiative. Dr. Frenchak will also provide a Public Theology lecture this spring.

Cultural Competency & Inclusivity

As part of the commitment to nurturing a more diverse community, we welcomed a new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Luis R. Rivera, our first Latino Academic Dean. Our current ethnic/racial profile is:

• 20% black; 6% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino; and 54% White; 14% International
• More than 33 religious traditions, four continents, 15 countries and 36 states are represented in the student body
• 232 students are United Methodist with 25 additional students from other Pan-Methodist denominations
• 94 new students began their studies at Garrett-Evangelical this fall, raising total fall enrollment to 365 (FTE of 305)
• The average age of the entering Master of Divinity student is 31
• 52% of the study body is women

Consistent attention to issues of inclusivity, justice, and grace within the seminary setting are critical for preparing future leaders to enter an increasingly diverse world. To respond to these concerns, Garrett-Evangelical will offer a number of Circle of Trust conversations this spring for trustees, faculty, staff, and students. Our goals are: 1) to provide safe space to discuss difficult topics; 2) to reduce any gap between stated values and actual behavior, both personally for participants and institutionally; and 3) to update our 1997 statements of inclusivity.

Sustainable Theological Education

Garrett-Evangelical is beginning work on a Sustainable Theological Education Model for the school. We are guided by a commitment to generational stewardship of our resources and to maintaining a thriving seminary for the future. We will attend to the areas of business, academics programs, and external programs.

Our priority continues to be making seminary education affordable. To this end we award more than $2.5 million in scholarship aid to students each year and we lead all United Methodist seminaries in the Dollars for Scholars program with 45 recipients. In October, the seminary publicly launched The Final Lap of its $100 million Forging Our Future campaign, and announced that $88 million has been received to date. Much has already been accomplished, but more remains to be done (expanding the number of new leadership scholarships from 80 to 100, renovating Sherman apartments, endowing several more faculty positions, continuing to grow the unrestricted endowment), gifts for any of these goals are always welcome.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We are dedicated to serving The United Methodist Church and the church at large. For more information about Garrett-Evangelical and our work, I encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus.

Cordially,

Lallene J. Rector, President

About Us

Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:
• Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by largely the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
• Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
• Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.
Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

The Iliff School of Theology’s commitment to the Wesleyan tradition of providing intellectually alive and spiritually grounded theological education for our students continues. From Tanzania to Texas, Denver to Delhi, Missouri to Mexico, Iliff students and graduates are holding constructive tension with the human condition as it is and courageously standing with those who seek justice.

This past year saw one of Iliff’s largest enrollments since its founding by The United Methodist Church in 1892 - 333 students, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist – all actively engaged in both the classroom and a host of ministry contexts. Some are leading congregations toward revitalization while others are doing ministry by establishing new forms of community.

Interest in online and hybrid classes continues to grow from across the nation in our Journey MDIV Program - one of the first to bring quality theological education online. As a concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities, many MDIV students are also participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a $250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

We welcomed participants to our first Spanish-Speaking Local Pastors Licensing School hosted in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Conference and participated in healing events for commemoration of the Sand Creek Massacre. In addition, Iliff students participated in an immersion trip to Africa University and are planning an additional experience this year. We look forward to continuing these vital relationships.

Iliff created numerous events for area clergy and supporters. Via forums on leadership, policing, the role of faith in world events, and more, campus speakers included: Amy Goodman, Garry Kasparov, and the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp, this year’s Jameson Jones Preacher. Bridging theological education to new arenas was further cultivated through Iliff’s Authentic Engagement™ Program with trainings for civic and non-profit groups. 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.”

We continue to look to the future with courageous theological imagination. We are grateful for our denominational connection.

Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe, President and Chief Executive Officer
www.iliff.edu
1-877-887-7822
Thank you for this opportunity to bring you an update from MTSO.

The care of creation

MTSO continues to seek opportunities to foster and encourage the care of creation. In January, we were the primary host for a multi-site Climate Conversation, jointly presented by the Theological Commons at MTSO and Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, a group offering a religious response to climate change. We also released a recent video sharing the story of Seminary Hill Farm and the ways it fits within the school’s broader commitment to ecotheology. You’ll find a link to the video at seminaryhillfarm.org. We invite you to download the high-definition video from its Vimeo page and share it in any context you believe will be constructive. We also would be happy to provide a speaker in person or via Skype to discuss this initiative.

Schooler Institute on Preaching

A very hands-on 2015 Schooler Institute on Preaching was led by Jorge Lockward, director of global praise for the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, and Valerie Bridgeman, recently appointed associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible at MTSO. We were pleased to offer the wisdom of this dynamic duo to our students, alums and other participants.

Conference Candidacy Summits

We were pleased to be the host site of the West Ohio Conference’s Candidacy Summits for those exploring ordination. MTSO provided our campus facilities for these two-day events, held in August and January. Among other activities, candidates participated in worship, mentoring and coffee with district leaders.

MTSO prepares Christian leaders for lives of lasting significance in service to the church and the world. In addition to the Master of Divinity degree, we offer master’s degrees in counseling ministries, theological studies and practical theology, along with a Doctor of Ministry degree. We invite you to stay in touch with us at mtso.edu, on Facebook and @MTSOedu on Twitter.
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE ABUSE OF CLERGY BY LAYPERSONS IN HOLSTON CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, in the 2006-2007 National Congregations Study, 9 percent of congregations reported a conflict in the last two years that led a clergyperson or other religious leader to leave the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the participants were asked whether they ever left a job “due to the constant negativity found in personal attacks and criticism from a small part of the congregation” and many did; and

WHEREAS, the New York Times indicates that 23 percent of pastors have been pressured to resign at some point in their careers; and

WHEREAS, harassment and bullying are forms of abuse, and abuse is defined as treating (a person or an animal) with cruelty or violence, especially regularly or repeatedly; and

WHEREAS, the abuse of clergy by factions within their congregations is well-documented and well known. Clergy who are bullied suffer emotionally, psychologically, physically, socially and spiritually. Bullying can deeply affect the clergy, their relationships, and their capacity for ministry. Effects may include, but are not limited to: loss of coping skills, disillusionment, inability to concentrate, a reduced ability to trust people, loss of motivation, decreased productivity or competence, poor judgment, a vocational crisis, and a desire to leave their church. Abusive behavior by even a small faction of parishioners may have a deep impact on their whole church; and

WHEREAS, the abuse of clergy often does not happen openly. It is often inflicted through third party communications such as e-mail, phone, or backroom conversations. Rumors, gossip, and hearsay are often employed by such abusers to diminish the status of the clergy in a church; and

WHEREAS, most lay persons would oppose such treatment and find it reprehensible, but may lack the resources to properly deal with it; and

WHEREAS many clergy find themselves unprepared and/or untrained for such incidents,

THEREFORE be it resolved, that this 2015 Holston Annual Conference call 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.

The church is called to be the light of the world and demonstrate holy relationships with God and each other. Bullying, harassment, and the abuse of clergy diminish this witness to our world. We believe it is of vital importance that the Holston Annual Conference send a clear message that the abuse of clergy by congregations or parts thereof will not be tolerated.
All complaints of congregational abuse of clergy should be taken seriously and investigated. Legal proceedings can be lengthy, costly, and painful processes. Further, legal proceedings do not address the real source of the problem. We call upon the Bishop and the Cabinet of the Holston Annual Conference, and the proposed task force, to develop and implement a policy to address this issue and prevent further damage to the Body of Christ and its shepherds in the Holston Annual Conference.

Further, be it resolved that the Holston Annual Conference give consideration to creating teams that can work with congregations embroiled in such conflict.

Submitted by Rev. Richard Rudesill, Pastor
Edgefield United Methodist Church


No. 2

Be it resolved that the Holston Annual Conference petitions the 2016 General Conference to revise the language of Paragraph 161 (F), Paragraph 304(3), and Paragraph 613 (19) of the Book of Discipline relative to the issue of homosexuality as follows:

Paragraph 161 (F)

Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. Although all persons are sexual beings, whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults. We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

Paragraph 304 (3)

While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are
subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church. (delete)

Paragraph 613 (19)

To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or (delete) violate the expressed commitment of The UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.” The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church’s official position is fairly and equally represented. (delete)

Therefore, Paragraphs 161 (F), 304 (3), and 613 (19) shall read as follows:

Paragraph 161 (F)

We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church has a diverse membership with dissimilar, if not conflicting, opinions and interpretations relative to the issue of homosexuality. We urge all to seek prayerful counsel and Christian conferencing within the Church as each of us reaches a conscientious decision concerning the nature of our ministry responses to all. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.
Paragraph 304 (3)

While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world.

Paragraph 613 (19)

To insure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any group, or otherwise use such funds to violate the expressed commitment of The UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Bruce W. Spangler, Knoxville District
Rev. Van Sanks, Knoxville District
RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHILDCARE

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church is a multi-generational membership, valuing each person with the love and concern of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, in our baptismal vows, we promise to welcome people of all “ages, nations, and races.” Furthermore, we promise to “surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others…” (The United Methodist Hymnal, pages 39-40); and

WHEREAS, in providing a community of love and forgiveness to people of all ages, we are invited by Jesus to extend hospitality to children in the midst of our busyness, as acknowledged when Jesus proclaimed:
“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to more faithfully uphold our Baptismal Covenant, we will be intentionally inclusive of families with children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the leadership of Conference and District endorsed events for adults will include a discussion about childcare in their planning; childcare may be free or add an extra expense to the registrant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the care and convenience of families with children, all publications about Conference and District events will include information that states whether or not childcare will be available.

Respectfully submitted by
Young Adult Clergy and Laity of the Holston Conference
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the mission of the church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” (B.O.D. para. 120) and “The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs (para. 201);” and

WHEREAS, the connectional nature of the United Methodist Church is affirmed, and it is acknowledged that the payment of apportionments is “the first benevolent responsibility of the church (B.O.D. para. 247.14);” and

WHEREAS it is further acknowledged that, “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 (B.O.D. para. 601);” and

WHEREAS, the current responsibility of the local church, combining direct billing with the fair share tithe, finds many small and medium churches sending 20% or more of their non-designated income to the annual conference; and

WHEREAS, this heavy burden, rather than equipping the local churches for ministry, is taking ministry tools out of the hands of the church and its servants;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the conference, to better equip its churches, reduce the tithe portion of the local church’s conference giving to a maximum of 7.5%.

Submitted By:
Pikeville United Methodist Church
Finance Committee

Clifton Fowler, Chairman of Finance Committee

Reverend Greg Smart
Lay Delegates to General Conference (2016)

Delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference will be elected at the 2015 Annual Conference. Information has been compiled below to help church members in the nomination process and decision process for those who are considering nomination. Eligibility: To be eligible for election as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, laypersons “shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences.” Book of Discipline (2012), ¶36.

Commitment: Serving Holston conference as a delegate to either General or Jurisdictional Conference is both a great honor and a tremendous responsibility. The Board of Lay Ministry has compiled a list of minimum commitments.

Time
- General: 2 weeks (10-11 days plus travel)
- Jurisdictional: 1 week (4-5 days plus travel)
- Prior to the Conferences: 5-6 delegation meetings

Materials to be read
- At least 2 large books of proposed legislation and proposed changes to the constitution (assigned to a legislative committee)
- Mailings from caucus groups
- E-mails

Optional time
- Invitations to events and seminars

Financial
- Travel is paid and booked through General Conference. Room and meals are reimbursed per diem. Some personal expenses will occur.

Miscellaneous
- Patience during debates for many reasons, but in particular as debates have to be translated in several languages
- Knowledge of parliamentary procedure is helpful
- Allow extra space when traveling to bring home the large amount of materials received at Conference
- Must be able to sit for long periods of time-very long days

Lay delegates will be elected during the 2015 Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, June 7-11, 2015.
Lay Nominees for Election to
2016
General Conference and
Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.
Assigned Number
for
Ballots

2001 Harrison W. Ambrose III
2002 Emily Ballard
2003 Elizabeth "Liz" Chancey
2004 John Eldridge
2005 Alan Eleazer
2006 Sam England
2007 Jim Gass
2008 Jan Goodsell
2009 Becky Hall
2010 Alan Hawthorne
2011 Brenda Haymore
2012 Justin Haynes
2013 Del Holley
2014 Carolyn Kidd
2015 Robert Lockaby
2016 Don Loy
2017 Jennifer McIntyre
2018 Charlotte McKee
2019 Joyce Moore
2020 Ada Prue Oxendine
2021 John Powers
2022 Gail Shaver
2023 John Tate
2024 Amy Thomas
2025 Karen Wright
2026 LeRae Collins (SEJ only)
2027 Georgia Lister (SEJ only)
2028 Bobby Stair (SEJ only)
2029 Anne Travis (SEJ only)
LAY NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO
2016
GENERAL CONFERENCE AND
SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE.

2001  Harrison W. Ambrose III

2002  Emily Ballard
First United Methodist Church - Morristown
Born and raised in The United Methodist Church; Sophomore at Emory & Henry College; Served as president on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries; Member of Resurrection Design Team; Member of Holston Witness Team; Counselor at Camp Dickenson; Student assistant in E&H Chaplain’s Office.

2003  Elizabeth “Liz” Chancey
2004    **John Eldridge**

Practicing attorney since 1979, Conference Chancellor, Chair of Conference Petitions and Resolutions Committee, vice-chair of Church Council at Church Street UMC, Former Board Chair of Trustees at Emory and Henry College, active at Wesley House Community Center and former board chair, married to Phyllis Eldridge, two children: Robert and Laura.

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2005    **Alan Eleazer**

A United Methodist since 1982, I have been honored to serve small, medium and large churches in education, youth and music ministries. I have served as chair of District committees and at the Conference level in Worship and Nurture, and in leadership roles at Annual Conference as well as Vision 2000 and the World Methodist Council events. I was a finalist for Music and Worship Leader for the 2004 Pittsburg General Conference. A lifelong educator, I served on the faculty of Hiwassee College and was twice named Distinguished Faculty of the Year.

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2006    **Sam England**

Sam is a college sophomore who has been incredibly active at his university, his local church, and the Holston Conference including an internship at the conference office last summer. As a previous and current voting lay member of the Holston Annual Conference, he is seeking to further serve God at the General and Jurisdictional levels. (For a more complete biographical sketch, please visit the Holston Conference website and simply search for Sam England.)
2007  Jim Gass

I am the Director of Youth Ministries at Broadway, where I attend with my wife and four year old daughter. I am a Safe Sanctuaries Trainer and Youth Coordinator for the Maryville District. My greatest joy is watching youth get excited about Jesus, then making a difference in the world.

2008  Jan Goodsell

Through God’s grace is my spirituality and discipleship: Arkansas UMC charter member; Johnson City District Lay Leader and Strategic Planning Team. Knowledge and leadership skills developed as class valedictorian advancing through local, state, and international boards, committees, and experiences for faith-based ministries, education, music, sports, and philanthropy. ETSU retiree.

2009  Becky Hall

Local: Church Council, Finance, Trustee, and Missions Committees, Dir. of two handbell choirs; District: District Lay Leader, Chair of Church Extension and Congregational Development, Superintendency Committee; Conference: Chair Committee on Congregational Development, NCD Coach, Annual Conference member, have been member to General and Jurisdictional Conference three times.
2010  **Alan Hawthorne**

Dr. Alan Hawthorne is a member of St. Paul UMC in Wytheville, Virginia, where he has held many leadership positions during the past 25 years. He currently serves as Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference. He also serves as Wytheville District Lay Leader. Key career positions include research scientist/manger and economic developer.

2011  **Brenda Haymore**

Native Holstonian, Music Director, Chair-Holston Creation Care, Knoxville District Lay Leader, Certified Lay Speaker/Servant, UMW, Conference Outreach/Advocacy Ministry Team, Disciple I-IV, first time delegate to 2012 Jurisdictional Conf., Creation Care Speaker and Song Leader for various functions. Favorite Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

2012  **Justin Haynes**

Hometown: Columbia, SC, Current Residence: Knoxville, TN Churches Served: St. Mark UMC, Main Street UMC (Columbia, SC) Current Church: Middlebrook Pike, UMC Position: Contemporary Worship Director Education: BM Education University of South Carolina; MM Jazz Studies University of Tennessee; Currently pursuing a Masters in Human Resources at UTK.
2013    Del Holley
Conference Lay Leader, Board of Lay Ministry, Extended Cabinet, Nominations Committee, Episcopacy Committee; General Conference delegate 2008, 2012 (delegation chair); Jurisdictional Conference delegate 2000, 2004 (alternate), 2008, 2012; SEJ Episcopacy Committee; Knoxville District Finance Committee; Colonial Heights UMC (Knoxville) Finance Committee, Church Council, choir, Sunday School teacher; certified lay servant

2014    Carolyn Kidd
Carolyn L. Kidd resides in Abingdon, Virginia with her husband of 40+ years, Rev. Ralph Kidd. Currently she is on staff at Pleasant View UMC directing Children’s Ministries. Leadership roles include Secretary, Holston Conference Personnel Resources Committee; Abingdon District representative, Conference Committee on Nominations; and NCD coach.

2015    Robert Lockaby
Conference Lay Leader (2000 - 2008); Member (V.P.), Conference Board of Trustees (2012 - ); District Lay Leader; Local Church Lay Leader, Council Chair, Missions Chair, S.S. Teacher (25 yrs.); Jurisdictional Conference Delegate (1992; 1996); General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegate (2000, 2004, 2008, 2012); Director, GBGM (2004 – 2012)
2016  Don Loy

I have served on or as adult church school teacher, Disciple I teacher, certified lay speaker, administrative board, church council, SPRC, missions, church pantry worker, coordinator of meals for Volunteer Ministries Center and member of annual conference for both church and district.

2017  Jennifer McIntyre

I have been a member at Broadway UMC since 1992 when my husband and I moved to Maryville. There are many ways that I have served at Broadway, including being a certified Lay Servant. Currently I have been serving as the Children’s Director. This last year I have also participated in the Conference’s Leadership Holston. As I continue to seek out God’s call for my life, I have appreciated many opportunities to learn more about The United Methodist Church.

2018  Charlotte McKee

Charlotte B. McKee has previously served the Holston Conference as Chairperson of the Committee on Episcopacy. In 2006, Charlotte was inducted into membership of the World Methodist Council’s Order of the Flame. Her background also reflects local service as a graduate advisor and officer of community based organizations.
2019   **Joyce Moore**

Member of John Wesley UMC for 40+ years. Delegate to General Conference 2004, 2008, and 2012. Member of the Abingdon District Discipleship Team. Member of Holston Conference Witness and Committee on Rules. Delegate to Holston Annual Conference. Positions in the local church: Sunday School Teacher, Witness Chairperson, Lay Leader / Lay Servant, Choir Member, and UMW Spiritual Growth Chairperson.

2020   **Ada Prue Oxendine**

Ada Prue Oxendine is the current President of the Abingdon District United Methodist Women. She is a member and serves as co-chair of Holston Conference UMW Spiritual Growth committee and is a member of the policy committee. She has served the Abingdon District UMW as Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator.

2021   **John Powers**

Loves Jesus and His Church; member 10 congregations, 6 districts; Music Director 35 years; church / district committees; youth coordinator 11 years; Sunday School teacher 27 years, youth and adults; treasurer Kingsport District UM Fellowship since 1995; 2012 Jurisdictional Conference delegate; volunteer Boy Scout leader 34 years; former schoolteacher: English.
2022  Gail Shaver

Gail has attended both large and small churches and been active in all. In addition to attending she has demonstrated a servant’s heart as she has shared her gifts and graces with each church she has been a part of. At age seventeen she was teaching Sunday School for grades 1-3. She joined a medium sized church in Louisville, KY and it quickly grew to over 1,000 members. Gail served as family life coordinator, children & youth coordinator, and adult youth leaders. When they moved to Bristol she was the youth coordinator at State Street UMC. When they moved to Blountville they joined Elizabeth Chapel UMC. She served on the youth, worship committee, Bible studies, family life coordinator and was President of the UMW. Gail has served in many places at Blountville UMC, also. Most of all Gail loves The United Methodist Church. She voluntarily goes to Annual Conference and likes to teach the youth about the importance of their United Methodist roots.

2023  John Tate

I served the Holston Conference at the 2012 General Conference as a lay delegate in Tampa. My professional experience includes serving as the Holston Conference Treasurer for 6 years after having spent 12 years working in local government roles. My current role is as an owner of a small business that provides financial services to churches, pastors, and other non-profits. I have served as a leader within my local church (Fairview) for the past 15 years serving in various capacities-finance chair and lay leader. My goal would be to serve the Holston Conference at the 2016 General Conference in a manner consistent with the ideals.
2024    Amy Thomas

Amy, Christ United Methodist Church, Greeneville TN, currently serves as Finance Chair, Trustee Treasurer, Parsonage representative and UMW President, Member Choir, facilitates Bible Study Class. Has served the Morristown District UMW team as Communication Coordinator, currently is Holston Conference UMW Communication Coordinator, and a Lay Servant. She is Treasurer of Greene County Firewood Ministry. Enjoys family, friends, travel, cooking, and children. She lives in Greene County and her daughter lives near her.

2025    Karen Wright

Conference: Connectional Ministries (current)--age-level, advocacy, evangelism, Annual Conference; Leadership Holston--leadership team (current), graduate (2011-12); Holston Conference Secretaries Association--President (current), VP. District: At-large member Annual Conference. Local: current--Worship Committee, handbell choir; have served--Visioning Team, Music Task Force, SS Administrator/teacher, Youth Council, Children’s Ministry Chairperson.
Nominees for Election to 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Only.

2026 LeRae Collins

Imagine No Malaria coordinator, currently serving United Methodist Communications, Holston Conference Missions Ministry Team, Knoxville District Transformation team, Fountain City UMC communications committee chair and lay leadership committee member, UMW circle leader, Emory & Henry College alumna and former Big Stone Gap District CCYM representative

2027 Georgia Lister

Georgia Lister - Holston Conference immediate past president of United Methodist Women; lifetime member of Trinity U.M. Church, Greeneville, TN; member of Church Council in leadership positions more than 40 years; served United Methodist Women positions thirty-eight years; Director/ Women’s Division/General Board of Global Ministries 1997-2004; Dean of South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission 1995-1996; Holston Conference Archives/History Committee 2003-2011, Lay Delegate SE Jurisdictional Conference, Conference Laity Committee, current member of Conference Committee on Religion and Race
2028  Bobby Stair

Lifelong member of The United Methodist Church. I have served in numerous positions within the local church. I have also served as District President of UMM and District Director of Lay Servant Ministries. I have taught Sunday School for many years. I am an advocate of children and youth ministries. I believe that we need to be more inclusive of younger members in leadership roles within the local church and on the district and conference level.

2029  Anne Travis

Clergy Eligible to be Elected as Ministerial Delegates to the 2016 General Conference and 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

¶35, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012

¶35 – Article IV – The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

Eligible to be Elected as Clergy Delegates

Deacons and elders:

- In full connection, active or retired - those elected to full connection by the 2015 Clergy Session are eligible to vote and to serve as delegates, even if they have not yet been ordained.

- Leave categories eligible to be elected: Sabbatical Leave (¶352), Voluntary Leave of Absence (Personal, Family, Transitional) (¶354.7), Maternity or Paternity Leave (¶356), Medical Leave (¶357)

NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE ELECTED AS CLERGY DELEGATES

Leave categories not eligible to be elected: Involuntary Leave of Absence (¶355.7), Honorable Location (¶359.2), Administrative Location (¶360) Provisional members Associate members and Local Pastors

Eligible to Vote for Clergy Delegates

Deacons or elders in full connection, (active or retired)

Leave Categories eligible to vote: Voluntary Leaves of Absence (personal, family, transitional) (¶354.7), Sabbatical Leave (¶352), Maternity or Paternity Leave (¶356), Medical Leave (¶357)

Provisional members who have completed all their educational requirements and have been elected to provisional membership. Associate members, active or retired. Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding election.

Judicial Council Decision No. 1181 states that “the person has ‘served’ an appointment fixed by the bishop for two consecutive conference years as that term is commonly applied.”

NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR CLERGY DELEGATES:

Leave categories not eligible to vote: Clergy on Honorable Location (¶359), Administrative Location (¶360), Clergy on Involuntary Leave of Absence (¶355.7) Local Pastors who do not meet the criteria listed above.
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- Bibles
- Disciplines
- Guidelines
- Bible Studies
- Devotionals
- Christian Novels
- Robes
- Clergy Stoles
- Gifts
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Commission on Archives and History
Creation Care
Disaster Response Team
Discipleship Ministries/GBOD
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Partners in Crisis
Peace with Justice
Reconciling Ministries
Society of St. Andrew
South Sudan
Stanley UMC Senior Citizens Grant Writing
Strength for the Journey
UM Communications
United Methodist Men
United Methodist Women
United Theological Seminary
Wesley Leadership Institute
Young Adult Ministries
Youth Ministries

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REPORTING GUIDE FOR
Lay Members of the Annual Conference

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 2015. 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 Teaching Sessions:
Monday morning:

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Monday afternoon:

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Monday evening:

________________________________________

Tuesday morning:

________________________________________

Notes on Business Reporting Sessions:

Tuesday afternoon:

________________________________________

Wednesday morning:

________________________________________

Wednesday afternoon:

________________________________________

My impression of the Business of the Annual Conference:

________________________________________

My impression of Evening Worship Services:

Sunday evening:

________________________________________

Tuesday evening:

________________________________________

Wednesday evening:

________________________________________

My impression of the Memorial Service:

________________________________________
My impression of the Retirement Recognition:

My impression of the Stop Hunger Now and Society of St. Andrew Crop Drop event:

My impression of the Ordination & Sending Forth Service:

My overall impression of Holston Annual Conference 2015:
FORM FOR MOTION OR AMENDMENT TO REPORT
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

“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, 2014 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!